

ROMEO + JULIET

playwright : *William Shakespeare*

JULIET CAPULET

Juliet is the daughter of Lord and Lady Capulet who is stuck in the middle of a family feud - and even more so, when she falls in love with her 'loathed enemy's' son. In a short period of 3 days, she falls in love with Romeo Montague and spends the next few days sorting out the lies she told her parents, such as getting married in secret, faking her death to run away with Romeo and then finally killing herself as a proclamation of her love to Romeo and that she cannot live without him.

traits

- ❖ Naïve
- ❖ Innocent
- ❖ Gullible
- ❖ Determined
- ❖ Passionate
- ❖ Accepting

At first, Juliet is presented as a young naïve girl who is obedient to her parents.

- "Marriage as an honour that I do not dream of"

When the idea of marriage to Paris is placed before her, she acquiesces, saying:

- "I'll look to like, if looking liking move."

"Parting is such a sweet sorrow"

Juliet talks to a Romeo in [Act 2 Scene 2](#), just before he leaves her. She shows that she is **innocent** and **young** and has **no experience in love and falls in love easily**. Juliet doesn't think that there are repercussions to her actions, all she can think about is herself and Romeo.

"It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden."

Juliet shows **maturity** when she hesitates to marry Romeo. She is still young but she shows that she know what could happen if they were married.

"That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet."

Juliet is an **accepting person**, who doesn't care what someone's name is or how they look like - this shows how deep she has fallen in love with Romeo and how quick she is to do so.

However, Juliet surprises the reader in a number of ways:

- ★ Although she had just told her parents that she was not thinking of marriage at all, she quickly falls for Romeo and agrees to marry him. She falls for Romeo even though she swore she could never love a Montague.
 - “My only love sprung from my only hate.”
 - “Prodigious birth of love it is to me, that I must love a loathed enemy.”
- ★ “Be but sworn my love and I’ll no longer be a Capulet.” Juliet shows her true feelings for her family and Romeo. She shows that she thinks little of her mother and father and thinks much of a Romeo. She declares that Romeo has to say he loves her and she will leave everything behind.
- ★ She stands up for herself and refuses to marry Paris, incurring her father’s anger. He threatens that he will disown her if she doesn't marry Paris. She willingly trades loyalty to her family for loyalty to Romeo - she will not betray Romeo by committing bigamy. She seems to have abandoned the obedient and innocent traits that she had in [Act 1](#).
 - “An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets”
- ★ These are very surprising changes to occur in any character, but are especially surprising and mature for a thirteen year old.

challenges

Juliet is affected by many challenges throughout the play. This is due to the family feuds between the Montagues and Capulets, her father's need to control her life and her own character development throughout the play.

“My only love sprung from my only hate.”

Juliet is confused by who she loves. She needs to choose who she wants to be with. Should she betray her family and be with Romeo? Or should he stay with her father and mother but, deny Romeo’s love? This matures her into making impulsive decisions that abandons her obedience and innocence; which leads her to her fated death.

“An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets.” When Juliet chooses Romeo over her family (unbeknownst to them), her father reacts badly as he wants to control Juliet. He cares more about his image than his daughter. At that time, it is normal for men having power and authority over their wives and daughters, and therefore, when Juliet fights back, he threatens that he will disown her if she doesn't marry Paris.

“What is it be a poison which the Friar subtly hath ministered to have me dead.”

Juliet faces the decision of taking a strange potion that Friar Lawrence had given her. This is part of her plan to be with Romeo. In her soliloquy, she weighs her choice wisely. She knows that she could be disowned for what she has done, however, she is scared that the potion could not work or work to well and kill her.

relationships

“It is the east and Juliet is the sun.”

Romeo and Juliet fall in love at first sight. They don't know each other's names yet, but they are sure that they are the one. Here, Romeo compares Juliet to the sun - the light of his life that he cannot live without.

“Thou was the prettiest babe I e'er nursed.

