

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the male servants of the house of Capulet have seen the male servants from the house of Montague and a fight is about to start.

SAMPSON

My naked weapon is out. Quarrel, I will back thee.

GREGORY

How, turn thy back and run?

SAMPSON

Fear me not.

GREGORY

No, marry, I fear thee!

SAMPSON

Let us take the law of our sides, let them begin.

GREGORY

I will frown as I pass by, and let them take it as they list.

SAMPSON

Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them, which is disgrace to them if they bear it.

ABRAM

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON

I do bite my thumb, sir.

ABRAM

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON

[*Aside to Gregory*] Is the law of our side if I say ay?

GREGORY

[*Aside to Sampson*] No.

SAMPSON

No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir.

Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents aggressive male behaviour in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents aggressive male behaviour in this conversation
- how Shakespeare presents aggressive male behaviour in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Juliet is waiting for the Nurse to come back from meeting Romeo.

JULIET

Come, night; come, Romeo; come, thou day in night;
For thou wilt lie upon the wings of night
Whiter than new snow on a raven's back.
Come, gentle night, come, loving, black-brow'd night,
Give me my Romeo; and, when he shall die,
Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
And pay no worship to the garish sun.
O, I have bought the mansion of a love,
But not possess'd it, and, though I am sold,
Not yet enjoy'd: so tedious is this day
As is the night before some festival
To an impatient child that hath new robes
And may not wear them. O, here comes my nurse,
And she brings news; and every tongue that speaks
But Romeo's name speaks heavenly eloquence.

Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards love in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards love in this speech
- how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards love in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo is hiding in the Capulet garden and has been listening to Juliet talking about her feelings for him.

JULIET

What man art thou that thus bescreened in night
So stumblest on my counsel?

ROMEO

By a name
I know not how to tell thee who I am.
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,
Because it is an enemy to thee;
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

JULIET

My ears have yet not drunk a hundred words
Of thy tongue's uttering, yet I know the sound.
Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

ROMEO

Neither, fair maid, if either thee dislike.

JULIET

How cam'st thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?
The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,
And the place death, considering who thou art,
If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

ROMEO

With love's light wings did I o'erperch these walls,
For stony limits cannot hold love out,
And what love can do, that dares love attempt:
Therefore thy kinsmen are no stop to me.

JULIET

If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

ROMEO

Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye
Than twenty of their swords. Look thou but sweet,
And I am proof against their enmity.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Romeo's attitudes to love?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's attitudes to love at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's attitudes to love in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 1 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has been banished and has not yet received Friar Lawrence's plan or the news that Juliet is dead.

ROMEO If I may trust the flattering truth of sleep,
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand. My bosom's lord sits lightly in his throne,
And all this day an unaccustomed spirit Lifts me above the ground with cheerful thoughts. I
dreamt my lady came and found me dead (Strange dream that gives a dead man leave to
think!), And breathed such life with kisses in my lips That I revived and was an emperor. Ah
me, how sweet is love itself possessed, When but love's shadows are so rich in joy!

Enter Romeo's man [BALTHASAR, booted].

News from Verona! How now, Balthasar? Dost thou not bring me letters from the Friar?
How doth my lady? Is my father well? How doth my Juliet? That I ask again, For nothing can
be ill if she be well.

BALTHASAR Then she is well and nothing can be ill:

Her body sleeps in Capels' monument,
And her immortal part with angels lives.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Romeo's feelings?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feelings at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feelings in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has just left Juliet's bedchamber and her parents arrive with news of their intentions for her marriage to Paris.

CAPULET Thank me no thankings, nor proud me no prouds,
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next, To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church, Or
I will drag thee on a hurdle thither. Out, you green-sickness carrion! out, you baggage! You
tallow-face!

LADY CAPULET Fie, fie, what, are you mad?

JULIET Good father, I beseech you on my knees, Hear me with patience but to speak a
word.

[She kneels down.]

CAPULET Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch! I tell thee what: get thee to
church a' Thursday, Or never after look me in the face. Speak not, reply not, do not answer
me! My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest That God had lent us but this only
child, But now I see this one is one too much, And that we have a curse in having her. Out
on her, hilding!

NURSE God in heaven bless her! You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Capulet's treatment of Juliet, and its effect on her?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Capulet's treatment of Juliet at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Capulet's treatment of Juliet, and its effect on her in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has approached Juliet at the Capulet ball having seen her for the first time.

ROMEO [*To Juliet*] If I profane with my unworhiest hand
This holy shrine, the gentle sin is this, My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

JULIET Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,
Which mannerly devotion shows in this, For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do
touch, And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

ROMEO Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

JULIET Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO O then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do: They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn
to despair.

JULIET Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

ROMEO Then move not while my prayer's effect I take. Thus from my lips, by thine, my sin
is purged.

[*Kissing her.*]

JULIET Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO Sin from thy lips? O trespass sweetly urged! Give me my sin again.

