

Romeo and Juliet Side-by-Side Notes

1.1.23

Heads of maids, or their maidenheads
Meaning either literally cutting off the women's heads
or taking their virginity

1.1.44

Sampson wants to make his gesture known to Abram
that he is insulting the Montagues by biting his thumb,
but he is staying within the boundaries of the law on a
technicality but saying that he is biting his thumb, but
not AT Abram

1.1.55

Shows Benvolio's character, trying to keep the peace
between the families

1.1.60

Shows Tybalt's character, Benvolio's foil, as the one
who always provokes a fight

1.1.94

Prince breaks up the fight and says that the family
feud has disturbed the streets of Verona 3 times
already and has disturbed the townspeople around
them. He tells Montague and Capulet that if the
families fight again then they will pay for it with their
lives.

1.1.161-174

Oxymorons
"brawling love", "heavy lightness", etc.
Expresses Romeo's mixed feelings
Romeo is an idealistic character, feels that love should
be a certain way, very happy
But he loves a woman who does not love him back and
all he feels is pain, so he is feeling those two
conflicting emotions expressed with oxymorons

1.1.176-186

More oxymorons

1.1.199

Rosaline tells Romeo that she wants to join a nunnery
(may or may not be true, maybe she's just not that into
him) and remain chaste (a virgin) for life

Romeo says that her beauty is wasted, she is rich in
beauty but poor in love

1.2.7-25

Capulet thinks Juliet is too young to be married. Even
though it is not uncommon for girls her age to be
married, he thinks that she will be unhappy but
Capulet allows Paris to woo Juliet

1.2.39

We find out that Peter can't read
He is a servant, illiteracy is common among lower
class

1.2.64

Rosaline is on the guest list – Romeo starts forming a
plan in mind to go to the party somehow
Line 81 – turns out to be Capulet's house
Dramatic irony

Peter can't read, so he finds someone to help him and
happens to ask Romeo for help (he doesn't know that
Romeo is a Montague)
Peter, out of gratitude, invites Romeo to the party
He unknowingly invites the enemy to his master's
house

1.3.18-52

Nurse's character: talkative, at times inappropriate
comments, long-winded
Husband's comment "fall backward" have sex
Lady Capulet often impatient with her

1.3.72

Contrast Lady Capulet with her husband
Capulet wants her to get married, but wants to wait
until she's older, whereas Lady Capulet is pushing for
sooner and pressing Juliet to consider Paris

1.3.81

Paris' only flaw is that he does not have a wife

1.3.97

"Grow by men" = get pregnant

Pre-party conversation of marriage, then exit to attend
the party

Act I Scene 4

Masquerade

Pre-party

Romeo, Benvolio and Mercutio are heading to the party

1.4.27-32

Mercutio's character introduced

The joker, sexual innuendos, a PUN

Pun: prick love for pricking - fight back at love for hurting you by having sex to deal

1.4.55

Mercutio's speech about Queen Mab - name alluding to a prostitute

Romeo's talk of love provokes Mercutio

Queen Mab is a tiny fairy who gives dreams

Mercutio is saying that dreams for for the idle minded, that Romeo is silly for dreaming about Rosaline and that his dreams are insignificant like Queen Mab

1.4.106-114

Shakespeare foreshadows Romeo's death, he is hesitant to go to the party

Line 107: "some consequence yet hanging in the STARS / Shall bitterly begin his fearful date"

Stars signify fate

1.5.1-39

Explain beginning of party, Capulet is welcoming everyone in

1.5.40

Romeo has just spotted Juliet

Exemplifies Romeo's impulsive nature

Has come to crash the party to look for Rosaline, but ends up seeing Juliet and falls deeper into love

1.5.52

Tybalt hears and recognizes Romeo's voice and wants to kill him for entering their home

Capulet is, again, a much more lenient character as he knows Romeo is well-liked and doesn't want to stir up trouble on his own home, especially after the Prince's speech, yet instead scolds his own kin

