

Romeo and Juliet- Act 1 Guided Notes

Prologue, spoken by the Chorus

Two households, both alike in dignity
 (In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),
 From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
 Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
 A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
 Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
 Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
 The fearful passage of their death-marked love
 And the continuance of their parents' rage,
 Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
 Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
 The which, if you will with patient ears attend,
 What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

Context: _____

Setting: Verona, _____

Old grudges lead to new,

The children of these two families will
 _____ and take their
 own lives, which ends
 _____.

All of this will be explained during the
 next two hours of this play

Act 1, Scene 1 Summary

- A fight breaks out between the _____ and _____ in a public place of Verona
- Prince Escalus, ruler of Verona, sternly warns the Montagues and Capulets not to fight again
- A melancholy _____ is questioned by his cousin, _____, who learns that Romeo is upset and forlorn due to unrequited love

The First Conflict (Act 1, Sc 1)

- _____ and _____, servants of the Capulets, discuss how they hate their enemies, the Montagues
- When Abram and another servant from the house of Montague walk by, Sampson provokes them by _____ (an insult!)

The Brawl

- Sampson challenges Abram: "_____ if you be men.—Gregory, remember thy washing blow" (1.1 pg 3).
- Benvolio, a Montague, tries to break up the fight: "Part, fools! Put up your _____. You know not what you do" (1.1 pg 3).
- Tybalt, a Capulet, enters and directly challenges Benvolio: "What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds? Turn thee, Benvolio; look upon thy death" (1.1 pg 4)

Foil Characters

- A **foil** is a **character** who contrasts with another **character** (usually the protagonist) in order to highlight particular qualities of the other **character**
- We see how _____ is a foil of _____ in this exchange:
 - Benvolio: "I do but keep the _____. Put up thy sword, or manage it to part these men with me."
 - Tybalt: "What, drawn and talk of peace? I hate the word as I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee. Have at

thee, _____!" (1.1 pg 4).

- Lord Capulet and Lord Montague also arrive on the scene

Prince Escalus's Threat

- Prince Escalus arrives to break up the street brawl; he delivers a _____, or extended speech by one actor, that offers context for the fight and expresses his anger
 - "Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace, profaners of this neighbor-stained steel—Will they not hear?— What ho! You men, you _____, that quench the fire of your pernicious rage with purple fountains issuing from your veins" (1.1 pg 4).
 - He states that the Capulets and Montagues use violence and bloodshed to quell their inner anger
 - "Three _____ bred of an airy word by thee, old Capulet, and Montague, have thrice disturbed the quiet of our streets" (1.1 pg 4).
 - This brawl is the third public disturbance lately
 - "If ever you disturb our streets again, your _____ shall pay the forfeit of the peace" (1.1 pg 4).
 - What is the punishment for those who are caught fighting again?
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Where was Romeo?

- When Lady Montague asks where Romeo is, Benvolio reports that Romeo has been avoiding him
- Lord Montague adds that "many a morning hath he there been seen, with _____ augmenting the fresh morning's dew, adding to clouds more clouds with his _____" (1.1 pg 5).
 - How do Montague's words characterize his son? _____
- Montague further says Romeo also "shuts up his windows, locks fair daylight out, and makes himself an artificial night" (1.1 pg 5).
 - This is the first reference to _____, and important **symbol**
 - Pay attention to the contrast of dark and light

Romeo's Explanation

- Romeo tells Benvolio he is gloomy because he is "out of her _____, where I am in love" (1.1 pg 6).
- He does not understand why this girl (later identified as _____) does not love him back
- To explain his conflicted emotions, Romeo uses _____, a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory (opposite) terms appear in conjunction
 - Romeo: "Why then, O brawling love, O _____, O anything of nothing first create! O _____, serious vanity, misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!" (1.1 pg 7).
- Romeo is quite depressed: "Tut, I have lost myself, I am not here. This is not Romeo. He's some other where" (1.1 pg 7).
- Benvolio offers some advice: "Be ruled by me. Forget to think of her" (1.1pg 8).