[*Kissing her again.*]

JULIET You kiss by th'book.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Romeo and Juliet's relationship?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo and Juliet's relationship at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo and Juliet's relationship in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Juliet has just received the news that Romeo has murdered her cousin, Tybalt.

JULIET O serpent heart, hid with a flow'ring face!

Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave? Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical! Dove-feathered raven, wolvish-ravening lamb! Despised substance of divinest show! Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st, A damnèd saint, an honourable villain! O nature, what hadst thou to do in hell When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend In mortal paradise of such sweet flesh? Was ever book containing such vile matter So fairly bound? O that deceit should dwell In such a gorgeous palace!

NURSE There's no trust, No faith, no honesty in men, all perjured, All forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers. Ah, where's my man? Give me some aqua-vitae; These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me old. Shame come to Romeo!

JULIET Blistered be thy tongue

For such a wish! he was not born to shame: Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit; For 'tis a throne where honour may be crowned Sole monarch of the universal earth. O what a beast was I to chide at him!

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Juliet's feelings about Romeo?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Juliet's feelings about Romeo at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Juliet's feelings about Romeo in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Juliet has received the news that Romeo has murdered her cousin, Tybalt and is banished.

JULIET ...Come, gentle Night, come, loving, black-browed Night,

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
That all the world will be in love with night,
And pay no worship to the garish sun.
O, I have bought the mansion of a love,
But not possessed it, and though I am sold,
Not yet enjoyed. So tedious is this day
As is the night before some festival
To an impatient child that hath new robes
And may not wear them. O, here comes my Nurse,

Enter NURSE, with [the ladder of] cords [in her lap].

And she brings news, and every tongue that speaks

But Romeo's name speaks heavenly eloquence. ...

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Juliet's feelings for Romeo?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Juliet's feelings for Romeo at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Juliet's feelings for Romeo in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has just left Juliet's bedchamber and her parents have instructed her to marry Paris.

JULIET O God! – O Nurse, how shall this be prevented?

My husband is on earth, my faith in heaven; How shall that faith return again to earth,
Unless that husband send it me from heaven By leaving earth? Comfort me, counsel me.
Alack, alack, that heaven should practise stratagems Upon so soft a subject as myself! What
say'st thou? hast thou not a word of joy? Some comfort, Nurse.

NURSE Faith, here it is:

Romeo is banished, and all the world to nothing That he dares ne'er come back to challenge
you; Or if he do, it needs must be by stealth. Then since the case so stands as now it doth, I
think it best you married with the County. O, he's a lovely gentleman! Romeo's a dishclout
to him. An eagle, madam, Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye As Paris hath. Beshrew
my very heart, I think you are happy in this second match, For it excels your first, or if it did
not, Your first is dead, or 'twere as good he were

As living here and you no use of him.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present the relationship
between Juliet and the Nurse?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has just seen Juliet for the first time at the Capulet Ball.

ROMEO [*To a Servingman*] What lady's that which doth enrich the hand

Of yonder knight?

SERVINGMAN I know not, sir.

ROMEO O she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night

As a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear –

Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear:

So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,

As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.

The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,

And touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.

Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!

For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Romeo's feelings about Juliet?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feelings about Juliet at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feelings about Juliet in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Juliet is waiting for the Nurse to return from meeting with Romeo.

Enter JULIET.

JULIET The clock struck nine when I did send the Nurse;

In half an hour she promised to return.

Perchance she cannot meet him: that's not so.

O, she is lame! Love's heralds should be thoughts,
Which ten times faster glides than the sun's beams,
Driving back shadows over low'ring hills;

Therefore do nimble-pinioned doves draw Love,
And therefore hath the wind-swift Cupid wings.

Now is the sun upon the highmost hill
Of this day's journey, and from nine till twelve
Is three long hours, yet she is not come.

Had she affections and warm youthful blood,
She would be as swift in motion as a ball;
My words would bandy her to my sweet love,
And his to me.

But old folks, many feign as they were dead,
Unwieldy, slow, heavy, and pale as lead.

Enter NURSE [with PETER].

O God, she comes! O honey Nurse, what news?
Hast thou met with him? Send thy man away.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present love?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents love at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents love in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 1 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has been banished and Juliet has been instructed by her parents to marry Paris.

FRIAR LAWRENCE ... If, rather than to marry County Paris,
Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,
Then is it likely thou wilt undertake
A thing like death to chide away this shame,
That cop'st with Death himself to scape from it;
And if thou dar'st, I'll give thee remedy.

JULIET O bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,
From off the battlements of any tower,
Or walk in thievish ways, or bid me lurk
Where serpents are; chain me with roaring bears,
Or hide me nightly in a charnel-house,
O'ercovered quite with dead men's rattling bones,
With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls;
Or bid me go into a new-made grave,
And hide me with a dead man in his shroud –
Things that to hear them told have made me tremble –
And I will do it without fear or doubt,
To live an unstained wife to my sweet love.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Juliet's courage?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Juliet's courage at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Juliet's courage in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 3 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has killed Paris and entered the Capulet family monument believing that Juliet is dead.

