



Literary TOOLS

PLOT AND RESOLUTION. A plot is a series of events related to a central conflict, or struggle. The **resolution** is the point at which the central conflict is ended, or resolved. As you read, look for the point at which the resolution occurs.

THEME. A **theme** is a central idea in a literary work. As you read the final act of *Romeo and Juliet*, think about what the central ideas are in this play.

TRAGIC FLAW. A **tragic flaw** is a personal weakness that brings about the fall of a character in a tragedy. Reflect back on the play and consider what tragic flaw contributes to the downfall of both Romeo and Juliet.



Reader's Journal

In what ways, if any, do you believe in fate?

ACT 5

SCENE 1: A STREET IN MANTUA

Enter ROMEO.

ROMEO. If I may trust the flattering¹ truth of sleep,
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand.
My bosom's lord² sits lightly in his throne,³
And all this day an unaccustom'd spirit
5 Lifts me above the ground with cheerful thoughts.
I dreamt my lady came and found me dead—
Strange dream, that gives a dead man leave to think!—
And breath'd such life with kisses in my lips
That I reviv'd and was an emperor.
10 Ah me, how sweet is love itself possess'd,
When but love's shadows are so rich in joy!

Enter Romeo's man BALTHASAR, *booted*.

News from Verona! How now, Balthasar?
Dost thou not bring me letters from the friar?
How doth my lady? Is my father well?
15 How doth my Juliet? That I ask again,
For nothing can be ill if she be well.

BALTHASAR. Then she is well and nothing can be ill:
Her body sleeps in Capel's monument,
And her immortal part with angels lives.
20 I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault,
And presently⁴ took post⁵ to tell it you.
O, pardon me for bringing these ill news,
Since you did leave it for my office,⁶ sir.

What was supposed to have reached Romeo before Balthasar's news?

ROMEO. Is it e'en so? Then I defy you, stars!
25 Thou knowest my lodging, get me ink and paper,
And hire post-horses; I will hence tonight.

BALTHASAR. I do beseech you, sir, have patience.
Your looks are pale and wild, and do import
Some misadventure.

ACT 5, SCENE 1

1. **flattering.** Favorable
2. **My bosom's lord.** Love
3. **his throne.** Romeo's heart
4. **presently.** Immediately
5. **took post.** Traveled by horse
6. **office.** Duty

**words
for
everyday
use**

mis • ad • ven • ture (mis 'əd ven 'chər) *n.*, unlucky accident; mishap.
Gia got lost in the subway, and her misadventure ended in tears.

ROMEO. Tush, thou art deceiv'd.
30 Leave me, and do the thing I bid thee do.
Hast thou no letters to me from the friar?

BALTHASAR. No, my good lord.

ROMEO. No matter, get thee gone,
And hire those horses; I'll be with thee straight. *Exit BALTHASAR.*
Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee tonight.
35 Let's see for means.⁷ O mischief, thou art swift
To enter in the thoughts of desperate men!
I do remember an apothecary—
And hereabouts 'a dwells—which late I noted
In tatt'ed weeds,⁸ with overwhelming⁹ brows,
40 Culling of simples;¹⁰ meagre were his looks,
Sharp misery had worn him to the bones;
And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,
An alligator stuff'd and other skins
Of ill-shap'd fishes, and about his shelves
45 A beggarly account¹¹ of empty boxes,
Green earthen pots, bladders, and musty seeds,
Remnants of packthread, and old cakes of roses¹²
Were thinly scattered, to make up a show.
Noting this penury,¹³ to myself I said,
50 "An' if¹⁴ a man did need a poison now,
Whose sale is present death¹⁵ in Mantua,
Here lives a caitiff¹⁶ wretch would sell it him."
O, this same thought did but forerun my need,
And this same needy man must sell it me.
55 As I remember, this should be the house.
Being holiday, the beggar's shop is shut.
What ho, apothecary!

Enter APOTHECARY.

APOTHECARY. Who calls so loud?

ROMEO. Come hither, man. I see that thou art poor.
Hold, there is forty ducats;¹⁷ let me have
60 A dram of poison, such soon-speeding gear¹⁸
As will disperse itself through all the veins
That the life-weary taker may fall dead,
And that the trunk may be discharg'd of breath

What does the apothecary need? What does Romeo need?