Act 1, Scene 2 Summary

- Count Paris, a proper and wealthy suitor, expresses interest in _____ Capulet's only daughter, Juliet
- Capulet invites him to a masquerade party later that night
- Capulet gives his servant a guest list and asks him to deliver _____
- The servant cannot read, and asks Romeo and Benvolio to read the list for him
- They find out that _____ is invited to the Capulet party and they plan to crash it

Count Paris's Charm

- Count Paris: "But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?" (1.2 pg 9)
- Capulet: "By saying o'er what I have said before. My child is yet a stranger in the world. She hath not seen the change of fourteen years. Let two more summers wither in their pride ere we may think her ripe to be a _____" (1.2 pg 9).
 - How old is Juliet? _____
 - Capulet wants to delay her marriage two more years to let her mature
- Paris: "Younger than she are happy mothers made."
- Capulet: "And too soon marred are those so early made...She's the hopeful lady of my earth, but _____, gentle Paris, get her heart; My will to her consent is but a part" (1.2 pg 9).
 - Again, Capulet wants to delay Juliet's wedding, but approves of Paris and says he can marry Juliet if he wins her heart

Capulet's Invitations

- Capulet invites Paris to his "old accustomed _____" later that evening, where he might woo Juliet (1.2 pg 9-10).
- Capulet then instructs a servant: "Go, sirrah, trudge about through fair Verona, find those persons out whose names are written there, and to them say my house and welcome on their pleasure stay" (1.2 pg 10).
- Servant: "I am sent to find those persons whose names are here writ, and can never find what names the writing person hath here write. I must to the learned"(1.2 pg 10).
 - The servant reveals he _____ and will need some help

"I Pray, Sir, Can You Read?"

- The servant asks Benvolio and Romeo, not knowing they are Montagues, if they can read the invitation list
- Romeo reads the list and finds out that his friend _____ and his love, Rosaline, are invited to the party
- Servant: "My master is the great rich _____, and, if you be not of the house of Montague, I pray come and crush a cup of wine" (1.2 pg 11).
 - The servant accidentally invites them
 - Benvolio persuades Romeo to go to the party, where he will help Romeo get over Rosaline

Act 1, Scene 3 Summary

- Lady Capulet informs her daughter Juliet that Paris intends to win her heart and propose
- Juliet says she is _____ in marrying, but she will consider Paris if her parents wish her to

Impending Marriage

- The Nurse reminisces about raising a young Juliet, and laughs about memories involving her now deceased husband and Juliet as a toddler
- The Nurse says Juliet was "the _____ that e'er I nursed. An I might live to see thee married once, I have my wish" (1.3 pg 14).
- Lady Capulet: "Marry, that "marry" is the very theme I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet, how stands your disposition to be _____?"
- Juliet: "It is an honor that I dream not of" (1.3 pg 14).
 - How does Juliet feel about the idea of marriage? _____

Different Perspectives

- Lady Capulet: “By my count I was your mother much upon these years that you are now a maid. Thus, then, in brief: The valiant _____ seeks you for his love.”
 - Lady Capulet said she was a mother at Juliet’s age
- Nurse: “A man, young lady—lady, such a man as all the world—why, he’s a man of _____” (1.3 pg 14).
 - Even the Nurse agrees: Paris is a perfect man and match!
- Lady Capulet: “What say you? Can you love the gentleman? This night you shall behold him at our feast. Read o’er the volume of young Paris’ face, and find _____ writ there with beauty’s pen” (1.3 pg 14).
- Juliet: “I’ll _____ to _____, if looking liking move. But no more deep will I endart mine eye than your consent gives strength to make it fly” (1.3 pg 15).
 - Juliet will give Paris a chance, but is not serious about making a decision
- Nurse: “Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days” (1.3 pg 15).

Act 1, Scene 4 Summary

- Romeo and Benvolio are going to the Capulet’s party
- They meet up with their friend, Mercutio, an eccentric guy
- It is a _____ (masquerade party) and everyone wears disguises
- Romeo admits he had an ominous dream, but Mercutio mocks him

Romeo Needs Encouragement

- Mercutio: “Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you _____.”(1.4 pg 16)
- Romeo: “Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes with nimble souls. I have a soul of _____ so stakes me to the ground I cannot move” (1.4 pg 16).
 - Notice the _____; this emphasizes Romeo’s downtrodden state of mind
- Mercutio: “If love be rough with you, be _____ with love!” (1.4 pg 16).

