

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.
4. Theme statement that captures the duration of the play

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:

ACT I	Explanation
Evidence from text	<p>“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” (Romeo and Juliet, act-i, scene-v, lines 47-50)</p> <p>“Too early seen unknown, and known too late! Prodigious birth of love it is to me, that I must love a loathed enemy” (Romeo and Juliet, act-i, scene-v, 136-140)</p>
Proposed message of selection	<p>1.The naivety of youth I believe that Romeo falling in love with someone after just looking at them is very naive. Moreover, I feel as though their actions of love come way too quickly since they don’t really know each other. However, even though they are part of rival families, they both clearly want to see each other again and don’t really care about the consequence this courtship could potential have. This is seen in the lines “that i must love a loathed enemy” and for I ne’er saw tru beauty till this night”, where both Romeo and Juliet proclaimed their love to them.</p> <p>2.Honour and obligation Even though they have just met each other, Romeo and Juliet are willing to be together even though their families dislike each other. This shows that they care more about being with each other than the grudge their families show to each other.</p>

<p>Connection to Adaptation</p>	<p>Gnomeo and Juliet</p> <p>In the film Gnomeo and Juliet, the characters, Gnomeo and Juliet live on another sides of the fence and families are enemies. However, when they find out they are enemies through falling in the pool, they run away from each other at first. Later in the movie though, Romeo goes to Juliet’s tower and proclaims his love for her and want to see her again. This parallels the book where they don’t know their enemies at first however, when they find out, even though their rival families they still want to be together. This is specifically found in the movie in line.</p> <p>Juliet: “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?”</p> <p>Romeo: “No! No, it shouldn't!”</p> <p>Juliet: “I couldn't have said it better myself! Oh, my giddy aunt. Did you just hear all of that? What are you doing here?”</p> <p>Romeo: “I don't know. Um... I came here to... Well, I don't know, I just wanted to see you again.”</p> <p>Juliet: “Are you crazy? If Dad finds you, he'll bury you under the patio!”</p> <p>However, the key different in this scene from the book to the movie is that in the book they find out their rival from the nurse however in the movie they find out due to falling in the pool that reveals the colour of their hats.</p>
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<p>ACT II</p>	<p>Explanation</p>
<p>Evidence from text</p>	<p>“These violet delight have violet 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 arris as tarty as too slow” (Romeo and Juiliet act-ii, scene-vi,8-15)</p>

<p>Proposed message of selection</p>	<p>1.Violence and death This section shows violence and death plus the power of hate and love. This is shown by priest foreshadowing the eventual tragic ending of this relationship. In the line above he tells Romeo how love can consume and how their relationship should be moderate. This warning hints to the audience of a darker tone the story will be taking.</p> <p>2. The power of hate and love However, Romeo does not respond to this message due to Juliet arriving shortly after. This shows how the power of love has cause this union however, too much of the power of love could lead to sorrow due to the situation of their rivalling families and just how much their devoted to each other. This love blinds them from seeing the potential consequences of this relationship.</p>
<p>Connection to Adaptation</p>	<p>This part of the story connect to the popular movie, is West Side Story. In this scene Valentina teaches Tony Spanish and tells him that this relationship can lead to trouble. With specifically the line of “Your never done with trouble”. Moreover, she advises to take the relationship more slowly. This connect Valentina with the character of Friar Lawrence for the play. However, in the play Friar Lawrence is much more involved in their relationship than Valentina is. Overall, this shows how this scene is both similar and different from the play.</p>
<p>ACT III</p>	<p>Explanation</p>

<p>Evidence from text</p>	<p>“Lady Capulet: Evermore weeping for your consin’s death. What wilt thou wash him from his grave with tears? An if thou couldst, thou couldst, not make him live. Therefore have done, some grief shows much of love; But much of grief shows still some want of wit”</p> <p>Juliet: Yet let me weep for such feeling of lost’ (Romeo and Juliet, act-iii, scene-v, line-69-74)</p> <p>“Juliet: Feeling so the loss, I cannot choose but ever weep the friend. Lady Capulet: Well, girl, thou weepst not so much for his death As that the villain lives which slaughtered him. Juliet: What villain, madam? Lady Capulet: That same villain Romeo. Juliet [aside]: Villain and he be many miles asunder. God pardon him! I do, with all my heart; And yet no man like he doth grieve my heart. Lady Capulet: That is because the traitor murderer lives.” (Romeo and Juliet, Act-iii, scene-v, line 76-84)</p> <p>“Now by Saint Peter’s Church, and Peter too, he shall not make me there a joyful bride! I wonder at this haste, that I must wed ere he that should be husband comes to woo. I pray to tell my lord and father, madam, I will not marry yet; and when I do, I swear it shall be Romeo, whose you know I hate, rather than Paris. These are new indeed! (Romeo and Juliet, act-iii, scene-v, line-116-125)</p>
<p>Proposed message of selection</p>	<p>1. Revenge This part of the play connect with the theme revenge. Due to Mercutio being stained by Tybalt, Romeo than killed Tybalt, which caused him to get exiled. Due to this, the Capulet’s now are grieving over Tybalt’s death however, also want Romeo to pay for his action. Due to Romeo taking revenge for Mercutio, now the Capulets want to take revenge on Romeo due to Tybalt. This shows the cycle of vengeance the character in the play I have fallen into.</p> <p>2. The multiplicity of identity This theme is shown with Juliets conflicting interests. In the line “let me weep for such feeling of lost”, she is talking about losing Romeo and his exile however, her mother assumes she is talking about Tybalt. This shows how she has two different lives, one with Romeo and one with her family which now have become connected due to Tybalt’s death at Romeo’s hands.</p>

