

One of Shakespeare's favorite ways to pass along information is through eavesdropping. For my creative project, I decided to make an arras or tapestry that incorporates many symbols of the Renaissance Christian Humanist belief system that is represented in Shakespeare's plays. In addition, I have pulled together a list of quotes that address the different ideas shown in my wall hanging.

The wall hanging represents the relationship between the sun, moon and stars. It also shows the four elements of fire, air, water and earth. Finally it shows some of the flowers that are mentioned in the plays we have read this semester.

I have attached a drawing of the wall hanging that shows a map to the different themes. The numbers on the drawing correspond to the numbers in the lists of quotations below. For example, the sun block has the number 1 at the center, this corresponds to theme number 1. Sun in the list below. The representation of the four elements continue around the outside border of the quilt, but I have identified each only once in the drawing. Some quotations contain allusions to several of the themes. These are listed only once.

### 1. Sun

Bolingbroke: "Your will be done. This must my comfort be: / That sun that warms you here shall shine on me." (Richard II, 1.3.146-147)

Richard: "Discomfortable cousin, know'st thou not / that when the searching eye of heaven is hid / Behind the globe that lights the lower world, / Then thieves and robbers range abroad unseen / In murders and in outrage boldly here? / But when from under this terrestrial ball / He fires the proud tops of the eastern pines / And darts his light through every guilty hole, / Then murders, treasons, and detested sins, / The cloak of night being plucked off their backs, / Stand bare and naked, trembling at themselves." (Richard II, 3.2.36-47)

Richard: "O, that I were a mockery king of snow / Standing before the sun of Bolingbroke, / To melt myself away in water drops." (Richard II, 4.1.271-273)

Prince Hal: "I know you all, and will awhile uphold / The unyoked humor of your idleness. / Yet herein I will imitate the sun, / Who doth permit the base contagious clouds / To smother up his beauty from the world, / That, when he please again to be himself, / Being wanted, he may be more wondered at / By breaking through the foul and ugly mists / Of vapors that did seem to strangle him." (Henry IV, 1.2.203-210)

Portia: "So doth the greater glory dim the less. / A substitute shines as brightly as a king / Until a king be by, and than his state / Empties itself as doth an inland brook / Into the main of waters." (The Merchant of Venice, 5.1.102-106)

"Good king, that must approve the common saw, / Thou out of heaven's

benediction com'st / To the warm sun."(King Lear,2.3.175-177)

Hamlet: "Not so, my lord; I am too much in the sun."(Hamlet,1.2.69)

## 2. Moon

Richard: "He does me double wrong / That wounds me with the flatteries of his tongue. / Discharge my followers. Let them hence away, / From Richard's night to Bolingbroke's fair day."(Richard II,3.3.223-226)

Falstaff: "Let us be Diana's / foresters, gentlemen of the shade, minions of the / moon, and let men say we be men of good govern- / ment, being governed, as the sea is, by our noble and chaste mistress the moon, under whose counte- / nance we steal."(Henry IV,1.2.26-31)

Hotspur: "By heaven, methinks it were an easy leap / To pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon, / Or dive into the bottom of the deep, Where fathom line could never touch the ground, / And pluck up drowned honor by the locks, / So he that doth redeem her thence might wear / Without corrival all her dignities."(Henry IV,1.3.206-216)

Lorenzo: "The moon shines bright. In such a night as this, / When the sweet wind did gently kiss the trees / And thy did make no noise, in such a night / Troilus, methinks, mounted the Trojan walls / And sighed his soul toward the Grecian tents / Where Cressid lay that night."(The Merchant of Venice,5.1.1-6)

## 3. Stars

Salisbury: "Ah, Richard! With the eyes of heavy mind / I see thy glory like a shooting star / Fall to the base earth from the firmament."(Richard II,2.4.18-20)

Prince Hal: "Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere, / Nor can one England brook a double reign / Of Harry Percy and the Prince of Wales."(Henry IV,5.4.66-68)

Sebastian: "My stars shine darkly / over me. The malignancy of my fate might perhaps distemper yours."(Twelfth Night,2.1.3-5)

Edmund: "I should / have been that I am, had the maidenliest star in the / firmament twinkled on my bastardizing."(King Lear,1.2.138-140)

Kent:"It is the stars. / The stars above us govern our conditions."(King Lear,4.3.38-39)

