Romeo and Juliet: Theme Workbook



Major Themes: Romeo and Juliet

The idea the writer wishes to convey about the subject—the writer's view of the world or a revelation about human nature.

Utilizing the table below:

- 1. Identify a pervading idea for each Act within Romeo and Juliet (i.e. Provide a few short sentences to demonstrate what Shakespeare is saying)
- 2. Include evidence to support your theme statement (Quotes from text)
- 3. Connect your theme to the adaptation discussed in class.

Utilize the box below to guide your thinking

Common topics identified within Romeo and Juliet

The Nature of Free Will - Honour and Obligation - The Naivety of Youth - The Power of Love and Hate Violence and Death - Gender Roles - Revenge - The Multiplicity of Identity

An example of evidence used from text and an appropriate citation -



JULIET:

"Tis but thy name that is my enemy; Thou art thyself, though not a Montague. What's Montague? ...O, be some other name! What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet; So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call's, retain that dear perfection which he owes without that title."

(Romeo and Juliet, Act-II, Scene-ii, Lines 38-49)

Track Your Understanding:

ACTI	Explanation:		
Evidence from text	This, by his voice, should be a Montague. Fetch me my rapier, boy. What, dares the slave Come hither, covered with an antic face, To fleer and scorn at our solemnity? Now, by the stock and honor of my kin, To strike him dead I hold it not a sin. Capulet. Why, how now, kinsman? Wherefore storm you so? Tybalt. Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe; A villain, that is hither come in spite To scorn at our solemnity this night. Capulet. Young Romeo is it? Tybalt. 'Tis he, that villain Romeo. Capulet. Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone. 'A bears him like a portly gentleman, And, to say truth, Verona brags of him To be a virtuous and wellgoverned youth. I would not for the wealth of all this town Here in my house do him disparagement. Therefore be patient, take no note of him. It is my will; the which if thou respect, Show a fair presence and put off these frowns, An ill-beseeming semblance for a feast. Tybalt. It fits when such a villain is a guest. I'll not endure him. Capulet. He shall be endured. What, goodman boy? I say he shall. Go to! Am I the master here, or you? Go to! You'll not endure him? God shall mend my sou!! You'll make a mutiny among my guests! You will set cock-a-hoop! You'll be the man. Tybalt. Why, uncle, 'tis a shame. (Romeo and Juliet Act I Scene v Lines 55-80)		

master's kinsmen. Sampson. Yes, better, sir. Abram. You lie. Sampson. Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow. b [They fight.] Benvolio. Part, fools! [beats down their swords] Put up your swords. You know not what you do. unit

[Enter Tybalt, hot-headed nephew of Lady Capulet and first cousin of Juliet.] Tybalt. What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds?

Turn thee, Benvolio! look upon thy death. Benvolio. I do but keep the peace. Put up thy sword, Or manage it to part these men with me. Tybalt. What, drawn, and talk of peace? I hate the word As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee.

Have at thee, coward! [They fight.] [Enter several of both houses, who join the fray; then enter Citizens and Peace Officers, with clubs.] Officer. Clubs, bills, and partisans! Strike! beat them down! Citizens. Down with the Capulets! Down with the Montagues! [Enter old Capulet and Lady Capulet.] Capulet. What noise is this? Give me my long sword, ho! Lady Capulet. A crutch, a crutch! Why call you for a sword?

Capulet. My sword, I say! Old Montague is come And flourishes his blade in spite of me. [Enter old Montague and Lady Montague.] Montague. Thou villain Capulet!—Hold me not, let me go. Lady Montague. Thou shalt not stir one foot to seek a foe. [Enter Prince Escalus, with attendants. At first no one hears him.] Prince. Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace.

Profaners of this neighbor-stained steel— Will they not hear? What, ho! you men, you beasts, That quench the fire of your pernicious rage With purple fountains issuing from your veins! On pain of torture, from those bloody hands

Throw your mistempered weapons to the ground And hear the sentence of your moved prince. Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word By thee, old Capulet, and Montague, Have thrice disturbed the quiet of our streets

And made Verona's ancient citizens Cast by their grave beseeming ornaments To wield old partisans, in hands as old, Cankered with peace, to part your cankered hate. If ever you disturb our streets again,

Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.

