**Interpreting Shakespeare**

“Take it in what sense thou wilt.”--Sampson, *Romeo and Juliet*, Act I Scene 1

Shakespeare’s plays have endured through the centuries because people have been able to identify with his characters, plots, and themes and apply the play to any time period. You now have a chance to update or reinterpret a portion of **Act III, Scene 1**. This scene marks a dramatic turn in the play. While there was love and happiness in Act II, that is all about to change in Act III! Remember: this is the climax of the play!

As modern day readers of *Romeo and Juliet*, you will decide how to present an assigned portion of the scene in a creative fashion. The lines are exciting and full of tension, which you will need to show or explain to the class through your presentation.

**Group 1:** Beginning of Act 3 Scene 1 – Right Before the Capulets Enter

**Group 2:** Tybalt, Petrucio, and the Capulets Enter – Right Before Romeo Enters

**Group 3:** Romeo Enters – Right Before Mercutio and Tybalt Fight

**Group 4:** Mercutio and Tybalt Fight – Right Before Mercutio’s Page Exits

**Group 5:** Mercutio’s Page Exits – Right Before Tybalt Enters

**Group 6:** Tybalt Enters – Romeo Exits

**Group 7:** Citizens of the Watch Enter – End of Act 3 Scene 1

**Your Task:**

**Step 1**: In your group, read your assigned passage from Act III, Scene 1. Decide how you will bring that scene to life for the rest of the class. Here are some ideas:

* One student could serve as narrator as the rest of the group pantomimes the actions or uses props to explain what the actors are saying.
* Use today’s language for a dialogue.
* Turn the lines into a song, poem, or rap.
* Set the scene in modern times.
* Make the characters parodies of modern day famous people.
* Be creative! Do whatever it takes to make the lines more understandable for your classmates.

**Step 2**: Practice your performance—once you figure out your lines, **practice**. Work on blocking (where everyone will be standing or moving) and on speaking expressively.

**Step 3**: You may use accessories. These can be props, costumes, music, signs/posters, decorations, etc. You will have access to my computer during your presentation, if needed.

**Step 4**: Present your portion of the scene to the class! Give a brief introduction to your lines (a summary of what happens, introduce the actors/actresses and their roles, and set the scene).