7. *see for means.* See how

8. *weeds.* Clothes

9. *overwhelming.* Overhanging; large

10. *simples.* Medicines

11. *beggarly account.* Small number

12. *cakes of roses.* Rose petals made into cakes for their scent

13. *penury.* Extreme poverty

14. *An' if.* If

15. *present death.* Capital offense

16. *caitiff.* Cowardly

17. *ducats.* Gold coins

18. *soon-speeding gear.* Fast-acting stuff

65 As violently as hasty powder fir'd
Doth hurry from the fatal cannon's womb.
APOTHECARY. Such mortal drugs I have, but Mantua's law
Is death to any he¹⁹ that utters²⁰ them.

Why does the
apothecary hesitate to
sell Romeo poison?

ROMEO. Art thou so bare and full of wretchedness,
And fearest to die? Famine is in thy cheeks,
70 Need and oppression starveth in thy eyes,
Contempt and beggary hangs upon thy back;
The world is not thy friend, nor the world's law,
The world affords no law to make thee rich;
Then be not poor, but break it, and take this.

75 **APOTHECARY.** My poverty, but not my will, consents.

ROMEO. I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.

APOTHECARY. Put this in any liquid thing you will
And drink it off, and if you had the strength
Of twenty man, it would dispatch²¹ you straight.

80 **ROMEO.** There is thy gold, worse poison to men's souls,
Doing more murder in this loathsome world,
Than these poor compounds that thou mayest not sell.
I sell thee poison, thou hast sold me none.
Farewell! Buy food, and get thyself in flesh.²²

Exit APOTHECARY.

85 Come, cordial²³ and not poison, go with me
To Juliet's grave, for there must I use thee.

Exit.

SCENE 2: FRIAR LAWRENCE'S CELL

Enter FRIAR JOHN.

FRIAR JOHN. Holy Franciscan friar! brother, ho!

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE.

FRIAR LAWRENCE. This same should be the voice of Friar John.
Welcome from Mantua! What says Romeo?
Or, if his mind be writ, give me his letter.

5 **FRIAR JOHN.** Going to find a barefoot brother out,
One of our order, to associate¹ me,
Here in this city visiting the sick,
And finding him, the searchers² of the town,

19. **any he.** Anyone

20. **utters.** Dispenses

21. **dispatch.** Kill

22. **get . . . flesh.** Become fat (i.e., prosper)

23. **cordial.** Medicine

ACT 5, SCENE 2

1. **associate.** Accompany

2. **searchers.** Health officials

10 Suspecting that we both were in a house
Where the infectious pestilence did reign,
Seal'd up the doors and would not let us forth,
So that my speed to Mantua there was stay'd.

Why couldn't Friar John
get to Mantua?

FRIAR LAWRENCE. Who bare my letter then to Romeo?

15 **FRIAR JOHN.** I could not send it—here it is again—
Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,
So fearful were they of infection.

What does Friar John
return?

FRIAR LAWRENCE. Unhappy fortune! By my brotherhood,
The letter was not nice³ but full of charge,⁴
Of dear⁵ import, and the neglecting it
20 May do much danger. Friar John, go hence,
Get me an iron crow,⁶ and bring it straight
Unto my cell.

FRIAR JOHN. Brother, I'll go and bring it thee.

Exit.

25 **FRIAR LAWRENCE.** Now must I to the monument alone,
Within this three hours will fair Juliet wake.
She will beshrew⁷ me much that Romeo
Hath had no notice of these accidents;⁸
But I will write again to Mantua,
And keep her at my cell till Romeo come—
30 Poor living corse, clos'd in a dead man's tomb!

Exit.

SCENE 3: THE CHURCHYARD WHEREIN LIES THE CAPULET FAMILY TOMB

Enter PARIS and his PAGE with flowers and sweet¹ water and a torch.

PARIS. Give me thy torch, boy. Hence, and stand aloof.²
Yet put it out, for I would not be seen.
Under yond yew trees lay thee all along,³
Holding thy ear close to the hollow ground,
5 So shall no foot upon the churchyard tread,
Being⁴ loose, unfirm, with digging up of graves,
But thou shalt hear it. Whistle then to me
As signal that thou hearest something approach.
Give me those flowers. Do as I bid thee, go.

10 **PAGE.** [*Aside.*] I am almost afraid to stand⁵ alone
Here in the churchyard, yet I will adventure.⁶

Rétires. PARIS strews the tomb with flowers.

