

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’d, retain that dear perfection which he owes without that title.”

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

Track Your Understanding:

ACT I	Explanation
Evidence from text	<p>“My only love, sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known too late! Prodigious birth of love it is to me That I must love a loathed enemy.”</p> <p>(Romeo and Juliet, act 1, scene 5, lines 135-140)</p> <p>“Marry, that “marry” is the very theme I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet, how stands your disposition to be married?</p> <p>(Romeo and Juliet, act 1, scene 3, lines 64-66)</p>
1. Topic Revealed 2. Idea writer wishes to convey	<p>1. Forbidden romance</p> <p>2. Two opposing families, that often fight and compete with each other. However, we meet a young man from one family and woman from the other, that fall for each other, creating difficult link between the families. The writer is conveying the idea of a forbidden love. Two people who want to be together, but their lives are stacked against it.</p> <p>The first quote shows how the relationship between the houses is deeply hating and the fact that the two fall for each other quickly lets you know that the rest of the story will not unfold without a hitch. The second quote shows how the Capulets have a set path for Juliet, and it has nothing to do with the Montagues. Backing how they don’t want her with someone like Romeo.</p>
Connection to Adaptation	<p>Both act 1 of Romeo and Juliet and Gnomeo and Juliet deal with the theme of forbidden love between two characters who come from rival families. In Romeo and Juliet, the families are the Montagues and Capulets, while in Gnomeo and Juliet, the characters are gnomes from rival lawns, the Red Gnomes and the Blue Gnomes. Warm Bodies shows the divide with the Zombies and the Survivors, and also depicts an impossible relationship between houses. All three have this cliché in common, and is what makes this story so recognizable.</p>

ACT II	Explanation
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<p>Evidence from text</p>	<p>“O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art Unto the white-upturned wond’ring eyes Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds And sails upon the bosom of the air.”</p> <p>(Romeo and Juliet, act 2, scene, 2, lines 26-33)</p> <p>“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.”</p> <p>(Romeo and Juliet, act 2, scene 3, lines 65-68)</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Topic Revealed 2. Idea writer wishes to convey 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identity 2. The idea that the writer, William Shakespeare, wishes to convey in Act 2 of Romeo and Juliet is that secrecy and the danger of keeping secrets can have tragic consequences. Through the characters of Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare illustrates how their secret love and plans to marry put them in constant danger of discovery, and ultimately leads to misunderstanding and miscommunication. <p>The first quote shows Romeo swooning over Juliet, and we see how he has grown obsessed. This becomes trouble because he often risks being caught up with the Capulets, and getting discovered. The second quote is from act 3, and shows Friar Lawrence talking with Romeo. The Friar is astonished at how quickly Romeo drops Rosaline and as soon as he sets gaze on Juliet. He says “Young men’s love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes”. He is doubtful that diving head first into things with Juliet is the smartest idea. This also foreshadows the events to come.</p>
<p>Connection to Adaptation</p> <p><i>Are they hiding from him or the corpses?</i></p>	<p>Both act 2 of Romeo and Juliet and Gnomeo and Juliet deal with the theme of secrecy and the danger of keeping secrets. In Romeo and Juliet, Romeo and Juliet must keep their love a secret from their families, as they are sworn enemies and their relationship would be met with disapproval and even violence. Similarly, in Gnomeo and Juliet, Gnomeo and Juliet must keep their love a secret from their lawn gnomes communities, as they are from rival lawns, and their relationship would be met with disapproval and possibly violence.</p> <p>Warm Bodies has less similarities in this act than Gnomeo and Juliet, but we still see they’re relationship develop. Them being together, hiding from Jules’ dad makes for some really dangerous and tense scenes, that are similar to the original play. We also get a scene where R comes into the city and acts out the famous “balcony scene”</p> <p>In both of the movies they don’t get married, but we do see how they overcome obstacles to be together.</p>

