

Before and After

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Answer: **HABILIMENTS**

The “poem” that sounds Shakespearean is, expectedly enough, composed of actual lines from his plays; while some are familiar on their own, looking at the lines immediately before or after them often yields more recognizable quotations. Though Shakespeare did sign his name (among many other ways) as “Wm. Sha” at times, the collection of nearby quotes and this particular signature (in addition to the heavy cluing in the flavortext) point to William Shatner and the various incarnations of *Star Trek*. Note the positions of capitalized letters for later.

Given	Line of Shakespeare	Capital Pos.	The Line...	...Holds this Star Trek Title
1	I Lost my liberty and they their lives.	2	Before	Rightful Heir
2	I Feel such sharp dissension in my breast,	2	After	Hope and Fear
3	So Romeo woUld, were he not Romeo call'd,	10	Before	By Any Other Name
4	YeT I should kill thee with much cherishing.	3	After	Such Sweet Sorrow
5	Or close tHe wall up with our English dead;	9	Before	Once More Unto the Breach
6	It is To be all made of sighs and tears.	5	Before	Good Shepherd
7	In The most high and palmy state of Rome;	3	Before	The Mind's Eye
8	More relative Than this, the play's the thing;	13	After	The Conscience of the King
9	MusT give us pause; there's the respect	4	Before	Mortal Coil
10	And laid mine honour too uncharly out;	1	Before	Heart of Stone
11	SWEet honey and sweet notes together fail	2	After	In the Flesh
12	To pRick the sides of my intent, but only	4	After	Vaulting Ambition
13	To thE last syllable of recorded time,	5	After	All Our Yesterdays
14	ANd by that destiny to perform an act	2	After	What's Past is Prologue

Of course, given the puzzle’s title, now is the time to look the other direction. If the quote came from the line before, we look at the episode after, and vice versa, sorting the episodes we find by airdate as per the flavortext. Now we use the positions of the capitals from... earlier.

Star Trek Episode	Other Way...	Episode	Aired	Cap.	Take
The Conscience of the King	Before	The Menagerie, Part II	11/24/66	13	P
By Any Other Name	After	The Omega Glory	3/1/68	10	L
All Our Yesterdays	Before	The Savage Curtain	3/7/69	5	A
The Mind's Eye	After	In Theory	6/3/91	3	T
Rightful Heir	After	Second Chances	5/24/93	2	E
Heart of Stone	After	Destiny	2/13/95	1	D
Mortal Coil	After	Waking Moments	1/14/98	4	I
Hope and Fear	Before	One	5/13/98	2	N
In the Flesh	Before	Extreme Risk	10/28/98	2	X
Once More unto the Breach	After	The Siege of AR-558	11/18/98	9	O
Good Shepherd	After	Live Fast and Prosper	4/19/00	5	F
Vaulting Ambition	Before	The Wolf Inside	1/14/18	4	W
What's Past is Prologue	Before	Vaulting Ambition	1/21/18	2	A
Such Sweet Sorrow	Before	Through the Valley of Shadows	4/4/19	3	R

This gives us “PLATED IN X OF WAR” reading down, which to complete the Shakespeare quote and return to the original puzzle topic, yields the final answer: **HABILIMENTS**.

Author’s Notes

Nick: More than two dozen Star Trek episode titles can be found in Shakespeare’s plays. The puzzle’s title not only hints at its mechanic, but also appears in *Hamlet* and is the name of a *Star Trek: Voyager* episode. Hinting at the sorting to be used, the lines are listed according to a plausible chronological ordering of the plays in which they appear.