3. **nice.** About small matters
4. **full of charge.** Important
5. **dear.** Extreme, great
6. **crow.** Crowbar
7. **beshrew.** Censure
8. **accidents.** Events

ACT 5, SCENE 3

1. **sweet.** Perfumed
2. **aloof.** Away from here, distant
3. **all along.** Flat against the ground
4. **Being.** Because the ground is
5. **stand.** Stay
6. **adventure.** Try

PARIS. Sweet flower, with flowers thy bridal bed I strew—
O woe, thy canopy is dust and stones!—
Which with sweet water nightly I will dew,
15 Or wanting that, with tears distill'd by moans.
The obsequies⁷ that I for thee will keep
Nightly shall be to strew thy grave and weep.

Whistle Boy.

The boy gives warning, something doth approach.
What cursed foot wanders this way tonight,
20 To cross⁸ my obsequies and true love's rite?
What, with a torch? Muffle me, night, a while.

Retires.

Enter ROMEO and BALTHASAR with a torch, a mattock, and a crow of iron.

ROMEO. Give me that mattock and the wrenching iron.
Hold, take this letter; early in the morning
See thou deliver it to my lord and father.

25 Give me the light. Upon thy life I charge thee,
What e'er thou hearest or seest, stand all aloof,
And do not interrupt me in my course.

Why I descend into this bed of death
Is partly to behold my lady's face,
30 But chiefly to take thence from her dead finger
A precious ring—a ring that I must use
In dear employment—therefore hence be gone.

But if thou, jealous, dost return to pry
In what I farther shall intend to do,
35 By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint,
And strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs.

The time and my intents are savage-wild,
More fierce and more inexorable⁹ far
Than empty tigers or the roaring sea.

40 **BALTHASAR.** I will be gone, sir, and not trouble ye.

ROMEO. So shalt thou show me friendship. Take thou that;
Live and be prosperous, and farewell, good fellow.

BALTHASAR. [*Aside.*] For all this same, I'll hide me hereabout,
His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt.

Retires.

45 **ROMEO.** Thou detestable maw,¹⁰ thou womb of death,
Gorg'd with the dearest morsel of the earth,
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,
And in despite I'll cram thee with more food.

ROMEO begins to open the tomb.

7. **obsequies.** Prayers or rites for dead persons
8. **cross.** Interrupt, go against

9. **inexorable.** Not to be persuaded or moved by entreaty

10. **maw.** Mouth

50 **PARIS.** This is that banish'd haughty Montague,
That murd' red my love's cousin, with which grief
It is supposed the fair creature died,
And here is come to do some villainous shame
To the dead bodies. I will apprehend him.
Stop thy unhallowed toil, vile Montague!
55 Can vengeance be pursued further than death?
Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee.
Obey and go with me, for thou must die.

ROMEO. I must indeed, and therefore came I hither.
Good gentle youth, tempt not a desp'rate man.
60 Fly hence and leave me, think upon these gone,
Let them affright thee. I beseech thee, youth,
Put not another sin upon my head,
By urging me to fury: O, be gone!
By heaven, I love thee better than myself,
65 For I come hither arm'd against myself.
Stay not, be gone; live, and hereafter say
A madman's mercy bid thee run away.

PARIS. I do defy thy conjuration,
And apprehend thee for a felon here.
70 **ROMEO.** Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, boy!

PAGE. O Lord, they fight! I will go call the watch.

PARIS. O, I am slain! [*Falls.*] If thou be merciful,
Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet.

ROMEO. In faith, I will. Let me peruse this face.
75 Mercutio's kinsman, noble County Paris!
What said my man, when my betossed soul
Did not attend him as we rode? I think
He told me Paris should have married Juliet.
Said he not so? or did I dream it so?
80 Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet,
To think it was so? O, give me thy hand,
One writ with me in sour misfortune's book!
I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave.
A grave? O no, a lanthorn,¹¹ slaught' red youth;
85 For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes

11. **lanthorn.** Lantern (a tower room with glass on all sides)

What does Paris suspect
Romeo is doing at
Juliet's tomb?

Steps forth.

They fight.

Exit.

What happens to Paris?

Dies.