#### 4. Flowers/Garden

Man: "Why should we, in the compass of a pale, / Keep law and form and due proportion, / Showing as in a model our firm estate, / When our sea walled garden, the whole land, / Is full of weeds, her fairest flowers choked up, / Her fruit trees all unpruned, her hedges ruined, / Her knots disordered, and her wholesome herbs / Swarming with caterpillars?" (Richard II, 3.4.43–50)

Gardener: "Here in this place / I'll set a bank of rue, sour herb of grace. / Rue even for ruth here shall shortly be seen / In the remembrance of a weeping queen." (Richard II, 3.4.111–114)

Cordelia: "As mad as the vexed sea, singing aloud, / Crowned with rank fumiter and furrow-weeds, / With hardocks, hemlock, nettles, cuckoo-flowers, / Darnel, and all the idle weeds that grow in our sustaining corn." (King Lear, 4.4.2–6)

Ophelia: "There's rosemary, that's for remembrance. / Pray you, love, remember. And there is pansies, / That's for thoughts." (Hamlet, 4.5.199–201)

Queen Gertrude: "Therewith fantastic garlands did she make / Of crowflowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples." (Hamlet, 4.7.192–193)

#### 5. Fire/Lightening

Glendower: "At my nativity / The front of heaven was full of fiery shapes, / Of burning cressets, and at my birth / The frame and huge foundation of the earth / Shaked like a coward." (Henry IV, 3.1.13 – 17)

#### 6. Air/Thunder/Wind

Gentleman: "Contending with the fretful elements; / Bids the wind blow the earth into the sea / Or swell the curled waters 'bove the main, / That things might change or cease; tears his white hair, / Which the impetuous blasts with eyeless rage / catch in their fury and make nothing of; / Strives in his little world of man to outscorn / The to-and-fro conflicting wind and rain." (King Lear, 3.1.4–12)

Lear: "Blow winds, and crack your cheeks! Rage, blow! / You cataracts and hurricanoes, spout / Till you have drenched our steeples, drowned the cocks." (King Lear, 3.2.1–4)

Hamlet: "The air, look you, this brave o'er-hanging firmament, this majestical roof, fretted / with golden fire – why, it appeareth nothing to me / but a foul and pestilent congregation of vapors." (Hamlet, 2.2.323–326)

Queen Gertrude: "Be thou assured, if words be made of breath / And breath of

life, I have no life to breathe / What thou hast said to me."(Hamlet,3.4.219-221)

### 7. Water/Sea

Richard: "And frowning brow to brow, ourselves will hear / The accuser and the accused freely speak, / High stomached are they both and full of ire, / In rage deaf as the sea, hasty as fire."(Richard II,1.1.17-20)

Richard: "Not all the water in the rough rude sea / Can wash the balm off from an anointed king." (Richard II,3.2.55-56)

Salarino: "Your mind is tossing on the ocean, / There where your argosies with portly sail / Like signiors and rich burghers on the flood, / Or, as it were, the pageants of the sea / Do overpeer the petty traffickers / That curtsy to them, do them reverence, / As they fly by them with their woven wings."(The Merchant of Venice,1.1.8-14)

Orsino: "But mine is all as hungry as the sea, / And can digest as much. Make no compare / Between that love a woman can bear me / And that I owe Olivia."(Twelfth Night,2.4.110-113)

### 8. Earth/Dust/Clay

Richard: "Dear earth, I do salute thee with my hand, / Though rebels wound thee with their horses' hoofs. / As a long-parted mother with her child / Plays fondly with her tears and smiles in meeting, / So, weeping, smiling, greet I thee, my earth, / And do thee favors with my royal hands."(Richard II,3.2.6-11)

Richard: "Fair cousin, you debase your princely knee / To make the base earth proud with kissing it." (Richard II,3.3.199-200)

Hamlet: "To what base uses we may return, Horatio! / Why not imagination trace the noble dust of / Alexander till he find it stopping a bunghole?"(Hamlet,5.1.209-211)

### 9. Overall Plan

Viola: "O Time, thou must untangle this, not I. / Its is too hard a knot for me t'untie."(Twelfth Night,2.3.40-41)

Lear: "But I'll not chide thee, / Let shame come when it will; I do not call it." (King Lear,2.4.259-260)

