

Name _____

Shakespearean language is easier to understand if you "translate" the lines into your own way of thinking. For instance, Banquo says:

"Restrain in me the cursèd thoughts that nature
Gives way to in repose."

You might say, "I have been having the weirdest thoughts in my dreams—I sure hope I don't have any more."

Rephrase each of the quotes below.

"So I lose none
In seeking to augment it, but still keep
My bosom franchised and allegiance clear,
I shall be counselled." (*Banquo, sc. i*)

"The bell invites me.
Hear it not, Duncan, for it is a knell
That summons thee to heaven, or to hell."
(*Macbeth, sc. i*)

"Th' attempt, and not the deed,
Confounds us." (*Lady Macbeth, sc. ii*)

"No, this my hand will rather
The multitudinous seas incarnadine,
Making the green one red."
(*Macbeth, sc. ii*)

"Most sacrilegious murder hath broke ope
The Lord's anointed temple and stole thence
The life o' th' building!" (*Macduff, sc. iii*)

"The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees
Is left this vault to brag of." (*Macbeth, sc. iii*)