**words
for
everyday
use**

haugh • ty (hôt'ē) *adj.*, proud; arrogant. *The haughty winning speller indicated by the position of his head that he thought he was better than everyone else.*

un • hal • lowed (un'hal'ōd) *adj.*, unholy; wicked. *Because of his heinous crime, the murderer was buried in unhallowed ground.*

This vault a feasting presence¹² full of light.
Death, lie thou there, by a dead man interr'd.

Laying PARIS in the tomb.

How oft when men are at the point of death
Have they been merry, which their keepers call
90 A lightning before death! O how may I
Call this a lightning? O my love, my wife,
Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:
Thou art not conquer'd, beauty's ensign yet
95 Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,
And death's pale flag is not advanced¹³ there.
Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?
O, what more favor can I do to thee,
Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain
100 To sunder¹⁴ his that was thine enemy?
Forgive me, cousin! Ah, dear Juliet,
Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
That unsubstantial Death is amorous,
And that the lean abhorred monster keeps
105 Thee here in dark to be his paramour?
For fear of that, I still will stay with thee,
And never from this palace of dim night
Depart again. Here, here will I remain
With worms that are thy chambermaids; O, here
110 Will I set up my everlasting rest,
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars
From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, look your last!
Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
115 A dateless bargain to engrossing death!
Come, bitter conduct,¹⁵ come, unsavory guide!
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on
The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!
Here's to my love! [*Drinks.*] O true apothecary!
120 Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.

How does Juliet appear?
What does Romeo
think?

Dies.

What happens to
Romeo?

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE *with lanthorn, crow, and spade.*

12. **feasting presence.** Appear like a place decorated for a feast

13. **advanced.** Raised

14. **sunder.** Cut

15. **conduct.** Guide

**words
for
everyday
use**

par • a • mour (par'ə mūr) *n.*, sweetheart. *Maurice bought a box of chocolate candy for his paramour.*

in • aus • pi • clous (in'ə spish'əs) *adj.*, unfavorable; unlucky. *The team thought that Friday the thirteenth was an inauspicious date to hold the regional championship.*

FRIAR LAWRENCE. Saint Francis be my speed! how oft tonight
Have my old feet stumbled at graves! Who's there?

BALTHASAR. Here's one, a friend, and one that knows you well.

125 FRIAR LAWRENCE. Bliss be upon you! Tell me, good my friend,
What torch is yond, that vainly lends his light
To grubs and eyeless skulls? As I discern,
It burneth in the Capels' monument.

BALTHASAR. It doth so, holy sir, and there's my master,
One that you love.

FRIAR LAWRENCE. Who is it?

BALTHASAR. Romeo.

FRIAR LAWRENCE. How long hath he been there?

130 BALTHASAR. Full half an hour.

FRIAR LAWRENCE. Go with me to the vault.

BALTHASAR. I dare not, sir.

My master knows not but I am gone hence,
And fearfully did menace me with death
If I did stay to look on his intents.

135 FRIAR LAWRENCE. Stay then, I'll go alone. Fear comes upon me.
O, much I fear some ill unthrifty¹⁶ thing.

BALTHASAR. As I did sleep under this yew tree here,
I dreamt my master and another fought,
And that my master slew him.

FRIAR LAWRENCE. Romeo!

FRIAR *stoops and looks on the blood and weapons.*

140 Alack, alack, what blood is this, which stains
The stony entrance of this sepulchre?
What mean these masterless and gory swords
To lie discolor'd by this place of peace?

Enters the tomb.

145 And steep'd in blood? Ah, what an unkind¹⁷ hour
Is guilty of this lamentable chance!
The lady stirs.

What does Friar
Lawrence find?

JULIET *rises.*

JULIET. O comfortable friar! where is my lord?
I do remember well where I should be,

16. **unthrifty.** Unlucky

17. **unkind.** Unnatural, cruel

**words
for
everyday
use**

dis • cern (di sɜrn) vt., recognize; make out clearly. *Without her glasses, Norine could not discern the exit sign.*

sep • ul • chre or sep • ul • cher (sep'əl k ər) n., vault for burial; grave; tomb. *The pop star's fans laid flowers mournfully in front of his sepulchre.*

150 And there I am. Where is my Romeo? *Noise within.*

FRIAR LAWRENCE. I hear some noise, lady. Come from that nest
Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep.

A greater power than we can contradict
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.

155 Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;

And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee

Among a sisterhood of holy nuns.

Stay not to question, for the watch is coming.

Come go, good Juliet [*noise again*], I dare no longer stay.