ROMEO ... Ah, dear Juliet,
Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
That unsubstantial Death is amorous,
And that the lean abhorrèd monster keeps
Thee here in dark to be his paramour?
For fear of that, I still will stay with thee,
And never from this palace of dim night
Depart again. Here, here will I remain
With worms that are thy chambermaids; O here
Will I set up my everlasting rest,
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars
From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, look your last!
Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
A dateless bargain to engrossing Death!
Come, bitter conduct, come, unsavoury guide!
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on
The dashing rocks thy seasick weary bark!
Here's to my love! [*Drinks.*] O true apothecary!
Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die. [*Dies.*]

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Romeo's feelings about death?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feelings about death at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's feelings about death in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 3 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has murdered Tybalt and is in Friar Lawrence's cell having just received the news of his banishment.

ROMEO Spakest thou of Juliet? how is it with her?

Doth not she think me an old murderer,

Now I have stained the childhood of our joy

With blood removed but little from her own?

Where is she? and how doth she? and what says

My concealed lady to our cancelled love?

NURSE O she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps,

And now falls on her bed, and then starts up,

And Tybalt calls, and then on Romeo cries,

And then down falls again.

ROMEO As if that name,

Shot from the deadly level of a gun,

Did murder her, as that name's cursèd hand

Murdered her kinsman. O tell me, Friar, tell me,

In what vile part of this anatomy

Doth my name lodge? Tell me, that I may sack

The hateful mansion.

[He offers to stab himself, and Nurse snatches the dagger away.]

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present Romeo's thoughts and feelings?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's thoughts and feelings at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents Romeo's thoughts and feelings in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 4 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, the day of Juliet's wedding to Paris has arrived and she is discovered in her bed, apparently dead.

LADY CAPULET Alack the day, she's dead, she's dead, she's dead!

CAPULET Hah, let me see her. Out alas, she's cold,
Her blood is settled, and her joints are stiff:
Life and these lips have long been separated;
Death lies on her like an untimely frost
Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.

NURSE O lamentable day!

LADY CAPULET O woeful time!

CAPULET Death that hath tane her hence to make me wail
Ties up my tongue and will not let me speak.

Enter FRIAR [LAWRENCE] *and the* COUNTY [PARIS *with the* MUSICIANS].

FRIAR LAWRENCE Come, is the bride ready to go to church?

CAPULET Ready to go, but never to return. –
O son, the night before thy wedding day
Hath Death lain with thy wife. There she lies,
Flower as she was, deflowerèd by him.
Death is my son-in-law, Death is my heir,
My daughter he hath wedded. I will die,
And leave him all; life, living, all is Death's.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present the behaviour of Juliet's parents?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the behaviour of Juliet's parents at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents the behaviour of Juliet's parents in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 3 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has told Friar Lawrence of his love for Juliet and his plans to marry her.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!

Is Rosaline, that thou didst love so dear,
So soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.
Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine
Hath washed thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline!
How much salt water thrown away in waste,
To season love, that of it doth not taste!
The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,
Thy old groans yet ringing in mine ancient ears;
Lo here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit
Of an old tear that is not washed off yet.
If e'er thou wast thyself, and these woes thine,
Thou and these woes were all for Rosaline.

And art thou changed? Pronounce this sentence then:
Women may fall, when there's no strength in men.

ROMEO Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

FRIAR LAWRENCE For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

ROMEO And bad'st me bury love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE Not in a grave,
To lay one in, another out to have.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present love?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents love at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents love in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 4 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Mercutio is trying to persuade Romeo to put aside his sadness and have fun at the Capulet ball.

MERCUTIO: Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

ROMEO: Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes
With nimble soles, I have a soul of lead
So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.

MERCUTIO: You are a lover, borrow Cupid's wings,
And soar with them above a common bound.

ROMEO: I am too sore enpierced with his shaft
To soar with his light feathers, and so bound
I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe:
Under love's heavy burden do I sink.

MERCUTIO: And to sink in it should you burden love,
Too great oppression for a tender thing.

ROMEO: Is love a tender thing? it is too rough,
Too rude, too boist'rous, and it pricks like thorn.

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present love?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents love at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents love in the play as a whole.

Romeo and Juliet

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Romeo has met Juliet at the ball and is hidden beneath her balcony listening to her words.

JULIET: O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO: [*Aside*] Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

JULIET: 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
What's Montague? It is nor hand nor foot,
Nor arm nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O be some other name!
What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other word would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,
And for thy name, which is no part of thee,
Take all myself.

In the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2 how does Shakespeare present the difficulties that Romeo and Juliet face?

Starting with this moment in the play, how does Shakespeare present the difficulties that Romeo and Juliet face?

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the difficulties that Romeo and Juliet face at this moment in the play
- how Shakespeare presents the difficulties that Romeo and Juliet face in the play as a whole.