

Romeo and Juliet

Main Characters

Juliet: Capulet's daughter. She is presented as young and innocent adolescent, not 14 years old. Her youthfulness is stressed throughout the play to emphasize her as tragic heroine. Juliet's love for Romeo gives her the strength and courage to defy her parents and face death twice.

Romeo: Montague's son who is loved and presented in Verona. He is initially presented as a comic lover, with inflated declarations of love for Rosaline. After meeting Juliet, he abandons his tendency to be a traditional, fashionable lover and his language becomes intense.

Merucutio: Kinsman to the Prince and a friend of Romeo. His name comes from the word "mercury", the element which indicates his quick temper. He is Bawdy, talkative, and tries to tease Romeo out of his melancholy frame of mind. He is killed by Tybalt.

Tybalt: Lady Capulet's nephew and Juliet's cousin. He is violent and hot-tempered, with a strong sense of honor. He challenges Romeo to duel in response to Romeo's attending a Capulet party. He kills Mercutio, and killed by Romeo.

The Nurse: Juliet's nursemaid, who acts as confidante and messenger for Romeo & Juliet. She loves to talk and her attitude toward love is bawdy. She loves Juliet but compromises her position of trust when she advises Juliet to forget Romeo and marry Paris.

Benvolio: Montague's nephew and a friend of Romeo and Mercutio. He is a peacemaker who attempts to keep peace between Tybalt and Morcutio. After the death of Tybalt and Morcutio, he acts as chorus.

Romeo and Juliet Quotations Act I

1.” I’ll look to like, if looking liking move”

- Juliet responds to her mother at their home when she suggests that she marry Paris, because Paris is a rich and good looking and says (I’ll look at him and try to like him, at least if what I see is likable. But I won’t let myself fall for him any more than your permission allows).

2.” You kiss by th’ book.”

Juliet tells Romeo at the party that you kiss like you’ve studied how.

3.” Did my heart love till now?

At the party, when Romeo sees Juliet and falls in love with her, he realizes that his love for Rosaline was artificial.

4.” O brawling love, O loving hate”

When Benvolio meets Romeo and they talk about Rosaline and love, Romeo laments his unrequited love for Rosaline.

5. “The shady curtains from Aurora’s”

Montague says that Romeo spends many mornings in the grove weeping and sighing. As soon as the sun rises, my son shuts himself in his room, closes the shutter over the window and retreats into the dark.

6.” She’ll not be hit with Cupid’s arrow. She hath Dian’s wit”

Romeo tells Benvolio that he is wrong and Rosaline dodges Cupid’s arrow. She is as witty as Diana.

7.”She has not seen the change of 14 years, let 2 more summers wither in their pride”

Capulet tells Paris that Juliet is still a child, not yet 14 years old. Wait 2 years before marrying her.

8.”O. she doth teach the torches to burn bright”

Romeo, at the party talking to himself surprisingly of Juliet that she outshines the torches and she bejewels the night.

9.”Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone / ‘A bears him like a portly gentleman”

Capulet tells Tybalt at the party to calm down, and to let Romeo, because he behaves well. The people of Verona call him a young gentleman and honorable.

10."My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand / to smooth that rough with a tender kiss"

Romeo tells Juliet at the party: My blushing lips, like holy pilgrims, are ready to brush away that rough touch with a gentle kiss.

11."O dear account my life is my foe's debt"

When Romeo finds out at the party that Juliet is a Capulet saying: Oh terrible news, I must give my life to an enemy.

12."My grave is like to be my wedding bed"

Juliet tells the Nurse "Go ask" If he's married, I think I'll die rather than marry anyone else.

**13." My only love sprung from my only hate!
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!
Prodigious birth of love it is to me,
That I must love a loathèd enemy"**

Juliet at the party speaks (to herself) the only man I love is the son of the only man I hate! I saw him too early without knowing who he was, and I found out who he was too late! Love is a monster for making me fall in love with my worst enemy.