What news does Juliet
hear upon awakening?

Exit.

160 JULIET. Go get thee hence, for I will not away.

What's here? A cup clos'd in my true love's hand?

Poison, I see, hath been his timeless¹⁸ end.

O churl,¹⁹ drunk all, and left no friendly drop

To help me after?²⁰ I will kiss thy lips,

165 Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,

To make me die with a restorative.²¹

Thy lips are warm.

What does Juliet seek?

1. WATCH. [*Within.*] Lead, boy, which way?

JULIET. Yea, noise? Then I'll be brief. O happy dagger,

Taking Romeo's dagger.

170 This is thy sheath [*stabs herself*]; there rust, and let me die.

Falls on Romeo's body and dies.

Enter Paris's BOY and WATCH.

PAGE. This is the place, there where the torch doth burn.

1. WATCH. The ground is bloody, search about the churchyard.

Go, some of you, whoe'er you find attach.²²

Exeunt some.

Pitiful sight! here lies the County slain,

175 And Juliet bleeding, warm, and newly dead,

Who here hath lain this two days buried.

Go tell the Prince, run to the Capulets,

Raise up the Montagues; some others search.

Exeunt others.

We see the ground whereon these woes do lie,

180 But the true ground of all these piteous woes

We cannot without circumstance descry.

Enter some of the WATCH with Romeo's man BALTHASAR.

2. WATCH. Here's Romeo's man, we found him in the churchyard.

1. WATCH. Hold him in safety till the Prince come hither.

Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE and another WATCHMAN.

18. **timeless.** Untimely, premature

19. **churl.** Low person

20. **help me after.** Help me to come after or follow you

21. **restorative.** Romeo's kiss will restore Juliet.

22. **attach.** Stop, detain

185 **3. WATCH.** Here is a friar, that trembles, sighs, and weeps.
 We took this mattock²³ and this spade from him,
 As he was coming from this churchyard's side.

1. WATCH. A great suspicion. Stay the friar too.
Enter the PRINCE and ATTENDANTS.

PRINCE. What misadventure is so early up,
 That calls our person from our morning rest?
Enter Capels CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and others.

190 **CAPULET.** What should it be that is so shriek'd abroad?
LADY CAPULET. O, the people in the street cry "Romeo,"
 Some "Juliet," and some "Paris," and all run
 With open outcry toward our monument.

PRINCE. What fear is this which startles in your ears?

195 **1. WATCH.** Sovereign, here lies the County Paris slain,
 And Romeo dead, and Juliet, dead before,
 Warm and new kill'd.

PRINCE. Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes.

1. WATCH. Here is a friar, and slaughter'd Romeo's man,
 200 With instruments upon them, fit to open
 These dead men's tombs.

CAPULET. O heavens! O wife, look how our daughter bleeds!
 This dagger hath mista'en, for lo his house
 Is empty on the back of Montague,
 205 And it mis-sheathed in my daughter's bosom!

LADY CAPULET. O me, this sight of death is as a bell
 That warns my old age to a sepulchre.
Enter MONTAGUE and others.

PRINCE. Come, Montague, for thou art early up
 To see thy son and heir now early down.

210 **MONTAGUE.** Alas, my liege,²⁴ my wife is dead tonight;
 Grief of my son's exile hath stopp'd her breath.
 What further woe conspires against mine age?

PRINCE. Look and thou shalt see.

MONTAGUE. O thou untaught! what manners is in this,
 215 To press before thy father to a grave?

PRINCE. Seal up the mouth of outrage²⁵ for a while,

23. **mattock.** Digging tool

24. **liege.** Lord or master

25. **outrage.** Impassioned grief

What other death does
Montague report?

What does Montague
see?

Till we can clear these ambiguities,
And know their spring, their head,²⁶ their true descent,
And then will I be general of²⁷ your woes,
220 And lead you even to death.²⁸ Mean time forbear,
And let mischance be slave to patience.
Bring forth the parties of suspicion.²⁹

FRIAR LAWRENCE. I am the greatest, able to do least,
Yet most suspected, as the time and place
225 Doth make against me, of this direful murder;
And here I stand both to impeach and purge
Myself condemned and myself excus'd.

PRINCE. Then say at once what thou dost know in this.