Connection to Adaptation	The film, Warm Bodies, showcases this scene and the ideas this scene presents in different ways. In the film dead bodies, the zombies and the humans represent the two different houses. This scene is specifically shown in the scene where Jules’s father finds out she brought a zombie into the human’s sanctuary. In this scene Jules father feels like he has take revenge on Romeo. However the key difference between the book and movie is that the resolution in the movie is resolved peacefully without death of main characters and that the characters know of the relationship between Romeo and Juliet.
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ACT IV	Explanation
Evidence from text	<p>“God joined my heart and Romeo’s, thou out 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, ‘Twist 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 speaks speak not of remedy” (Romeo and Juliet, act-iv, scene-i, line 55-67)</p> <p>“Hath death lain with thy wife. See, there she lies, flower as she was, deflowered 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” (Romeo and Juliet, act-iv, scene-v, line 36-40)</p> <p>“To murder, murder our solemnity? O child! O child! My would and not my child! Death art thou, dead! Alack, my child is dead. And with my child my joys are buried!” (Romeo and Juliet, act-iv. Scene-v, line 61-64)</p>
Proposed message of selection	<p>1. Violence and death The themes of violence and death are shown in this chapter even though Juliet doesn’t actually die. In this scene, the family is mourning the her death and ask to why death has taken another person in their family. This also shown when Juliet is willing to die due to the fact she can’t marry Romeo, this in line 56 to 57, “and ere this hand, by thee to Romeo’s sealed, shall be the label to another deed”. Furthermore, this act shows how far people go to what they want and the affects that can have.</p> <p>2. The power of love and hate The reason why Juliet has faked her death was all for love. Additionally, this is also the reason why her family mourns for her heavily. Moreover, this scene is beautifully written and hows how much her family loved her even though they don’t always show it.</p>

<p>Connection to Adaptation</p>	<p>This scene connects to West Side Story in an interesting way. Shown when Valentine tells Tony that Anita told them that Maria dead. This causes Tony to mourn deeply for her death and go into the street to shout for Chino to kill him. In this scene Maria is Juliet however, a key difference between the book and movie is that in the movie Maria didn't want anyone to think she was dead. However, this eventual leads to the consequence of Romeo and Tony thinking their true love is dead and than trying kill themselves. Overall, this scene leads to more death and tragedy.</p>
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<p>ACT V</p>	<p>Explanation</p>
<p>Evidence from text</p>	<p>“To think it was so? O, give me thy hand, ~ One writ with me in sour misfortune's book! Fli bury thee in a triumphant grave. A grave? O, no, a lantern, slaughtered youth, 85 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.” (Romeo and Juliet, act-v, scene-iii, line 81-87)</p> <p>“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” (Romeo and Juliet, act-v, scene-iii, line 108-118)</p> <p>“See what a scourge is laid upon your hate, That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love! And I, for winking at your discords too, Have lost a brace of kinsmen. All are punished.” (Romeo and Juliet, act-v, scene-iii, line 292-295)</p> <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 310 Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.” (Romeo and Juliet, act-v, scene-iii, line 305-310)</p>

<p>Proposed message of selection</p>	<p>1. Violence and Death This story has featured heavy themes of violence and death, especially in this scene of the play. At the end of this play Romeo, Paris and Juliet dies. When their parents and the prince find out of their tragic death, they lament on the tragedy that has partaken and what the rivalling families's hatred has brought them. The prince talks about how all have been punished for a feud and to see how their hatred has led to violence and death.</p> <p>2. Nature of free will In the scene before Romeo kills himself, he thinks a lot on the nature of fate and the misfortune that has brought him there. This is shown in the lines "One writ with me in sour misfortune's book" and "and shake the yoke inauspicious stars". After he kills Paris he says that him and Paris were just victims of bad luck. Now, this statement in a way is sort of true since it was bad luck to not be able to hear friar Lawrence's message and to run into Paris when he went into the vault. However, I believe him killing Paris was something he had control over. In my personal opinion, this story is full of times where the characters are just unlucky however, their is just as many times where it was the character's bad decisions that led them to their fate such as Romeo killing Tybalt and Juliet deciding to fake her own death.</p>
<p>Connection to Adaptation</p>	<p>This scene connects to the ending scene of Gnomeo and Juliet in different ways. At the end of this play the prince and the parents grieve the tragedy that has taken place. The death of their children help them finally make amends with each others families. This is also shown in Gnomeo and Juliet where their parent think they have died from a castle's falling apart on top of them. Specifically, in the lines</p> <p>"I'm sorry about your son. I'm sorry about your daughter. I was just trying to keep her safe. And now, the whole thing is my fault. Our fault. This feud... Is over."</p> <p>Both the book and movie, the two head of the house stop the fighting that has gone for centuries due to the loss both has face due to the feud. However, a major difference between the book and movie was that at the end of Gnomeo and Juliet it is revealed that Gnomeo and Juliet lives at the end.</p>

Overall Theme Statement:
The overall theme of Romeo and Juliet is how pointless fighting between families can eventual lead to tragedy.