ACT III	Explanation
Evidence from text	<p>“As if that name, Shot from the deadly level of a gun, did murder her; as that name’s cursed 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. <i>[draws his dagger]</i></p> <p>(Romeo and Juliet, act 3, scene 3, lines 103-108)</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>(Romeo and Juliet Act 3, Scene 1, Lines 55-65)</p>
1. Topic Revealed 2. Idea writer wishes to convey	<p>1. Regret/depression</p> <p>2. The writer is telling us how Romeo and Juliet are distraught at their predicament. Less than 48 hours after meeting each other, they are losing their marriage. Romeo is being banished at that makes Juliet lose it, and by seeing her in this condition, Romeo also loses it and tries to stab himself. Juliet gets talked down by the nurse, and Romeo by Friar Lawrence, and they agree to meet in the Capulet’s orchard in the middle of the night, before Romeo has to leave.</p> <p>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 their 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 their daughters “disobedient wretch’s”.</p>

*Nah, don't
you think...
that this was
all work out*

Connection to Adaptation	<p>In <i>Gnomeo and Juliet</i> and in the play <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> 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 "<i>Tybalt! A hat for a hat</i>" and in the play Romeo says Tybalt after Mercutio's death "<i>and fire-eyed fury be my conduct now</i>" showing how Romeo/Gnomeo gets revenge for the death of Mercutio and the hat chopping of Benny.</p> <p>Warm bodies doesn't really have much similarities in this act, except for R killing Jules' boyfriend which is kind of similar, but not totally the same thing.</p>
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ACT IV	Explanation
Evidence from text	<p>"Where I have learnt to repent the sin Of disobedient opposition To you and your behests, and am enjoined By holy Laurence to fall prostrate here To beg your pardon. Pardon. I beseech you!" (4. 2. 19-23).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 honour bring. Be not so long to speak. I long to die If what thou speakst speak not of remedy.</p> <p>(Romeo and Juliet, act 3, scene 1, lines 50-65)</p>

1. Topic Revealed 2. Idea writer wishes to convey	<p>1. Juliet's Reluctance to Mary Paris</p> <p>2. The writer is showing how broken Romeo and Juliet are after being separated, and how Juliet will go to great lengths to get out of her marriage to Paris and to flee with Romeo. This quote shows how Juliet will apologize to Capulet and agree to marry Paris, to run away with Romeo. She agrees poison herself and fake death to live a life with him. She will do anything for love.</p> <p>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.</p>
Connection to Adaptation	<p>Gnomeo and Juliet shows this scene after the fight, when everyone thinks Romeo is dead and are all sad. In this time, Capulet tries to set up Juliet with Paris, and she won't have it. There's no form of "the solution" with the Friar.</p> <p>In Warm Bodies Nora put a gun to General Grigio head to protect R and Julie similar to how the Friar was willing to help Juliet with faking her death. We also see R risking everything to try to get back to Jules'.</p>

ACT V	Explanation
Evidence from text	<p>"A glooming peace this morning with it brings. The sun for sorrow will not show his head. Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things; Some shall be pardoned, and some punished; For never was a story of more woe Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."</p>
1. Topic Revealed 2. Idea writer wishes to convey	<p>1. Tragic consequence</p> <p>2. In act V of Romeo and Juliet, the main idea that Shakespeare conveys is the finality of death and the power of true love to overcome it. The act begins with the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet, who take their own lives after believing the other to be dead. Their deaths serve as a powerful reminder of the destructive nature of the feud between the Montague and Capulet families. However, their deaths also bring the two families together as they come to realize the true extent of their loss and finally put aside their differences.</p>

<p>Connection to Adaptation</p>	<p>A difference between <i>Warm Bodies</i> to <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> 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. <i>“O brother Montague, give me thy hand. This is my daughter’s jointure, for no more Can I demand.</i> Montague. But I can give thee more; For I will raise her statue in pure gold, <i>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!”</i> However in the <i>Warm Bodies</i> the thing that ends the war/feud is when General Grigio (Julie’s Dad) sees R bleed. Proving he’s human <i>“He is bleeding father. Corpses do not bleed. Oh,God you are alive! He’s alive” “We have something here the situation has changed.”</i> So while <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> has its feud ended by death and tragedy <i>Warm Bodies</i> shows how you can end a years long conflict with love, change, and hope.</p>
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