

Romeo & Juliet



Key Quotes:

Character and Theme

[DETAILED VERSION]



Romeo

Unrequited love:

1.1	Ah me, sad hours seem long.
1.1	O brawling love, O loving hate
1.1	Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs
1.1	I have lost myself... This is not Romeo
1.4	Under love's heavy burden do I sink

Fate

1.4	Some consequence yet hanging in the stars, ... some vile forfeit of untimely death
1.4	But He that hath the steerage of my course Direct my sail!
3.1	O I am fortune's fool.
5.1	Then I defy you, stars!

Romantic Love for Juliet

1.5	Did my heart love til now? I never saw true beauty till this night.
1.5	O she doth teach the torches to burn bright!
2.2	Juliet is the sun
2.2	The brightness of those cheeks would shame those stars
2.2	Bright angel
2.2	With love's light wings did I o'erperch these walls
2.6	Love devouring death do what he dare, It is enough I may but call her mine.
5.3	Here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes this vault a feasting presence full of light.

Facing conflict

3.1	I do protest I never injured thee, but loved thee better than thou canst devise.
3.1	Villain am I none
3.1	Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up
3.1	O sweet Juliet, thy beauty hath made me effeminate.



Juliet

Relationship with her parents and the nurse

1.3	Madam, I am here.
2.5	Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse
3.5	Proud can I never be of what I hate!
4.2	[to Capulet] Henceforward I am ever ruled by you

Romantic Love for Romeo

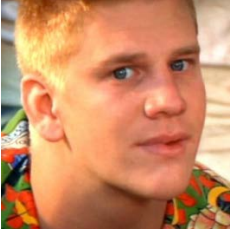
1.5	You kiss by the book
2.2	All my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay, and follow thee my lord throughout the world.
2.2	My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep.
3.2	I have bought the mansion of a love but not possessed it
3.2	an impatient child who hath new robes but may not wear them.
3.5	Yond light is not daylight, it is some meteor that the sun exhaled to light thee on the way to Mantua

Practical attitude to love

1.3	I'll look to like, if looking liking move
2.2	How cam'st thou hither?
2.2	Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
2.2	O swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon
2.2	It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden, too like... lightning
2.2	This bud of love... May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.
5.3	Go get thee hence, for I will not away.

Love/Hate/Death

	1.5 If he be married, My grave is like to be my wedding bed.
1.5	My only love sprung from my only hate!
3.2	O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!
3.2	Damned saint, honourable villain!
4.1	[To Friar Lawrence] Bid me leap, rather than marry Paris, from the battlements of any tower.
5.3	O happy dagger.



Benvolio

- *Benvolio is calm and peaceful and he avoids conflict.*
- *He is close to Romeo and gives him realistic advice about love.*
- *He is the opposite of Tybalt*

1.1	Part fools! Put up your swords, you know not what you do
1.1	I do but keep the peace. Put up thy sword or manage it to part these men with me.
1.3	Examine other beauties
1.3	Compare her face with some that I shall show, And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.
3.1	I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire... these hot days is the mad blood stirring
3.1	Withdraw to some private place... or reason coldly of your grievances



Tybalt

- *Tybalt hates the Capulets and is ready to fight with them.*
- *He is aggressive and quick to react.*
- *He feels that honour and respect are more important than anything else.*
- *He can be polite and courteous but most of the time he is the opposite of Benvolio.*

1.1	Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon they death.
1.1	Peace? I hate the word, As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee.
1.5	Now by the stock and honour of my kin to strike him dead I hold it not a sin.
1.5	This intrusion, now seeming sweet, will convert to bitterest gall
3.1	Gentlemen, good den, a word with one of you.
3.1	Thou art a villain.
3.1	Benvolio: Furious Tybalt



Capulet

- At the beginning, Capulet shows love for Juliet and respect for her wishes.
- Stops Tybalt from fighting at the party.
- We see a completely different side to him in the second half.
- He rushes the marriage
- He is angry and violent with Juliet when she disobeys him.

1.1	Give me my long sword, ho!
1.2	My child is yet a stranger in the world
1.2	She's the hopeful lady of my earth.
1.2	Within her scope of choice lies my consent
1.2	And too soon marred are those too early made
1.5	Be patient, take no note of him
1.5	Am I the master here, or you?
3.4	I think she will be ruled in all respects by me
3.4	Wife, go you...
3.5	Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!
3.5	My fingers itch
3.5	Hang, beg, starve, die in the streets
5.3	O brother Montague, give me thy hand



Lady Capulet

- She's not close to Juliet.
- She's much younger than Capulet. She probably had an arranged marriage.
- She thinks Paris is a good choice – he's good looking, wealthy and powerful.
- She seems to disagree with her husband's anger, but she doesn't help Juliet.
- She seems to disagree with her husband's anger, but she doesn't help Juliet.

