Figurative Language in *Romeo and Juliet*

Name_________________________________________  Period_____

Directions: What type of figurative language is used in each underlined passage from the play? Some lines have more than one type of figurative language.

**METAPHOR:** a comparison of two unlike things which are connected by one similarity—

- Her eyes are jewels.
- You are my sunshine.
- “All the world’s a stage.”

**SIMILE:** a comparison of two unlike things using ‘like’ or ‘as’---

- She is like a rose.
- “So are you to my thoughts as food to life.”
- “Death lies on her like an untimely frost.”

**PERSONIFICATION:** is a figure of speech that gives an inanimate object or abstract idea human traits and qualities, such as emotions, desires, sensations, physical gestures and speech—

- The flowers were suffering from the intense heat.
- Death smiled.
- The sun waved to the moon.
- This computer really loves to crash.

**OXYMORON:** a figure of speech that combines two contradictory terms—

- Cruel love; deafening silence; pretty ugly; alone together

**HYPERBOLE:** deliberate exaggeration of a person, thing, quality, event to emphasize a point external to the object of exaggeration; intentional exaggeration for rhetorical effect.—

- These books weigh a ton.
- I could sleep for a year.
- I would rather die than eat that.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lines from R&amp;J</th>
<th>Figurative Language</th>
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</table>
| **Romeo:** Why then, O brawling love, O loving hate, O anything of nothing first create! O heavy lightness, serious vanity, Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms! Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health (Act I, scene 1) | Type(s) of figurative language:  
OXYMORON  
How So?  
The oxymorons show contradictions in love: Romeo “loves” Rosaline but she does not feel the same. |
| **Romeo:** Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs;/ Being purged, a fire sparkling in lover’s eyes;/ Being vexed, a sea nourished with lover’s tears. . . (Act 1, scene 1) | Type(s) of figurative language:  
How So? |
| **Romeo:** One fairer than my love! The all seeing sun! Ne’er saw her match, since first the world begun (Act 1, scene 2) | Type(s) of figurative language:  
How So? |
| **Romeo:** O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright./ It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night/ As a rich jewel in an Ethiop’s ear— (Act 1, scene 5) | Type(s) of figurative language:  
How So? |
### Figurative Language in *Romeo and Juliet*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Quote</th>
<th>Type(s) of figurative language:</th>
<th>How So?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Romeo:</strong></td>
<td><em>But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?</em> / <em>It is the east and Juliet is the sun</em>! (Act 2, scene 2)</td>
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<td><strong>Romeo:</strong></td>
<td><em>Arise fair sun and kill the envious moon</em>/ <em>Who is already sick and pale with grief</em> (Act 2, scene 2)</td>
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<td><strong>Friar Lawrence:</strong></td>
<td><em>The gray-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night,</em> / <em>Check'ring the eastern clouds with streaks of light</em> (Act 2, scene 3)</td>
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<td><strong>Romeo:</strong></td>
<td><em>There is no world without Verona walls</em>/ <em>But purgatory, torture, hell itself;</em> <em>Hence ’banished’ is banished from the world,</em> / <em>And world’s exile is death... Calling death ’banished’</em> / <em>Thou cut’st my head off with a golden axe</em> / <em>And smilest upon that stroke that murders me</em> (Act 3, scene 3)</td>
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<td><strong>Capulet:</strong></td>
<td><em>Evermore showering? In one little body</em> / <em>Thou counterfeits a bark, sea, a wind.</em> / <em>For still thy eyes, which I may call the sea,</em> / <em>Do ebb and flow with tears</em> (Act 3, scene 5)</td>
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<td><strong>Juliet:</strong></td>
<td><em>O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,</em> / <em>From off the battlements of any tower,</em> / <em>Or walk in thievish ways,</em> / <em>Or bid me lurk</em> / <em>Were serpents are, Chain me with roaring bears,</em> / <em>Or hide me in a charnel-house (mortuary)</em> / <em>O’ercovered quite with dead men’s rattling bones</em> (Act 4, scene 1)</td>
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<td><strong>Capulet:</strong></td>
<td><em>O son, the night before thy wedding day</em> / <em>Hath Death lain with thy wife,</em> / <em>There she lies,</em> / <em>Flower as she was, deflowered by him,</em> / <em>Death is my son-in-law,</em> / <em>Death is my heir,</em> / <em>My daughter he hath wedded,</em> / <em>I will die,</em> / <em>And leave him all:</em> <em>life, living, all is Death’s</em> (Act 4, scene 5)</td>
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