Queen Mab

- Romeo reveals that he had a dream and although “we mean well in going to this masque, but ‘tis _____ to go” (1.4 pg 17).
- Mercutio: “O, then I see _____ hath been with you. She is the fairies’ midwife, and she comes in shape no bigger than an _____ on the forefinger of an alderman, drawn with a team of little atomi over men’s noses as they lie _____” (1.4 pg 17).
 - Queen Mab causes dreamers to think of particular things, depending where she rides her chariot
- Mercutio: “I talk of dreams, which are the _____ of an idle brain, begot of nothing but vain _____” (1.4 pg 18).
 - Mercutio claims that Romeo’s dream means nothing
- Romeo: “I fear too early, for my mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars shall bitterly begin his fearful date with this night’s revels, and expire the terms of a despised life closed in my breast by some vile forfeit of untimely _____” (1.4 pg 18).
 - This is _____ (**literary device**), and reinforces what we know from the prologue

Act 1, Scene 5 Summary

- Capulet welcomes the disguised Romeo and his friends to his party
- Romeo sees _____ and is immediately captivated by her beauty
- _____, Juliet’s cousin, recognizes Romeo’s voice and is furious with his intrusion
- Capulet instructs him to leave Romeo alone
- Romeo then meets Juliet and they fall in love, only to learn that they are of rival houses

The Party Begins

- As the servants frantically hurry to prepare for the feast, guests begin to arrive
- Romeo, seeing Juliet for the first time: “O, she doth teach the _____ to burn bright! It seems she hands upon the cheek of night as a rich jewel in an Ethiop’s ear” (1.5 pg 20).
 - Notice the reference to _____, which contrasts Romeo’s previous state of “darkness”
- Romeo: “Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight, for I ne’er saw _____ till this night” (1.5 pg 20).

Tybalt Spies Romeo

- Tybalt: “This, by his voice, should be a _____.—Fetch me my rapier, boy” (1.5 pg 20).
 - Tybalt is prepared to duel in a swordfight!
- Tybalt reports to Capulet that “a _____ that is hither come in spite to scorn at our solemnity this night” (1.5 pg 21).
- Capulet: “Content thee, gentle coz. Let him alone. He bears him like a portly gentleman, and, to say the truth, Verona brags of him to be a _____ and well-governed youth” (1.5 pg 21).
 - Capulet tells Tybalt to leave Romeo alone
 - Although Romeo is a Montague, he has a stately reputation
- When Tybalt refuses to listen, Capulet retaliates: “Am I the master here or you? Go to...You’ll make a _____ among my guests” (1.5 pg 21).
 - Capulet orders Tybalt not to fight, or he will ruin the party

Love at First Sight

- Romeo and Juliet meet for the first time on page 22, and their lines (top of page) take the form and rhyme scheme of a Shakespearean _____
- Romeo, to Juliet: “If I profane with my unworriest hand this holy shrine, the gentle sin is this: My lips, two _____, ready stand to smooth that rough touch with a tender _____.”
 - _____: Romeo’s lips are two blushing (nervous) pilgrims (experiencing for the first time), which desire to kiss Juliet
- Juliet: “Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much, which mannerly devotion shows in this; for saints have hands that pilgrims’ hands do touch, and _____ is holy palmer’s kiss” (1.5 pg 22).
 - Juliet does not want to kiss yet, but rather hold hands, which is a form of appropriate intimacy

The Tragic Reveal

- After Romeo and Juliet kiss, Juliet is pulled away by _____, who says “Madam, your mother craves a word with you” (1.5 pg 22).
- Romeo asks who her mother is, and the Nurse states that her mother is the lady of the house
- Romeo: “Is she a _____? O dear account! My life is my foe’s debt” (1.5 pg 22)
- Juliet sends the Nurse to find out what Romeo’s name is, while stating, “If he be married, my _____ is like to be my _____.”(1.5 pg 23)
 - This _____ also serves as _____!
- When the Nurse confirms that Romeo is “the only son of your great enemy” (1.5 pg 23), Juliet exclaims, “My only love sprung from my _____! Too early seen unknown, and known too late!” (1.5 pg 23)