Juliet has a close relationship with the nurse. She is a trusted confidant and is much closer to her than her own mother. Juliet trusts the a Nurse about her relationship with Romeo.

ROMEO MONTAGUE

Even though Romeo Montague is older than Juliet, Romeo is not yet mature or independent. He relies heavily on his name, Benvolio and Mercutio and Friar Lawrence.

traits

- Impulsive
- Romantic
- Passionate
- Spontaneous
- Lovelorn
- Sensitive

“Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, boy!”

Romeo is impulsive, young, immature and easily provoked. Throughout the play he kills Tybalt and Paris, for vengeance and to get to Juliet.

At the start of the play, Romeo is infatuated over Rosaline. He pines for her and falls into a stupor when she doesn't like him back.

- “Tut, I have lost myself. This is not Romeo, he is some other where.”

- “Out of her favour, where I am in love.”

A few hours later, he quickly falls in love with Juliet and kisses her; merely because of her beauty. This shows that he is **impulsive** with his emotions and **spontaneous**.

“Did my heart love till now? Forswear it sight, for I've ne'er saw true beauty till this night.”

We also see this impulsiveness in his initial dealings with Juliet, for example when he risks death to catch a glimpse of her at the balcony. He even agrees to marry her the next day, even though they had just met. Towards the end of the play, when Romeo heard about Juliet's death, he visits the apothecary to purchase a potion to kill him, as he believes that life without Juliet is meaningless.

However, Romeo surprises the reader in many ways:

- ★ Romeo matures over the course of the play, which does not seem highly likely, given his

immaturity earlier in the play.

- ★ His love for Juliet seems like an adult love, far stronger than his crush on Rosaline - which changes his behavior and life. We see this when he refuses to fight Tybalt since he is now Tybalt's kinsman.
 - "O sweet Juliet, thy beauty hath made me effeminate, and in my temper soften'd valour's steel!"
- ★ He also goes to great extremes to be with Juliet despite his banishment, culminating in Juliet's staged death and their suicides
- ★ By the end of the play, Romeo is no longer a lovesick boy, but a married man who dies to be with his wife.
 - "I will lie with thee tonight."
- ★ This change is a surprising about-face from the boyish, **lovelorn** Romeo at the beginning of the play.

challenges

Romeo faces many challenges through the play because of he falls in love quickly, easily provoked and is impulsive in serious decisions.

"Did my heart love till now?"

Romeo faces the challenge of falling in love with Juliet. Throughout the play, he is banished to Mantua, his best friend is killed and he kills both Tybalt and Paris. This is because of his love and passion for Juliet. Over the course of the play, he is forced to mature when he has to make certain serious choices.

"A plague o' both your houses!"

Romeo is forced to deal with the feud between his Juliet's family's feud. Mercutio is killed by Tybalt, which Romeo could've stopped but he refused because Tybalt had just become his cousin by law and he didn't want to upset his new wife, Juliet. This shows development of maturity in his character.

relationships

"Couple it with something, make it a word and a blow."

Mercutio is an honourable friend to Romeo. When Tybalt arrives at the scene wanting to talk to a Romeo, Mercutio knows better and assumes he wants to fight him. He fights with Tybalt for Romeo as they are close friends and he would do anything for him.

"We'll draw thee from the mire."

Mercutio is calling Romeo a stick in the mud. This shows that the friends are close as they themselves and make fun of each other. Mercutio also encourages him to go to the Capulet Feast as he knows that this would cheer him up.

(see quotes above)

Juliet helps Romeo mature throughout the play, whilst also doing reckless things out of his love and infatuation over her. (risks life to see her at the balcony.) He is willing to kill himself when he finds out that she is dead.