1.5.92-110

Romeo and Juliet have been scoping each other out after Capulet allows him to stay at the party

Shared sonnet

Pilgrims pray, let our lips do what hands do and pray = kiss

Romeo and Juliet discover each others' identities as rival families

2.1.11

Reference to Venus, Roman goddess of Love

More sexual talk

2.1.30-32

Benvolio speaks of Romeo's blind love, belonging in the DARK - symbol of being hidden, which his relationship with Juliet must be because of the family feud

2.1.38

PUN - poperin pear = "pop her in" sexual innuendo

2.2.2-27

SYMBOLS/ IMAGERY

Sun: Juliet's beauty is far greater and outshines all

Moon:

Fairest stars: bright eyes

2.2.3

Famous balcony scene

2.2.33-36

Juliet asks to no one why Romeo is who he is by name that makes him her enemy

She's willing to cast off her own identity if he loves her

2.2.90

Bold Juliet

2.2.161

Falconer is a person who keeps and trains falcons

Juliet is trying to control him

Falcons are hunters

2.2.180

Again comparing Romeo to a bird that she can keep

2.3.9

"Juiced" becomes two syllables, iambic pentameter here. Without the extra syllable, would not fit into iambic pentameter. When is it used? Upper class. Shakespeare breaks out of iambic pentameter when lower class characters are speaking and when Romeo and his friends are speaking to each other.

2.2.171

Nyas - Romeo refers to Juliet as a baby hawk... What type of bird is a hawk? It is a hunter... Later in 2.2.179-184, Juliet refers to Romeo as a pet bird, who she wants to let fly when she wants but can pull him back when she wants too. Goes back to Juliet becoming more emboldened by love, she gains a sense of control in her life through Romeo because he is willing to do anything for her

2.3.1-23

Friar Lawrence is an herbal man, knows how to mix both poisonous and medicinal flowers
Says that nothing on Earth is inherently evil, but has a special purpose. Only evil when abused. Vice becomes virtue if used correctly.
Vice is a wicked or immoral behavior

2.3.81

Romeo can't expect women to be faithful when men are so unreliable

2.3.82

Romeo is either really naive or just blinded by love -- he misses the Friar's point
The friar is older and wise. He knows their love is not truly love but marries them anyway

Kept up with iambic pentameter until speaking with friends

3.1.5

Mercutio telling Benvolio that he's hot headed... He's just as quick to anger as anyone else, we just don't see it here. Gives more insight to Benvolio's character

3.1.20

"Consort" means to play

3.1.33

What does Tybalt not know? That Romeo and Juliet are married, making him and Tybalt cousin-in-laws
Verbal irony

3.1.63

-- dashes mean they are speaking to someone else.
Mercutio is trying to play off his wound, but then tells his page to find a surgeon

3.1.80

Here begins the tragedy after the romance

3.1.151

Now Prince is personally injured, because Mercutio is Prince's kin
Banned Romeo, instead of killing him because Tybalt has been killed but Tybalt killed Mercutio

3.2 Soliloquy - talking to herself with no one else hearing
About to lose virginity

3.2.10

We have come civil night...
dark/light symbol
Death? But here a maid or matron- one is unmarried, one is married
She is unsure, does not know much of love, it is foreign to her

3.2.23

Cut him out in little stars, face of heavens, love in night
Astral symbols
When I shall die...
Star crossed lovers and destiny
Waiting for Romeo to lose her virginity on her honeymoon

3.2.37

Nurse breaks news of tybalts death but makes it seems like Romeo

3.2.74-86

Oxymorons... Why?
Mixed feelings
She really loves Romeo but he just murdered her cousin... Who is he?? They had not met yet 24 hours ago

3.3

Cell - men lived in basement of church
Romeo finds out from Friar that he's been banished

3.3.108

Friar is fed up with whining
Read to 111
Romeo is 16... Is he really a man?
He's married... He just killed someone...
But now he has become like a child again whining but
Friar points out in 137 that there are things to be
happy about, that Juliet and h I'm are alive, or else
Tybalt would have killed him instead of the other way
He would kill Juliet if he killed himself - more
foreshadowing of their deaths

3.3.145

Same plan A.. Go to Juliet, comfort her and have
honeymoon but get out to Mantua before the morning.
I'll work it out for you here and send for you, then you
can come back

3.5.2

Bird symbols
Nightingale- sings at night as well as day
Lark- morning and symbol for lovers
Pomegranate - Greeks.. Abundance fertility, good luck
Romans... Death
What must come in the morning?

