

Friar Lawrence also uses the language of opposition. Read the following lines from Act 2 Scene 3.

The grey-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night,
Chequering the eastern clouds with streaks of light;
And fleckled darkness like a drunkard reels
From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels:
Now, ere the sun advance his burning eye,
The day to cheer, and night's dank dew to dry,
I must upfill this osier cage of ours
With baleful weeds and precious-juiced flowers.
The earth that's nature's mother is her tomb;
What is her burying grave, that is her womb;
And from her womb children of divers kind
We sucking on her natural bosom find:
Many for many virtues excellent,
None but for some, and yet all different.
O mickle is the powerful grace that lies
In herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities:
For nought so vile, that on the earth doth live,
But to the earth some special good doth give;
Nor aught so good but, strain'd from that fair use,
Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse.
Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,
And vice sometimes by action dignified.

7. **Underline and label all the oppositions used by Friar Lawrence in these lines e.g. 'smiles' and 'frowning'.**
 8. **Why might Friar Lawrence be using the language of opposition?**
 9. **Try to explain the link between the imagery he uses and events later in the play.**
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10. **List as many contrasts and opposites you can think of in the play e.g. love and lust.**
 11. **How is the use of contrasts and opposites within the play effective?**