Name: _____ Block: _____   **Date: _____**

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Introduction: Oppositions and contrasts abound in *Romeo and Juliet*. You could think of them as the major motifs of the play. Think about it: the action begins with a violent clash between the feuding families. Throughout the play, divisions and conflicts best the doomed lovers. Some of these oppositions are:

- Light versus dark
- Love versus hate
- Life versus death

- Public versus private
- Youth versus age
- Fast versus slow

In addition, Shakespeare often includes contrasts within the language of the play: he uses antithesis, or the opposition of words or phrases against each other, to express conflict. A special kind of antithesis is an oxymoron. Here, two incongruous or contradictory words are placed next to each other, as in "cold fire" or "sick health." Conflict, as you may be aware, is the essence of all drama.

Directions: To help you explore the opposites, or contrasts, in the play, you will create a Diamante poem that reflects one of the motifs listed above.

The diamond-shaped Diamante poem is seven lines long, centered on the page. The traditional form contains antonyms in lines 1 and 7 and descriptive words about those nouns. The form is as follows:

Line 1—One noun, an antonym or contrast to line 7 (in this case, one of the ideas from one of the motifs above)
Line 2—Two adjectives that describe line 1
Line 3—Three gerunds (verbs with –ing endings) that relate to line 1
Line 4—Four nouns, the first two related to line 1, the second two related to line 7
Line 5—Three gerunds that relate to line 7
Line 6—Two adjectives that describe line 7
Line 7—One noun, an antonym or contrast to line 1 (in this case, the opposing idea from one of the motifs above)

Example:

Fire

hot, red

blazing, camping, raging

warm, light, clear, cold

refreshing, melting, snowing

solid, fun

ice.

Complete your work on a separate sheet of paper. Attach your work to this sheet.

Ms. Muhlbaier   **Language Arts**