Romeo and Juliet Act I Scene i lines 50-90

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Honour And Obligation, The Nature of Free Will

2. Idea writer wishes to convey

- 1) I think Shakespeare was trying to show how Free Will is a very subjective thing, as the Montague and Capulet servants hate each other based on whom they serve. Showing how the just like in real life people in power will manipulate those below them into serving. This is shown in (*Romeo and Juliet Act I Scene i lines 50-90*) When two Montague servants fight two Capulet servants for no reason "*Draw, if you be men. Gregory,* remember thy swashing blow." They fight each other for no other reason other then they are Capulet, and they are Montague.
- 2) Honour and Obligation show in (Romeo and Juliet Act I Scene v Lines 55-80) When Tyblat wants to kill Romeo for sneaking into the party. Lord Capulet says no. Telling Tyblat to chill, and enjoy the party. "Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe;

A villain, that is hither come in spite To scorn at our solemnity this night. Capulet. Young Romeo is it? Tybalt. 'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

Capulet. Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone. 'A bears him like a portly gentleman" The Capulet also does not want any bloodshed at his party. Also telling Tybalt that Romeo is a "virtuous and well-governed youth" and is to be left alone. This shows how the Capulet is honours not wanting to kill Romeo during a party. "I would not for the wealth of all this town Here in my house do him disparagement. Therefore be patient, take no note of him. It is my will; the which if thou respect," Tyblat is obligated to obey the Capulet

Connection to Adaptation

- 1) I think when the Montagues and Capulets fight at the very start of the play introducing us to there rivalry. It connects to Gomeo and Juliet as in the first scene of the movie we have the lawnmower race. It serves the same purpose as we meet the main characters and understand there rivalry. We also get to see Tybalt and Gomeo's personal rivalry, as they have in play.
- 2) In the scene where Romeo realizes Juliet is a Capulet "Is she a Capulet? O dear account my life is my foe's debt." Meaning oh no i've fallen in love with the enemy. Juliet says something similar when she finds out Romeo is a Montague "My only love sprung from hate" The same scene happens in Gnomeo and Juliet when Juliet says "He's a Blue. Not a Blue" and Romeo says "A Red. Why, of all things did she have to be a red?" This links the Dance Scene at the Capulets house and the Orchid Scene from the movie. That brought the two lovers together in both the play and the movie.
- 3) In Warm Bodies there is a massive difference in the characters meeting each other. In the play Romeo and Juliet have an instant mutual attraction to on another. Where as in Warm Bodies R falls in love with Julie when they first meet, but Julie doesn't love R back. As Julie says "What are you doing? Please leave me alone." Showing how the two don't immediately love each other

ACT II Explanation

Friar Laurence:. So smile the heavens upon this holy act 1–2 So smile . . . us not: May heaven That after-hours with sorrow chide us not! so bless this act that we won't regret it in the future (after-hours).

Romeo: Amen, amen! But come what sorrow can, It cannot countervail the exchange of joy 4 countervail: outweigh. That one short minute gives me in her sight. Do thou but close our hands with holy words, Then love-devouring death do what he dare— It is enough I may but call her mine.

These violent delights have violent ends

And in their triumph die, like fire and powder, Which, as they kiss, consume. The sweetest honey Is loathsome in his own deliciousness And in the taste confounds the appetite. Therefore love moderately: long love doth so;

Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow. h [Enter Juliet.] Here comes the lady. O, so light a foot Will ne'er wear out the everlasting flint. A lover may bestride the gossamer That idles in the wanton summer air,

And yet not fall; so light is vanity. **Juliet**. Good even to my ghostly confessor. Friar Laurence. Romeo shall thank thee, daughter, for us both. Juliet. As much to him, else is his thanks too much. Romeo. Ah, Juliet, if the measure of thy joy

Be heaped like mine, and that thy skill be more To blazon it, then sweeten with thy breath This neighbor air, and let rich music's tongue Unfold the imagined happiness that both Receive in either by this dear encounter.

Juliet. Conceit, more rich in matter than in words, Brags of his substance, not of ornament. They are but beggars that can count their worth; But my true love is grown to such excess I cannot sum up sum of half my wealth.

Friar Laurence. Come, come with me, and we will make short work; For, by your leaves, you shall not stay alone Till Holy Church incorporate two in one. i [Exeunt.]

