Word Choice and Levels of Usage

1. Read the following poem:

   “My Mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun” William Shakespeare

   My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun;
   Coral is far more red than her lips’ red;
   If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
   If hair be wires, black wires grow on her head.
   I have seen roses damasked red and white.
   But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
   And in some perfumes is there more delight
   Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.
   I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
   That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
   I grant I never saw a goddess go;
   My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
   And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
   As any she belied with false compare.

2. Answer the following questions:

   A. What do the following words mean: dun, damasked, belied?

   B. “Translate” this poem into modern English, keeping all the main ideas but losing the poetic language, the rhyming, and the older terms.

3. Meet with a professor to go over your answers and discuss our translation. Ask if you’ve hit all the main points without adding any of your own.

   ENG 1B_A.6
   SLO # 2