1.3	Nurse, give leave a while... Nurse come back again.
1.3	I was your mother much upon these years
1.3	Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face, and find delight writ there with beauty's pen
1.3	So shall you share all that he doth possess
3.5	I would the fool were married to her grave.
3.5	Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word. Do what thou wilt, for I have done with thee.
4.2	Not till Thursday, there is time enough



Nurse

- *The nurse is close to Juliet.*
- *She only focuses on the physical side of love and makes jokes about it.*
- *She is protective of Juliet when she talks to Romeo and she defends her against Capulet,*
- *But she then changes her mind and suggests Juliet marries Paris, betraying Juliet.*

1.3	What, lamb! What ladybird!
1.3	bigger women grow by men
2.5	Though his face be better than any mans
2.5	You shall bear the burden soon at night
3.5	I think it best you married with the County. Oh, he's a lovely gentleman. Romeo's a dishclout to him.



Friar Lawrence

- *Friar Lawrence is close to Romeo, almost like a father figure.*
- *He thinks Romeo is immature and acts too quickly but he agrees to marry them as he thinks it will join the families.*
- *He helps Romeo and then Juliet but runs away to avoid the consequences of his actions.*

2.3	That's my good son
2.3	Young men's love then lies not truly in their hearts but in their eyes.
2.3	This alliance may so happy prove to turn your household's rancour to pure love.
2.3	Wisely and slow, they stumble that run fast.
2.6	These violent delights have violent ends.
3.3	Art thou a man? Thy tears are womanish
3.3	There, art thou happy... there art thou happy... there art thou happy?
5.3	I dare no longer stay



- *Mercutio focuses on the physical side of love and makes jokes about it.*
- *His cynical views on love are the opposite to Romeo, he thinks that Romeo's depressed attitude to love and fate are foolish.*
- *He can be quite fiery and gets along with both Tybalt and Romeo.*

Mercutio

1.4	You are a lover, borrow Cupid's wings
1.4	If love be rough with you, be rough with love.
1.4	Dreamers often lie
2.4	Now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo.
3.1	Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man
3.1	A plague a'both your houses!



Prince

- *He tries to stop the fighting by threatening Montague and Capulet*
- *He is fair – to avoid more killing, he exiles Romeo.*
- *He blames the families for their children's deaths.*

1.1	If ever you shall disturb our streets again, Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.
5.3	What a scourge is laid upon your hate that heaven finds a means to kill your joys with love!
5.3	All are punish'd.



Paris

- *Tries to persuade Capulet to allow him to marry Juliet.*
- *He is wealthy and of high status.*
- *He is very polite and courteous and goes along with society's rules*
- *He dies not knowing about Romeo and Juliet.*

1.2	Younger than her are happy mothers made
3.5	My lord, I would that Thursday were tomorrow.
4.1	Happily met, my lady and my wife!
4.1	Thy face is mine.



LOVE

- *At the beginning of the play, Romeo portrays love as painful and depressing.*
- *Benvolio and Mercutio have a much more cynical view of love.*
- *The Capulets' view of love is based on money, status and power. They do not believe in love matches.*
- *Romeo's attitude to love changes when he meets Juliet; he is happy and sociable again.*
- *Juliet is more cautious about love and more practical than Romeo.*
- *Both Romeo and Juliet speak possessively about each other. This demonstrates how little they know about each other and also their immaturity.*
- *Romeo and Juliet convince themselves that their love for each other rules all; ultimately they die for it.*

Depressed / confused about love

1.2	ROMEO: Under love's heavy burden do I sink
1.5	My only love sprung from my only hate!
3.2	O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!

Romantic love

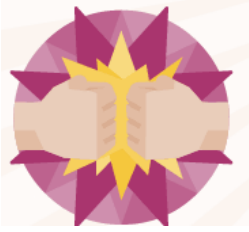
2.2	ROMEO: With love's light wings did I o'erperch these walls
2.2	JULIET: My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep

Practical love

2.2	JULIET: O swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon.
1.4	MERCUTIO: If love be rough with you, be rough with love
1.3	LADY CAPULET: So shall you share all that he doth possess

Possessive love

2.6	ROMEO: Love devouring death do what he dare, It is enough I may but call her mine.
5.2	JULIET: I have bought the mansion of a love but not possessed it



CONFLICT

- *The idea of conflict is central to the play. It has as much to do with hate as it does love.*
- *The play begins with the fighting between the families. We never learn the origins of the fighting which makes it seem pointless.*
- *Tybalt embodies the theme of conflict. He is aggressive and proud – his obsession with honour results in conflict with Romeo and Benvolio.*
- *Benvolio is the opposite; he worries about conflict and tries to prevent it.*
- *Capulet demonstrates conflict within families. He upholds the patriarchal tradition in which men are superior to women. He commands Tybalt to at the party to avoid conflict but he threatens violence against his daughter when she disobeys him, demonstrating his aggressive side.*

Aggression and violence:

1.1	PROLOGUE: From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
1.1	TYBALT: Peace? I hate the word, As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee.
1.5	TYABALT: Now by the stock and honour of my kin to strike him dead I hold it not a sin.
3.1	TYBALT: Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries that thou hast done me.