(Romeo and Juliet Scene Act II Scene VI Lines 5-35)

Evidence from text

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 name 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 that name, which is no part of thee, Take all myself.

(Romeo and Juliet Act II Scene ii Lines 35-45)

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2. Idea writer wishes to convey

The Naivety of Youth,

- 1) In Romeo and Juliet Scene Act II Scene VI Lines 5-35 Romeo and Juliet get married. Not 24 hours after meeting each other. This shows how naive youth can be, as they are married without knowing anything about each other, other then fact they come from rival houses. The message I think Shakespeare was trying to convey is that, young people can be naive in not thinking through there actions, or considering the consequences. Which shows up later when Juliet is asked to marry someone else.
- (Romeo and Juliet Act II Scene ii Lines 35-45) In the scene in which Romeo confesses his love for Juliet and she does the same. She says "if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, And I'll no longer be a Capulet." Even though these are private thoughts to think that she can just no longer be a Capulet for the reason of loving the "enemy" (the Montagues). This again shows how naive young people can be, when struck with love.

Connection to Adaptation

In the balcony scene Romeo and Juliet confess there love for each other. The same thing happens in Gnomeo and Juliet, albeit more goofy but the message and the impact of scene is not lost. As in both the play and adaptation it is a crucial moment. As they learn how they feel about each other. In the movie Juliet says "Why must you wear a blue hat? Why couldn't it be red like my father, or... or green like a leprechaun? Or purple like, um... like, uh... like some weird guy? I mean, what's in a gnome? Because you're blue, my father sees red, and because I'm red, I'm feeling blue. Oh. At any rate, that shouldn't be the thing to keep us apart, should it?" These lines are eerily similar to what Juliet says in the play "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" In both scenes they are questioning why they must hate each other based on house or colour. Also both Juliets declare there love for Romeo in both scenes and Romeo/Gnomeo do the same.

ACT III	Explanation
Evidence from text	Romeo. Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee Doth much excuse the appertaining rage To such a greeting. Villain am I none. Therefore farewell. I see thou knowst me not. b Tybalt. Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw. Romeo. I do protest I never injured thee, But love thee better than thou canst devise Till thou shalt know the reason of my love; And so, good Capulet, which name I tender: cherish. As dearly as mine own, be satisfied.

Juliet: Good father, I beseech you on my knees, [She kneels down.] Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

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.

Capulet. And why, my Lady Wisdom? Hold your tongue, Good Prudence. Smatter with your gossips, go! Nurse. I speak no treason. Capulet. O, God-i-god-en!

Nurse. May not one speak? Capulet. Peace, you mumbling fool! Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl,

For here we need it not. Lady Capulet. You are too hot.

Capulet. God's bread! it makes me mad. Day, night, late, early, At home, abroad, alone, in company, Waking or sleeping, still my care hath been To have her matched; and having now provided A gentleman of princely parentage,

Of fair demesnes, youthful, and nobly trained, Stuffed, as they say, with honorable parts, Proportioned as one's thought would wish a man— And then to have a wretched puling fool,

A whining mammet, in her fortunes tender, To answer "I'll not wed, I cannot love; I am too young, I pray you pardon me"! But, an you will not wed, I'll pardon you. Graze where you will, you shall not house with me.

Look to't, think on't; I do not use to jest. Thursday is near; lay hand on heart, advise: An you be mine, I'll give you to my friend; An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets, For, by my soul, I'll ne'er acknowledge thee,

Nor what is mine shall never do thee good. Trust to't. Bethink you. I'll not be forsworn. [Exit.]

