

from THE RAPE OF THE LOCK

COPY MASTER

Reading Strategy

UNDERSTAND ELEVATED LANGUAGE

Pope often uses difficult words and unusual syntax, or word order, to mimic the style of epic poetry and to maintain the meter and rhyme scheme of heroic couplets. The following strategies can help you make sense of his elevated language:

- Use **sidenotes** to understand unfamiliar words and historical allusions in the text.
- Try to **visualize** the action in the poem.
- **Paraphrase** sentences, restating them in your own words. If sentences have unusual syntax, rearrange the words to form a more familiar sentence structure.

Directions: In the chart, record examples of elevated language. Then, in your own words, write a paraphrase of the example. One has been done for you.

Example	Paraphrase
"Hither the heroes and the nymphs resort . . ."	The heroes and maidens often go to this place.