FRIAR LAWRENCE. I will be brief, for my short date of breath³⁰
230 Is not so long as is a tedious tale.
Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet,
And she, there dead, that Romeo's faithful wife.
I married them, and their stol'n marriage-day
Was Tybalt's dooms-day, whose untimely death
235 Banish'd the new-made bridegroom from this city,
For whom, and not for Tybalt, Juliet pin'd.
You, to remove that siege of grief from her,
Betroth'd and would have married her perforce
To County Paris. Then comes she to me,
240 And with wild looks bid me devise some mean
To rid her from this second marriage,
Or in my cell there would she kill herself.
Then gave I her (so tutor'd by my art)
A sleeping potion, which so took effect
245 As I intended, for it wrought on her
The form of death. Mean time I writ to Romeo,
That he should hither come as³¹ this dire night
To help to take her from her borrowed grave,
Being the time the potion's force should cease.
250 But he which bore my letter, Friar John,
Was stayed by accident, and yesternight
Return'd my letter back. Then all alone,

26. **their spring, their head.** Their source

27. **be general of.** Learn about

28. **death.** The execution of guilty persons

29. **parties of suspicion.** Suspects

30. **my . . . breath.** The little time left to me in this life

31. **as.** On

**words
for
everyday
use**

am • bi • gu • i • ty (am 'bə gyōō ə tē) *n.*, word or statement that is uncertain or unclear. "The ambiguity in your paper makes me wonder which side you're on," wrote the teacher.

de • vise (di vīz) *vt.*, work out or create; plan. The bandits devised a plan to free their leader from jail.

At the prefixed hour of her waking,
 Came I to take her from her kindred's vault,
 255 Meaning to keep her closely at my cell,
 Till I conveniently could send to Romeo.
 But when I came, some minute ere the time
 Of her awakening, here untimely lay
 The noble Paris and true Romeo dead.
 260 She wakes, and I entreated her come forth
 And bear this work of heaven with patience.
 But then a noise did scare me from the tomb,
 And she, too desperate, would not go with me,
 But as it seems, did violence on herself.
 265 All this I know, and to the marriage
 Her nurse is privy; and if aught in this
 Miscarried by my fault, let my old life
 Be sacrific'd some hour before his time,
 Unto the rigor of severest law.
 270 **PRINCE.** We still³² have known thee for a holy man.
 Where's Romeo's man? what can he say to this?
BALTHASAR. I brought my master news of Juliet's death,
 And then in post he came from Mantua
 To this same place, to this same monument.
 275 This letter he early bid me give his father,
 And threat'ned me with death, going in the vault,
 If I departed not and left him there.
PRINCE. Give me the letter, I will look on it.
 Where is the County's page that rais'd the watch?
 280 Sirrah, what made³³ your master in this place?
PAGE. He came with flowers to strew his lady's grave,
 And bid me stand aloof, and so I did.
 Anon comes one with light to ope the tomb,
 And by and by my master drew on him,
 285 And then I ran away to call the watch.³⁴
PRINCE. This letter doth make good the friar's words,
 Their course of love, the tidings of her death;
 And here he writes that he did buy a poison
 Of a poor 'pothecary, and therewithal
 290 Came to this vault, to die and lie with Juliet.
 Where be these enemies? Capulet! Montague!

To what penalty does
 Friar Lawrence offer to
 subject himself?

32. *still.* Always

33. *made.* Wanted, did

34. *watch.* Watchman

See what a scourge is laid upon your hate,
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.
And I for winking at your discords too
295 Have lost a brace³⁵ of kinsmen. All are punish'd.

CAPULET. O brother Montague, give me thy hand.
This is my daughter's jointure,³⁶ for no more
Can I demand.

MONTAGUE. But I can give thee more,
For I will raise her statue in pure gold,
300 That whiles Verona by that name is known,
There shall no figure at such rate be set
As that of true and faithful Juliet.

CAPULET. As rich shall Romeo's by his lady's lie,
Poor sacrifices of our enmity!

305 **PRINCE.** A glooming³⁷ peace this morning with it brings,
The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head.
Go hence to have more talk of these sad things;
Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished:
For never was a story of more woe
310 Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

*Exeunt omnes.*³⁸ ■

35. a brace. Two
36. jointure. Dowry
37. glooming. Gloomy
38. *Exeunt omnes.* Exit all



Respond to the SELECTION

Whom do you feel is to blame for the tragic fate of Romeo and Juliet? Should several people share the blame? Why, or why not?