Ling 103: Language Structure and Verbal Art

Short Written Assignment 1

For each of the properties below, find at least one line of poetry written by Shakespeare (excluding those discussed in class or in the passage in part A) which exemplifies that property. Write out the line and show how it displays the property in question.

Example:

Line-initial stress in a polysyllabic word.

\[ \text{W S W S W S W S W S} \]

\[ | | | | | | | | | | \]

Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.

1. A word appears to have a different pronunciation than it would in modern English, \textit{based on its metrical behavior}.
2. A stressless function word (e.g. pronoun, article, preposition, auxiliary verb, \textit{not}) occupies an S position.
3. Obligatory elision not marked in the spelling.
   Note: obligatory means the line cannot be analyzed as metrical if the elision is not taken.
4. Obligatory syncope not marked in the spelling.
5. Line-initial stress in a polysyllabic word.
6. Word-initial stress on a polysyllabic word appearing in W position but permitted because a phrase-boundary immediately precedes.
7. Extrametrical syllable at the end of a line
8. Extrametrical syllable in the middle of a line before a phrase boundary.

Extra credit (difficult to find, but try to find at least one of the three!):

1. A polysyllabic word ending in a stressed syllable followed immediately by a polysyllabic word beginning with a stressed syllable where Rhythm Rule retraction might have taken place.
2. Headless line (i.e. initial W position unoccupied).
3. A stressed monosyllable occupies a W position but is preceded and followed by stressless syllables in S positions.