British English

Quarter 1 Major Project

Shakespearean Rewrite

DUE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What is it?**

* Your quarter 1 major project (worth 30% of your quarter grade)
* You will choose a scene from a novel, play, or short story of your choice and rewrite a portion in the style of William Shakespeare.
* You will format the story as a play (whether it was before or not), use iambic pentameter (unless breaking from it on purpose for lower-class characters or characters not in their right senses), and incorporate Shakespeare’s language (refer to your notes).
* Your rewrite needs to capture the spirit and original intent of the passage you’ve selected. If someone is angry, they should be angry in your rewrite. If the scene is funny, you should keep that humor in there. Each scene is going to be different, so if you get stuck, ask Mr. Schock questions! Some scenes will be MUCH easier for this than other scenes, and scenes with hardly any dialogue will likely not work at all.

**Requirements:**

* Your rewrite needs to be at least 1500 words (for comparison, Scene 1 of Act II of *Hamlet* is around 1000), so choose a scene that is appropriate for this length.
* Use Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 space (1500 words = about 9 pages)
* Use proper grammar and correct spelling, unless for Shakespearean effect.
* Mr. Schock needs to have access to the text you’re rewriting when you hand it in.

**Grading:**

* Total = 300 points (30% of quarter grade)
* Length (1500 words) = 100 pts.
* How well you capture the essence of the original story = 75 pts.
* Correct use of Shakespearean language and iambic pentameter = 75 pts.
* Your grammar, spelling, and language conventions = 30 pts.
* Correct font and MLA formatting = 20 pts.

**Some thoughts on this assignment…**

* No, you can’t “rewrite” Romeo & Juliet or some other work by Shakespeare.
* Pros: You’re not writing anything new. You’re using a story that already exists. You have in your notes some words you can throw in to make it feel “like Shakespeare.” You have more than a month to write this, and there will be some class time for you to work on this.
* Cons: Writing in iambic pentameter is hard, and you might find yourself stuck on a few lines for a very long time. Depending on the story you choose, you might have very long sections of dialogue or very short sections of dialogue. You can use some creative license and cut/expand if you need to, but those decisions are hard to make. 1500 words might also feel daunting.
* Bottom line: Some of you might find this harder than a straight-forward 9 pg. paper. Some of you might find this way easier. Some of you might find this boring/aggravating. Some of you might find this fun and kind of interesting. You have some time, but this is the kind of assignment that would be very hard to do last-minute. Use your time wisely, and ask Mr. Schock questions along the way. He can look through an early draft if you need him to. This assignment is worth 30% of your quarter grade, so you should take it seriously if you want a good grade in English this quarter/semester.