# Authors' Response to Comments on WS-1601-00001

Dear Editor, Dear Reviewers,

We thank the Editor and Reviewers for their constructive engagement with the manuscript. We have revised the soliloquy to improve clarity, cadence, and concision.

In this letter we first respond to the Editor's overall remarks and then to the remarks of the reviewers in turn.

## Editor comments

> The Editor encourages the authors to make the piece snappier.

**Response:** We appreciate this guidance and have taken it to heart. We have tightened phrasing throughout and removed redundant constructions. The word count now stands at 286.

## Reviewer 1 comments

> "That opening line is a real zinger."

**Response:** We thank the reviewer for this kind remark.

> Try "slings and arrows" instead of "arrows and slings."

**Response:** We agree that this change improves rhythm and have adopted the suggestion in the revised manuscript. Line 3 now reads:

> *Revised text:*
> "…the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune …"

> Replace "myriad troubles" with a more expansive metaphor.

**Response:** We agree. Lines 4 and 5 now read:

> *Revised text:*
> "…a sea of troubles,
> And by opposing end them. …"

## Reviewer 2 comments

> "suffer" should be "suffer from"

**Response:** We respectfully disagree. Here, "suffer" is used to mean *to endure*, a meaning well understood by the intended audience (cf. "Suffer little children…"). We believe this interpretation will be clear and that the proposed revision would weaken the piece. We therefore retain the original phrasing for this part of lines 2 – 3:

> *Text retained:*
> "Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
> The slings and arrows…"

> Try "slings and arrows" instead of "arrows and slings."

**Response:** We agree. See our response to Reviewer 1 who made a similar point.

We again thank the Editor and reviewers for their careful reading and helpful suggestions. We hope the revisions address their concerns and improve the manuscript.

## References

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