

SHAKESPEARIENCE

Show Vocabulary

Romeo and Juliet

wherefore – why
 doff – to give up
 vestal – virgin
 discourse – to speak
 uttering – to make a sound
 kinsmen – a relative
 o’perch – leap over
 enmity – hostility
 prorogued – postponed
 woo – to seek the love of
 fain – gladly

perjuries – lies
 beseech – to beg
 impute – to attribute or ascribe
 procure – to obtain
 wanton – spoiled child
 dear hap – great happiness
 pilcher – scabbard; a sheath for a sword
 livery – a distinctive uniform
 appertaining – belonging to
 bandying – to exchange
 Zounds – a contraction of “Zeus’ Wounds”

The Taming of the Shrew

joint stool – a ‘movable’ or stool
 swain – a peasant; a person of low rank
 waspish – irritable; quick to anger
 consolation – comfort, good cheer
 cuff – hit, strike
 chafe – irritate, angry

tarry – to remain or stay
 whit – bit
 gamesome – playful
 slander – defamatory
 slanderous – defamatory
 chaste – pure, undefiled
 extempore – improvised

Macbeth

durst – the past tense of “to do”; did
 surcease – final; the end
 wassail – partying; celebrating
 vaulting – excessive
 supped – dined
 esteem – estimation
 chamberlain – high ranking servant for nobility
 fume – smoke, vapor
 spongy – drunken
 clamor – people shouting
 undaunted – not intimidated

mettle – a person’s strength or fortitude
 corporal agent – hands
 possets – an alcoholic drink
 confounds – to cause surprise or confusion
 surfeit – an excessive amount of something
 grooms – high ranking servants
 infirm – weak
 multitudinous – numerous
 incarnadine – bright red
 constancy – the quality of being faithful
 to accompt – to accomplish

Hamlet

consummation – end, completion
orisons – prayers
chaste – pure; innocent
ecstasy – madness
perchance – perhaps
calamity – disaster

coil – the troubles and activities of the world
the rub – a particular problem
remembrances – a personal souvenir
arrant – utter, complete
calumny – false statements, slander
ecstasy – madness

A Midsummer Night's Dream

eyne – eye
exploit – a bold act, a daring feat
engilds – to brighten with light
conjoin'd – collaborated
derision – contemptuous ridicule or mockery
erewhile – some time ago

juggler – a manipulative person
canker-blossom – corrupt infection
vixen – a spiteful or quarrelsome woman
flout – openly scorn or mock
minimus – tiny insignificance
officious – obnoxiously domineering