

## *Roméo and Juliet Act I: 1.1.1-105*

### Puns

What do you pay a baker with?...*Dough*, of course!

What did the tire do when it got older....*Re-tire*!

What did the boss say when he sold the carnival?...”It was a *fair* deal!”

These are very corny jokes, and they are puns.

**Puns** are a form of wordplay that occurs when two words pronounced and spelled somewhat the same contain different meanings. For instance, *fair* above means both a carnival as well as equitable or just.

Shakespeare is considered a master of puns and his plays are littered with wordplay.

In Act 1.1, there is a play on words that sound the same, but have four different meanings.

*Carry coals*: submit to humiliation

*Colliers*: people who work with coal

*In choler*: angry

*Collar*: hangman’s noose.

Read 1.1-82 remembering to stop at the periods or the semi-colons as the end of the sentences. Do you see how Samson and Gregory are joking around by using this wordplay?

## Acting and Directing

Read through it again through the eyes of an actor or a director. In order to understand how to perform a play, you need to picture it in your mind first and begin to think about the different characters' motivations and personalities. Do this by answering these questions below.

1. Overall, what's going on here?
2. Who are these people? (their station in life, etc.)
3. Are they related?
4. What are they like (personality, etc.)?
5. How do they feel about each other?