**“To Be Or Not To Be”: Spoken by Hamlet, Act 3 Scene 1**

To be, or not to be: that is the question:  
Whether ’tis\* nobler in the mind to suffer *\*it is*  
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,  
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles,  
And by opposing end them? To die: to sleep; **5**  
No more; and by a sleep to say we end  
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks  
That flesh is heir to, ’tis a consummation\* *\*resolution*  
Devoutly to be wish’d. To die, to sleep;  
To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there’s the rub;\* *\*problem* **10**  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,\* *\*life*  
Must give us pause: there’s the respect  
That makes calamity\* of so long life; *\*tragedy*  
For who would bear the whips and scorns of time, **15**  
The oppressor’s wrong, the proud man’s contumely,\* *\*contempt; hatred*  
The pangs of despised love, the law’s delay,  
The insolence of office and the spurns  
That patient merit of the unworthy takes,  
When he himself might his quietus\* make *\*death* **20**  
With a bare bodkin\*? who would fardels\*\* bear, *\*dagger, \*\*burdens*  
To grunt and sweat under a weary life,  
But that the dread of something after death,  
The undiscover’d country from whose bourn\* *\*border*  
No traveler returns, puzzles the will **25**  
And makes us rather bear those ills we have  
Than fly to others that we know not of?  
Thus conscience does make cowards of us all;  
And thus the native hue\* of resolution *\*natural color*  
Is sicklied o’er with the pale cast of thought, **30**  
And enterprises of great pith and moment  
With this regard their currents turn awry,  
And lose the name of action.

MEMORIZATION:

1. Solo: memorize first 4 1/2 lines. You will recite this, from memory, ALONE on Friday.
2. Be prepared to explain any 1-2 lines that you understand.