Romeo and Juliet Act III Scene v Lines 155-195

 Topic Revealed Idea writer wishes to convey 	 Violence and Death, Revenge, Household Hierarchy 1) When Tybalt takes up arms to fight, once Romeo appears showing how he wants revenge. After not being allowed to kill Romeo at the party. Shakespeare conveys this idea when Tybalt says "Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw." Romeo does not what Tybalt is talking about. "I do protest I never injured thee, But love thee better than thou canst devise" Tybalt doesn't care and attacks anyways. Showing us how the desire for revenge can consume a person. Romeo also doesn't want to kill Tybalt being married to Juliet 2) When Lord Capulet arranges a marriage for Juliet to Paris. It shows the idea of household hierarchy and how the world worked back then. With fathers arranging marriages for there daughters. Although the Capulet seems to take it a bit far when calling Juliet a "disobedient wretch" also threatening to banish Juliet from the house. I think this scene specifically really shows the difference in time period, as nowadays arranged marriages are not really a thing anymore, and most fathers probably wouldn't call there daughters "disobedient wretch's".
Connection to Adaptation	In Gnomeo and Juliet and in the play Romeo and Juliet Tybalt dies at the hands of Gnomeo/Romeo in revenge for killing Mercutio in the play, and chopping off Benny's hat in the movie. A similar line is spoken in both the play and movie. In the movie after Benny has his hat slashed. Gnomeo says "Tybalt! A hat for a hat" and in the play Romeo says Tybalt after Mercutio's death "and fire-eyed fury be my conduct now" showing how Romeo/Gnomeo gets revenge for the death of Mercutio and the hat chopping of Benny.

ACT IV	Explanation
Evidence from text	Tell me not, friar, that thou hearst of this, Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it. If in thy wisdom thou canst give no help, Do thou but call my resolution wise And with this knife I'll help it presently. God joined my heart and Romeo's, thou our hands; And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo's sealed, Shall be the label to another deed, Or my true heart with treacherous revolt Turn to another, this shall slay them both. Therefore, out of thy long-experienced time, Give me some present counsel; or, behold, 'Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife Shall play the umpire, arbitrating that Which the commission of thy years and art Could to no issue of true honor bring. Be not so long to speak. I long to die If what thou speakst speak not of remedy. Romeo and Juliet Act IIII Scene i Lines 50-65

Hold, daughter, I do spy a kind of hope, Which craves as desperate an execution

As that is desperate which we would prevent. 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 copest with death himself to scape from it; And, if thou darest, I'll give thee remedy. Juliet. O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris, From off the battlements of yonder tower, Or walk in thievish ways, or bid me lurk

Where serpents are; chain me with roaring bears, Or shut 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.

Romeo and Juliet Act IIII Scene i Lines 70-85

Evidence from text

O me, O me! My child, my only life!

Revive, look up, or I will die with thee! Help! help! Call help. [Enter Capulet.] Capulet. For shame, bring Juliet forth; her lord is come. Nurse. She's dead, deceased; she's dead! Alack the day! Lady Capulet. Alack the day, she's dead, she's dead, she's dead! Capulet. Ha! 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. What simile does Capulet use to Death lies on her like an untimely frost describe what has happened to Juliet? Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.

Nurse. O lamentable day! Lady Capulet. O woeful time! Capulet. Death, that hath ta'en her hence to make me wail, Ties up my tongue and will not let me speak.

Romeo and Juliet Act IV Scene V Lines 20-30

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2. Idea writer wishes to convey

Honour and Obligation, The Power of Love and Hate

1) In this scene I think Shakespeare was trying to show the idea of Love and Hate in this scene, as Juliet would rather kill herself then marry Paris. We know this to be true when she says that she'll kill herself if the Friar has no solution. Her love for Romeo runs that deep, which most people would call psychotic, or think she's over exaggerating. But because Shakespeare writes the play and builds the characters so well, we know Juliet is not joking.

2) For this scene Shakespeare shows the idea and Honour and Obligation (more obligation). When the Friar is willing to help Juliet with a solution. He must feel obligated to try and help, as after all he agreed to wed Romeo and Juliet in secret, and probably feels partially responsible for this whole ordeal, and if you really think about it Friar Laurence is responsible for the tragic ending of the play.

3) In Romeo and Juliet Act IV Scene V Juliet fakes her death to avoid marrying Paris, and so she can be with Romeo. Which begs the question why? Why would Juliet fake her own death. If its to be with Romeo why didn't she just run away? I think that Juliet was feeling obligated to her family more specifically her father. To give them some closure. Instead of leaving them wondering where she went. As Juliet never told anyone in her family, other then nurse about her marriage and love with Romeo.

Connection to Adaptation

In Warm Bodes Minute 1:17 Nora put a gun to General Grigio head to protect R and Julie similar to how the Friar was willing to help Juliet kill herself. This shows how just like the Friar, Nora feels obligated to help and or protect Julie and R. Granted Nora did not marry R and Julie and is not responsible in the same way the Friar was still, Nora helped Julie hide R and disguise him.

