Word Choice and Levels of Usage

Purpose: Upon completion of this activity, students will understand the affect of word choice in writing. This DLA should take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

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. Respond to the following on a separate sheet:
   A. What do the following words mean: dun, damasked, belied?
   B. “Translate” this poem from Early Modern English into the current vernacular, 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 your translation. Ask if you have hit all the main points without adding any of your own. Have that person sign and date below.

_____________________________________________________________________
Instructor name

_____________________________________________________________________
Instructor name

date