

Conflict is at the centre of all drama.

Title of Shakespearean play: Romeo and Juliet

(a) From a prescribed Shakespearean play you have studied, select two moments where there is conflict. Discuss how this conflict contributes to making these moments dramatic. Support your response with reference to your chosen moments. (Question 8a, 2018)

'Romeo and Juliet' consists of many different types of conflict, and I have selected two moments that are made more dramatic by this conflict below.

The first moment I have chosen where conflict contributes to making the moment more dramatic is when Romeo and Mercutio sneak into the Capulet's party. Romeo is a Montague, and therefore an enemy of the Capulets- two families involved in a long-lasting feud. Tybalt finds out Romeo is at the party and becomes outraged "Now by the stock and honour of our kin, to strike him dead I hold it not a sin." The audience waits in anticipation to see if Tybalt will act upon his outrage or not. This conflict creates an atmosphere of tension, which rises as Tybalt becomes more and more angry. This inherently makes the moment dramatic as the audience is left in suspense.

The second moment I have chosen is the fight scene between Mercutio and Tybalt. Tybalt initiates a fight with Romeo, but Romeo refuses knowing that he's just married Tybalt's cousin (Juliet) "Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee doth much excuse the appertaining rage" Mercutio takes over for Romeo and begins fighting with Tybalt. Tension rises as the audience wonders which one will win, and drama increases when Mercutio dies. The audience is left on the edge of their seats as Romeo becomes furious and begins to fight Tybalt. This new conflict heightens the drama even more, as we know that Tybalt is Juliet's cousin, and Romeo has just secretly married Juliet. This moment is dramatic because of the sheer danger these characters are involved in. The audience knows neither death will have pleasant consequences.

Both moments I have chosen are conflict arisen from pride and family- they both hold potential danger that make the moment more dramatic.

(b) Choose one of the moments of conflict that you discussed in part (a). In your view, was the conflict that you discussed resolved satisfactorily in the play? Explain your answer. (Question 8b, 2018)

The resolution of the first conflict I depicted was resolved temporarily in the play. When Tybalt was in fury at the sight of Montagues at a Capulet party, Lord Capulet told him to calm down as to not trouble the feast "You'll make a mutiny among my guests!" He even says Romeo is a respectable man and he does not want to insult him by asking him to leave "A bears him like a portly gentleman...Here in my house do him disparagement." Tybalt has no choice but to leave Romeo alone for the moment.

This conflict seems to be resolved satisfactorily, but Tybalt still carries a hatred for Romeo that later leads to multiple deaths. So overall, this conflict was never fully resolved satisfactorily.