Decoding Shakespearean Language & Making Predictions

**Directions:** Each student will be assigned a quote from *Romeo and Juliet*. Work to decode the meaning of your quote. You will teach your peers the meaning of the quote. Once we understand these lines from the play, we will make predictions about the play.

**Questions to consider:**
1. What do you think your line means?
2. Are there any literary techniques used in your quote (similes, metaphors, etc.)? If so, what can we learn from these comparisons?
3. What is the character saying about love?
4. Do you agree?

**Decoding vocabulary:**
1. Are there any words that you don’t understand? Try to understand the words using decoding skills and context clues. Use the classroom dictionary if necessary.
2. Don’t get thrown off if there is a random apostrophe in a word (like: o’erperch). The apostrophe is taking the place of a missing letter (for instance, o’erperch is really over-perch).

**Example:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quote</th>
<th>Decoding</th>
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| 1. Romeo: “Is love a tender thing? It is too rough
Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn.” (I.iv.23-24) | Love isn’t soft—it’s rough! A sharp, painful thing hidden inside something beautiful—love = rose / flower |
| 2. Mercutio: “If love be blind, love cannot hit the mark.” (II.I.33) |                                                                        |
| 3. Romeo: “With love’s light wings did I o’erperch these walls,
For stony limits cannot hold love out,
And what love can do, that dares love attempt.” (II.ii.66-68) |                                                                        |
| 4. Romeo: “My life were better ended by their hate,
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.” (II.ii.77-78) |                                                                        |
5. Juliet: “O swear not by the moon, th’inconstant moon, 
That monthly changes in her circled orb, 
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.” (II.ii.109-111)

6. Juliet: “This bud of love, by summer’s ripening breath, 
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.” (II.ii.121-122)

7. Juliet: “My bounty is as boundless as the sea, 
My love as deep; the more I give to thee 
The more I have, for both are infinite.” (II.ii.133-135)

8. Romeo: “Love goes toward love as schoolboys from their books, 
But love from love, toward school with heavy looks” (II.ii.156-157)

9. Friar Lawrence: “Young men’s love then lies 
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.” (II.iii.67-68)

10. Romeo: “But come what sorrow can, 
It cannot countervail the exchange of joy 
That one short minute gives me in her sight.” (II.vi.3-5)

11. Friar Lawrence: “the sweetest honey 
Is loathsome in his own deliciousness 
And in the taste confounds the appetite. 
Therefore love moderately, long love doth so; 
Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.” (II.vi.11-15)