3.5.55-58

Shakespeare foreshadows deaths of both Romeo and
Juliet

3.5.93

Roundabout way of talking about Romeo

3.5.141

Capulet's manner about marriage changes.. Could be
trying to keep Paris interested

3.5.243

Losing control, but still has power over her life

4.1.73-88

Friar Lawrence tells Juliet that if she really cannot
stand to marry Paris, then he has an alternate solution

4.1.95

The Friar uses herbs and flowers to make potions and
medicines. He gives Juliet a vial of some solution that
we don't know what it is used for yet.

4.1.123

What do we know now that the potion will do? (Cause
a slowed pulse, color to drain from face, imitate the
look of death for 42 hours)

4.3.50

What is Juliet thinking here? Uncertain, fear. Mentions
the Friar in 4.3.25

1. Juliet wonders if the potion is poison.

2. Brings some insight into the Friar's character.
Remember that he is a holy man, yet he has secretly
married the couple without their parents' consent, and
is helping to craft this huge lie to their families and the
town of Juliet's death. He is also willing to let people
believe he is to thank for convincing Juliet to marry
Paris. Is he a good man? Think back and remember the
soliloquy in which Friar Lawrence says nothing on
earth is inherently good or bad, it depends on how you
use it. Is Friar Lawrence a good or bad character?
Remind students to keep these things in mind for the
upcoming Literary Analysis paper.

3. Juliet is afraid because she will wake up in a crypt
full of dead bodies.

4.5.5-14

Nurse tells Juliet to get her rest now because after she
is married, Paris will not let her get much sleep. Nurse
has sex on the mind.

4.5.42

Paris' first thought is not about Juliet's death and its
significance to her family, but that he has waited so
long and is left with no bride

4.5.66

Friar tells Juliet's family that although they are right to
mourn for her, that they should be happy that she is in
a better place in heaven.

4.5.85

All of the things prepared for the wedding will now be
used for the funeral

Act 5

Friar Lawrence has sent a letter with Friar John to deliver to Romeo explaining how Juliet is staging a fake death and that when she wakes up she will join him in Mantua, free to live as husband and wife

5.1.1-10

Shakespeare foreshadows Romeo's death -- more specifically how he will be found when dead

5.1.39-59

Romeo remembers an apothecary's house he noticed on his way to Mantua. He sees the apothecary is poor from the appearance of the shop. Knowing that selling poison is illegal, Romeo is going to take advantage of the apothecary's poor situation so that Romeo can buy the poison from him.

5.1.84

Romeo tells the apothecary that money does more harm to human beings than the poison does. Romeo sells the apothecary the poison of the soul, which is money.

5.2.5-12

Friar John could not deliver the letter explaining Friar Lawrence's plan because when he was on his way

Friar John met up with another friar to accompany him on the trip. The other friar had recently been visiting the sick, and the town officials were afraid that they had the plague, thus quarantined them in a house and after they were let out, would not deliver the letter for fear of infectious disease. The important info never made it to Romeo.

5.3.120

Symbol

"Inauspicious stars" - bad luck

5.3.225

Lady Montague died of grief since Romeo was exiled

5.3.312-320

Capulet and Montague unite

Montague raises a gold statue of Juliet in honor of Juliet, and Capulet does the same of Romeo

5.3.321

Oxymoron

"Glooming peace" - Expresses mixed feelings

Death is a tragic event, but has ended the feuding between the two families and has brought peace