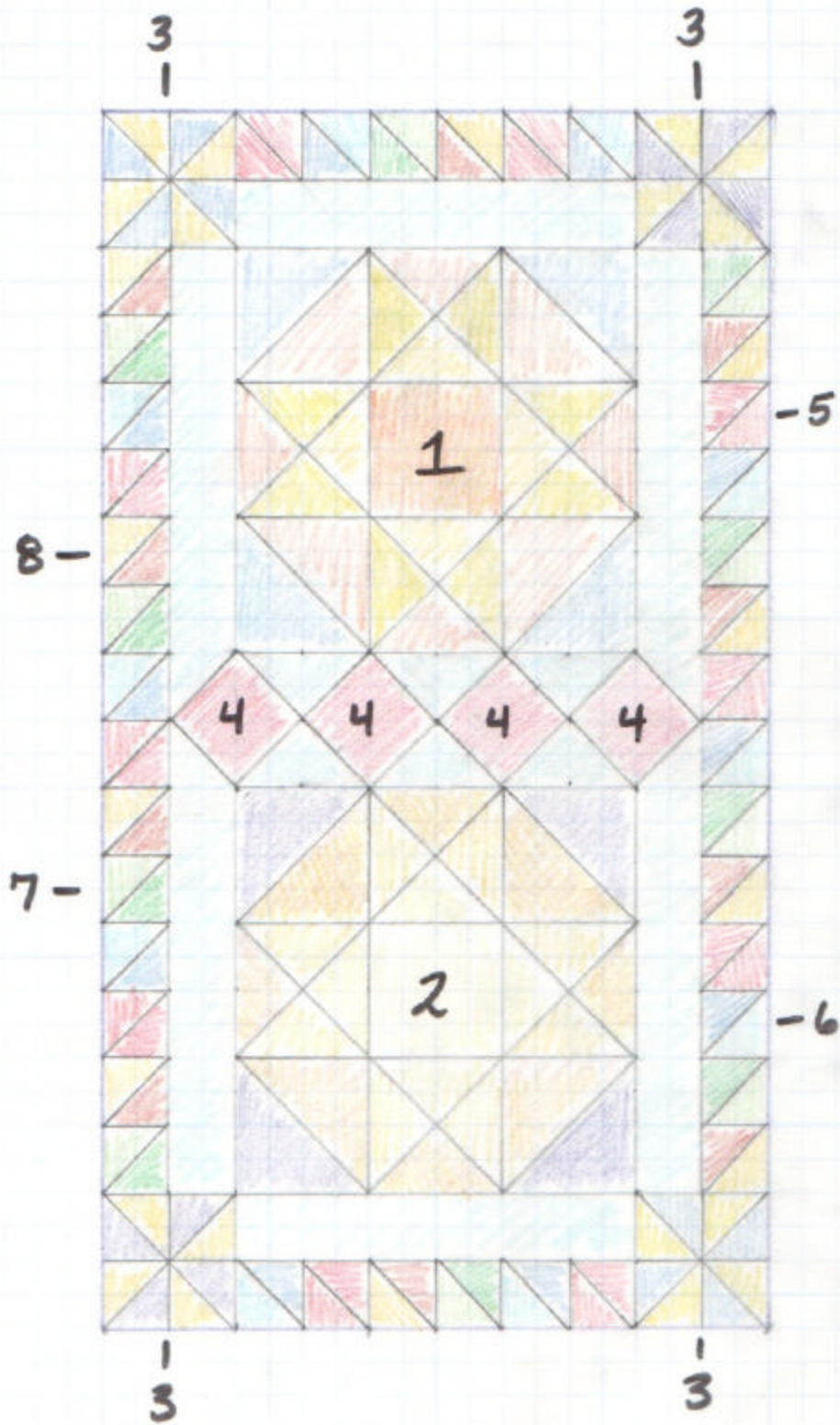
Edmund: "Th'hast spoken right. 'Tis true. / The wheel has come full circle; I am here."(King Lear,5.3.208-209)

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Hamlet: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, / Than are dreamt of in your philosophy." (Hamlet, 1.5.187-188)

Hamlet: "We defy augury. There is a / special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be / now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be / now; if it be not now, yet it will come. The / readiness is all. Since no man of aught he leaves knows, what is't to leave betimes? Let be." (Hamlet, 5.2.233-238)

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CREATIVE PROJECT



9 = whole quilt