



## PART II. Summarizing Shakespearean Language

**Summarizing** is briefly stating the main points of a piece of writing. Stopping periodically to summarize what you have read helps you to check your comprehension before you read further. Summarizing is especially useful when reading a play that has long passages of blank verse. When you encounter one of these passages, **read in sentences**, just as if you were reading a poem. Pause according to punctuation and not necessarily at the end of each line. Once you have grasped the meanings of individual sentences in blank verse, you can more easily and more accurately summarize long passages.

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage, and then answer the items on the lines provided.

- 1 Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
- 2 Having some business, do entreat her eyes
- 3 To twinkle in their spheres till they return.
- 4 What if her eyes were there, they in her head?
- 5 The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars
- 6 As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven
- 7 Would through the airy region stream so bright
- 8 That birds would sing and think it were not night.

1. At the end of which line(s) should you make no pause at all?

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2. At the end of which line(s) should you make a major pause?

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3. At the end of which line(s) should you make a minor pause?

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4. Write a brief summary of the main points in this passage. (3-4 sentences)

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