

Shakespeare uses lots of metaphors and imagery in his plays. Sometimes, it can be hard to understand what he means straight away. Autistic people can find it hard to understand metaphor, and sometimes interpret things literally.

It can be helpful to have things translated into clear language, and to use pictures. It also helps if you allow extra time for an autistic person to think about what you're saying. Look at the examples of metaphors by Shakespeare below. See if you can think of a way to put Shakespeare's words into language that is easier to understand. There are also spaces for you to draw pictures.

### ROMEO AND JULIET ACT 2, SCENE 2

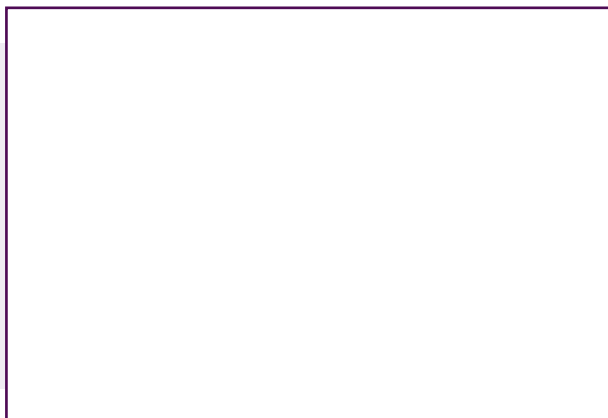
**Shakespeare:**

Romeo: "But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun."



**Your interpretation:**

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### HAMLET ACT 4, SCENE 4

**Shakespeare:**

Claudius: "When sorrows come, they come not single spies  
But in battalions."



**Your interpretation:**

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### MACBETH ACT 1, SCENE 5

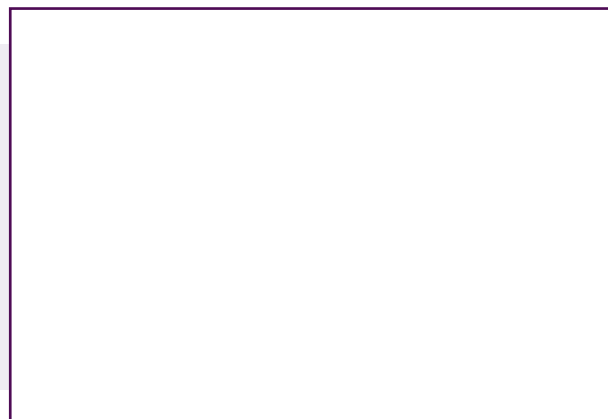
**Shakespeare:**

Lady Macbeth: "Look like th' innocent flower,  
But be the serpent under 't."



**Your interpretation:**

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### THE TEMPEST ACT 2, SCENE 1

**Shakespeare:**

Alonso: "You cram these words into mine ears against  
The stomach of my sense."



**Your interpretation:**

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### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM ACT 1, SCENE 1

**Shakespeare:**

Helena: "Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind;  
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind"



**Your interpretation:**

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### MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING ACT 1, SCENE 1

**Shakespeare:**

Duke Orsino: "If music be the food of love, play on"



**Your interpretation:**

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