ACT V

Explanation

Paris: This is that banish'd haughty Montague

That murdered my love's cousin—with which grief It is supposed the fair creature died— And here is come to do some villainous shame To the dead bodies. I will apprehend him. Stop thy unhallowed toil, vile Montague!

Can vengeance be pursued further than death? Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee. Obey, and go with me; for thou must die. **Romeo**. I must indeed; and therefore came I hither. Good gentle youth, tempt not a desp'rate man.

Fly hence and leave me. Think upon these gone; Let them affright thee. I beseech thee, youth, Put not another sin upon my head By urging me to fury. O, be gone! By heaven, I love thee better than myself.

For I come hither armed against myself. Stay not, be gone. Live, and hereafter say A madman's mercy bid thee run away. Paris. I do defy thy conjuration And apprehend thee for a felon here. Romeo. Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, boy! e [They fight.]

Romeo and Juliet Act V Scene III Lines 50-70

. In faith, I will. Let me peruse this face.

Mercutio's kinsman, noble County Paris! What said my man when my betossed soul Did not attend him as we rode? I think He told me Paris should have married Juliet. Said he not so? or did I dream it so?

Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet, To think it was so? O, give me thy hand, One writ with me in sour misfortune's book! I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave. A grave? O, no, a lantern, slaughtered youth,

For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes This vault a feasting presence full of light. Death, lie thou there, by a dead man interred. [lays Paris in the tomb] How oft when men are at the point of death Have they been merry! which their keepers call

A lightning before death. O, how may I Call this a lightning? O my love! my wife! Death, that hath sucked the honey of thy breath, Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty. Thou art not conquered. Beauty's ensign yet

Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks, And death's pale flag is not advanced there. Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet? O, what more favor can I do to thee Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain

To sunder his that was thine enemy? Forgive me, cousin! Ah, dear Juliet, Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe That unsubstantial Death is amorous, And that the lean abhorred monster keeps 105 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, unsavory 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. [falls] Romeo and Juliet Act V Scene III Lines 75-120

- 1. Topic Revealed
- 2. Idea writer wishes to convey

Violence and Death, The Power of Love, Obligation, Revenge

- 1) Paris finds Romeo in the Capulet tomb he attacks. Claiming he's getting revenge for Juliet, as he believes she died from heart sickness caused by the death of her cousin. As Paris says "This is that banish'd haughty Montague That murdered my love's cousin—with which grief". This shows the idea of Revenge and Violence and Death because Paris wants revenge for the death of his love, and he dies in the end. This is the message Shakespeare conveys.
- 2) In the this scene in Shakespeare Romeo lays Paris to rest in the tomb honouring Paris's last wish as he said "O, I am slain! [falls] If thou be merciful, Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet. [dies]" This shows Romeo feels obligated to and to honour, Paris's last wish after killing him.
- 3) When Romeo finds Juliet and presumes her dead. He feels so heartbroken, that she's "dead" and consumed by the power of love he kill's himself. This shows how powerful love truly is, people are willing to die for each other and I think that was the message Shakespeare was trying to covey.

Connection to Adaptation

- In Warm Bodies as R and Julie are about to be overrun by Boneys they jump into water. A symbolism to when Romeo and Juliet kill themselves at the end of the play. The fact that they throw themselves off a building for love is similar to how Romeo and Juliet can't live without each other.
- 2) A difference between Warm Bodies to Romeo and Juliet is how the feud ends. In the play it ends with Romeo and Juliet dead, that being the thing that ends the feud between Montague and Capulet. "O brother Montague, give me thy hand. This is my daughter's jointure, for no more Can I demand. Montague. But I can give thee more; For I will raise her statue in pure gold, That whiles Verona by that name is known. There shall no figure at such rate be set As that of true and faithful Juliet. Capulet. As rich shall Romeo's by his lady's lie - Poor sacrifices of our enmity!" However in the Warm Bodies the thing that ends the war/feud is when General Grigio (Julie's Dad) sees R bleed. Proving he's human "He is bleeding father. Corpses do not bleed. Oh, God you are alive! He's alive" "We have something here the situation has changed." So while Romeo and Juliet has its feud ended by death and tragedy Warm Bodies shows how you can end a years long conflict with love, change, and hope.