KEY MOMENTS

★ Act 2 Scene 2 - The Balcony Scene

Romeo risks his life to see Juliet at her balcony, whilst describing her beauty in a soliloquy. He describes Juliet as “the sun”. Juliet thinks about Romeo in a soliloquy, and thinks about the relevance of his name and who he is. She quotes, “Wherefore art thou Romeo, deny thy father, or refuse thy name.” Romeo interjects her soliloquy and they both have a conversation about love and later, marriage. The Nurse disrupts this as she repeatedly calls Juliet to come in. The scene ends with Romeo and Juliet agreeing to marry the next day.

This heightens the drama as Romeo and Juliet are both from feuding families. By them having a relationship with one another major events to happen, for example, it causes Romeo to be banished to Mantua, the death of Lady Montague and Paris, the staged death of Juliet, and eventual suicides of Romeo and Juliet.

★ Act 3 Scene 1- The Fight Scene

As they walk in the street under the boiling sun, Benvolio suggests to Mercutio that they go indoors, fearing that a brawl will be unavoidable should they encounter Capulet men. Tybalt enters with a group of cronies. He approaches Benvolio and Mercutio and asks to speak with one of them. Annoyed, Mercutio begins to taunt and provoke him. Romeo enters. Tybalt turns his attention from Mercutio to Romeo, and calls Romeo a villain. Romeo, now secretly married to Juliet and thus Tybalt’s kinsman, refuses to be angered by Tybalt’s verbal attack. Tybalt commands Romeo to draw his sword. Romeo protests that he has good reason to love Tybalt, and does not wish to fight him. Mercutio angrily draws his sword and declares with biting wit that if Romeo will not fight Tybalt, he will. Mercutio and Tybalt begin to fight. Romeo, attempting to restore peace, throws himself between the combatants. Tybalt stabs Mercutio under Romeo’s arm, and as Mercutio falls, Tybalt and his men hurry away. Mercutio dies, cursing both the Montagues and the Capulets: “A plague o’ both your houses”. Enraged, Romeo declares that his love for Juliet “hath made him effeminate”, and that he should have fought Tybalt in Mercutio’s place. When Tybalt, still angry, storms back onto the scene, Romeo draws his sword. They fight, and Romeo kills Tybalt. Romeo, shocked at what has happened, cries “O, I am fortune’s fool!” and flees.

This heightens the drama and shows that the theme of conflict is present in the play. The feud between the Capulets and Montagues is the primary cause of this drama and deaths to occur. If there wasn't this rivalry, Romeo and Juliet’s relationship would have not been a secret and end up with both of them dead. After Tybalt was killed, it caused Romeo to flee to Mantua, which caused Friar Lawrence to devise a plan for Romeo and Juliet to run away together. This plan eventually caused the deaths or the “star crossed lovers.” Towards the end of the play, this conflict is resolved

when Prince Escalus stops the rivalry between Montagues and Capulets.

★ Act 3 Scene 5 - Capulet's Father arranges marriage with County Paris

Juliet's father, Lord Capulet reveals that he has arranged Juliet's marriage to the County Paris. This heightens the drama in the play because Capulet was not aware that Juliet was already married to the son of his enemy, a Romeo Montague. This moment also increases the amount of conflict and tension in the play because Juliet reacts strongly to this and tells him "Not proud you have, but thankful that you have, but i can be thankful for something that i hate, if it was meant with love." Her reaction heightens the drama because it was unexpected of her to react in such a manner. During this period, women were expected to obey their husbands and fathers. It shows that she is no longer the obedient and innocent girl that we were introduced to at the beginning, and that she has chosen to be loyal to Romeo. Juliet is openly defying Capulet and being "ungrateful" in Capulet's point of view. This defiance provokes Lord Capulet's furious reaction. He tells Juliet that he will disown her if she doesn't marry Paris. Capulet loses control and insults Juliet by calling her a "young baggage, disobedient wretch," and strikes her.

★ Act 5 Scene 3 - The Final Scene

In the churchyard, Paris scatters flowers on Juliet's grave. He sees Romeo, carrying a crowbar, who enters with Balthasar and orders him to leave. Balthasar lingers to watch.