Keeping the peace:

1.1	BENVOLIO: Part fools! Put up your swords, you know not what you do
1.1	BENVOLIO: I do but keep the peace. Put up thy sword or manage it to part these men with me.
1.5	CAPULET: Be patient, take no note of him... Make a mutiny among my guests!
3.1	BENVOLIO: I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire... these hot days is the mad blood stirring
3.1	BENVOLIO: Withdraw to some private place... or reason coldly of your grievances
3.1	ROMEO: I do protest I never injured thee, but loved thee better than thou canst devise.
3.1	ROMEO: Villain am I none
3.1	ROMEO: Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up



FAMILY

- *Wealthy parents often spent little time with their children. Juliet is closer to the Nurse and Romeo is closer to Friar Lawrence than their own parents.*
- *At the beginning of the play, Capulet seems like a caring and protective father.*
- *Later in the play we learn that he is aggressive when he doesn't get his own way – he is prepared to disown Juliet because she disobeys him.*
- *Juliet's mother begins to defend Juliet but ultimately follows her husband. It is too risky for her to disobey her husband, due to the patriarchal society at that time, men had power and status over women.*

1.3	NURSE: What, lamb! What ladybird!
1.3	NURSE: I can tell her age unto an hour.

1.3	JULIET: Madam, I am here.
2.5	JULIET: Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse

1.3	LADY CAPULET: Nurse, give leave a while... Nurse come back again.
3.5	LADY CAPULET: Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word. Do what thou wilt, for I have done with thee.

1.2	CAPULET: She's the hopeful lady of my earth.
1.2	CAPULET: Within her scope of choice lies my consent
3.4	CAPULET: I think she will be ruled in all respects by me
3.4	CAPULET: Wife, go you...
3.5	CAPULET: Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!



FATE

- *Romeo believes predicts that something will go wrong in the future.*
- *He believes his dreams have predicted the future.*
- *Mercutio mocks this: he does not believe in the power of fate and dreams.*
- *Juliet and Friar Lawrence also talk of fate and fortune.*
- *By putting importance in fate (or God) characters such as Romeo avoid taking responsibility for their actions.*
- *The Shakespearean audience would have believed in God and fate much more than today's audience.*

1.1	PROLOGUE A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life.
1.4	ROMEO: My mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars, ... some vile forfeit of untimely death
1.4	ROMEO: But He that hath the steerage of my course Direct my sail!
3.1	ROMEO: O I am fortune's fool.
5.1	ROMEO: Then I defy you, stars!
3.5	MERCUTIO: Dreamers often lie
3.5	MERCUTIO: I talk of dreams, Which are the children of an idle brain, Begot of nothing but vain fantasy
3.5	JULIET: Be fickle fortune: For then I hope thou wilt not keep him long but send him back
5.3	FRIAR LAWRENCE: Unhappy fortune!



DEATH and FORESHADOWING

- *The audience are told that Romeo and Juliet will die in the prologue.*
- *Death is mentioned throughout the play. There are many references and metaphors which foreshadow what happens at the end.*
- *Death and marriage are often linked.*

1.1	PROLOGUE: A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;
1.5	JULIET: If he be married, my grave is like to be my wedding bed
3.4	FRIAR LAWRENCE: Thou art wedded to calamity.
3.5	JULIET: Methinks I see thee, now thou art below, As one dead in the bottom of a tomb.
3.5	JULIET: Delay this marriage for a month, a week / Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed / In that dim monument where Tybalt lies"
3.5	LADY CAPULET: I would the fool were married to her grave.
5.1	ROMEO: I dreamt my lady came and found me dead,... but breathed such life with kisses in my lips, that I revived, and was an emperor



LIGHT / DARK IMAGERY

- *At the beginning of the play, when Romeo is depressed, he surrounds himself in darkness and he hates the day time.*
- *When he meets Juliet, he uses numerous metaphors in which he refers to Juliet a light or bright. She lights up his life and makes him happy.*
- *The only time Romeo and Juliet are together in the day time is when they quickly get married.*
- *Their relationship only takes place during the night time because it cannot exist in the daytime under society's strict social rules. When the sun is up, their lives are marred by the feud and the fighting.*

1.5	ROMEO: O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright
2.2	ROMEO: It is the east and Juliet is the sun.
3.2	JULIET: Give me my Romeo. And when I shall die, Take him and cut him out in little stars, And he will make the face of heaven so fine
3.2	JULIET: If love be blind, it best agrees with night.
3.5	ROMEO: More light and light, more dark and dark our woes.
5.3	ROMEO: For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes this vault a feasting presence full of light.