

# Imagery

## Consider:

Queen: There is a willow grows askant the brook,  
That shows his hoar leaves in the glassy stream.  
There with fantastic garlands did she make  
Of crowflowers, nettles, daisies, and long purples . . .  
There on the pendent boughs her coronet\* weeds (5) \*coronet  
Clamb'ring to hang, an envious sliver broke,  
When down her weedy trophies and herself  
Fell in the weeping brook. Her clothes spread wide,  
And mermaid-like awhile they bore her up,  
Which time she chanted snatches of old lauds,\* (10) \*hymns  
As one incapable of\* her own distress, \*insensible to  
Or like a creature native and indued\* \*endowed  
Unto that element. But long it could not be  
Till that her garments, heavy with their drink,  
Pulled the poor wretch from her melodious lay (15)  
To muddy death.

— William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

## Discuss:

1. Examine lines 8-13. How does the imagery in these lines help the reader understand that Ophelia (the *she* of the lines) is mad?
2. Line 10 is not figurative. Would it strengthen or weaken the line to change the image to a simile such as, "Which time she sang like a flawed recording"? Defend your opinion.

## Apply:

Write an image which captures a moment of intense exuberance. Your image should be no more than one sentence and should contain no figurative language. Share your image with the class.