From Paris' hiding place, he recognizes Romeo as the man who has been exiled from the city on penalty of death, Paris thinks that Romeo must hate the Capulets so much that he has returned to the tomb to do some dishonor to the corpse of either Tybalt or Juliet. In a rage, Paris accosts Romeo. Romeo pleads with him to leave, but Paris refuses. They draw their swords and fight. Paris's page runs off to get the civil watch. Romeo kills Paris. As he dies, Paris asks to be laid near Juliet in the tomb, and Romeo consents.

Romeo finds Juliet lying peacefully, and wonders how she can still look so beautiful—as if she were not dead at all. Romeo speaks to Juliet of his intention to spend eternity with her, describing himself as shaking "the yoke of inauspicious stars. He kisses Juliet, drinks the poison, kisses Juliet again, and says "Thus with a kiss, I die." and dies.

Friar Lawrence enters the churchyard and encounters Balthasar; who tells him that Romeo is in the tomb. The friar enters the tomb, where he finds Paris's body and then Romeo's, as Juliet wakes and asks where her husband is.

The Friar tells her that both Romeo and Paris are dead, and that she must leave with him. Juliet refuses to leave, and the friar, fearful that the watch is imminent, exits without her. Juliet sees Romeo dead beside her, and surmises from the empty vial that he has drunk poison. Hoping she might die by the same poison, Juliet kisses his lips, but to no avail. Hearing the approaching watch, Juliet unsheathes Romeo's dagger and, saying, "This is thy sheath, there rust and let me die." and stabs herself.

Paris's page has brought the watch. The Prince and the Capulets enter. Romeo, Juliet, and Paris are discovered in the tomb. Montague arrives, declaring that Lady Montague has died of grief for Romeo's exile. The Prince shows Montague his son's body. Upon the Prince's request, Friar

Lawrence succinctly tells the story of Romeo and Juliet's secret marriage and its consequences. Balthasar gives the Prince the letter Romeo had previously written to his father. The Prince says that it confirms the friar's story. He scolds the Capulets and Montagues, calling the tragedy a consequence of their feud and reminding them that he himself has lost two close kinsmen: Mercutio and Paris. Capulet and Montague clasp hands and agree to put their vendetta behind them. The Prince takes the group away to discuss these events, pronouncing that there has never been "a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo"

This resolves the existing conflict between Capulets and Montagues.

SOLILOQUIES

Act 2 Scene 1 - Romeo's soliloquy

Describe the situation that occurred prior to the soliloquy or monologue, which gave rise to the character's thoughts.

Prior to the situation of the soliloquy delivered by Romeo, he met and kissed Juliet at the Capulet Feast, his family's rival. He is utterly infatuated with her beauty and questions "Did my heart love till now?" Because of his infatuation, he acts impulsively by risking his life to catch a glimpse on Juliet on her balcony.

Give an account of the thoughts revealed to the audience by this character in the soliloquy or monologue.

In Romeo's soliloquy in Act 2 Scene 1, Romeo is astounded by Juliet's beauty when he sees her on the balcony. He quotes "what light through yonder window breaks," and compares her to "the sun" and is far more beautiful than the "envious moon who is already sick and pale with grief". Romeo says that Juliet's "vestal livery"- referring to her virginal clothing makes her look "sick and green" and that only fools hold on to their virginity; so she should "cast it off." He admires his lady from the balcony and finds that "she speaks" through her eyes, or as he describes in the metaphor as "two as the fairest stars in all the heaven." He admires how Juliet leans her hand on her cheek and how he wishes that he "were a glove upon that hand, that I might touch that cheek!"

How did this soliloquy affect your opinion of the character?

This soliloquy showed me Romeo's passion and sexual drive. He shows this passion by falling in love almost immediately, merely of Juliet after being heartbroken from Rosaline.

(hope this helps! good luck)

purple headings
rose questions
blue act + scene no
yellow quotes
pink adjectives