

Studied - Drama | Sample Answer

By creating characters that express strong views, playwrights can heighten the drama in plays.

Title of play: Romeo and Juliet

Name of Playwright: William Shakespeare

(a) With reference to a Shakespearean or non-Shakespearean play you have studied, outline a key moment when a character expresses a strong view and explain how this heightens the drama in the play.

A key moment where a character expresses a strong view in this play is when Romeo confesses his love for Juliet in the balcony scene- "It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!". Juliet returns this love and goes so far as to say she will abandon her family for Romeo "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." These are very strong views to express, especially considering the fact they have only met once before.

This heightens the drama in the play because Romeo and Juliet's love is forbidden. Their families, the Montagues and the Capulets, have been enemies for many years- so many years that they have forgotten the reason why this feud even started. Nevertheless, contact between these two is certainly not approved. That is why we know Romeo and Juliet's love cannot end well for everyone, and the audience waits in anticipation to see what will happen next.

(b) If you were to stage the key moment you have chosen, explain two things you would do in order to heighten the dramatic experience for the audience. You may refer to aspects of performance and / or stagecraft.

If I were to stage this key moment, there are several things I would do in order to heighten the dramatic experience for the audience.

One of the main aspects I would focus on while staging this moment is lighting. I would firstly put spotlights on both Romeo and Juliet, accentuating what the audience should be looking at and showing that they are the main characters. I would also add a tinted red light across the entire stage, to suggest that blood will be shed over this relationship and the future will not be bright. This heightens the fear of the already worrisome audience.

Another important thing to consider is costuming. I would have Romeo and Juliet both wear white to symbolise their innocence and youthfulness. I would also have them both wear a small piece of red- for Juliet, a necklace and for Romeo, the lining of his clothes. This correlation between each other with the colour red yet again demonstrates their passionate love but also the dangerous future of their relationship.