

Romeo and Juliet



William Shakespeare

The Tragicall Historye of Romeus and Juliet

Arthur Brooke, 1562

ROMEUS AND JULIET: The Argument

Love hath inflaméd twain by sudden sight,
And both do grant the thing that both desire
They wed in shrift by counsel of a friar.
Young Romeus climbs fair Juliet's bower by night.
Three months he doth enjoy his chief delight.
By Tybalt's rage provokéd unto ire,
He payeth death to Tybalt for his hire.
A banished man he 'scapes by secret flight.
New marriage is offered to his wife.
She drinks a drink that seems to reave her breath:
They bury her that sleeping yet hath life.
Her husband hears the tidings of her death.
He drinks his bane. And she with Romeus' knife,
When she awakes, herself, alas! she slay'th.



THE PERFECT PARTNER

A PRE-READING ACTIVITY FOR ROMEO AND JULIET

Parents and children sometimes have different ideas as to who the “perfect” life partner would be. In the space below, consider who you envision as the perfect partner and who you think your parents might choose.

<p>Describe your ideal partner’s appearance:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Describe what you think your parents would want your partner to look like:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Describe some of your ideal partner’s interests:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Describe what you think your parents would want your partner’s interests to be:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Describe your ideal partner’s personality:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>Describe what you think your parents would want your partner’s personality to be like:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

How do you think your parents would react if they didn’t like your partner?

HANDOUT 2

SHAKESPEAREAN INSULT SHEET

Directions: Combineth one word or phrase from each of the columns below and addeth "Thou" to the beginning. Make certain thou knowest the meaning of thy strong words, and thou shalt have the perfect insult to fling at the wretched fools of the opposing team. Let thyself go. Mix and match to find that perfect barb from the bard!

Column A	Column B	Column C
1. bawdy	bunch-backed	canker-blossom
2. brazen	clay-brained	clotpole
3. churlish	dog-hearted	crutch
4. distempered	empty-hearted	cutpurse
5. fitful	evil-eyed	dogfish
6. gnarling	eye-offending	egg-shell
7. greasy	fat-kidneyed	gull-catcher
8. grizzled	heavy-headed	hedge-pig
9. haughty	horn-mad	hempseed
10. hideous	ill-breeding	jack-a-nape
11. jaded	ill-composed	malkin
12. knavish	ill-nurtured	malignancy
13. lewd	iron-witted	malt-worm
14. peevish	lean-witted	manikin
15. pernicious	lily-livered	minimus
16. prating	mad-bread	miscreant
17. purpled	motley-minded	moldwarp
18. queasy	muddy-mettled	nut-hook
19. rank	onion-eyed	pantaloons
20. reeky	pale-hearted	rabbit-sucker
21. roynish	paper-faced	rampallion
22. saucy	pinch-spotted	remnant
23. sottish	raw-boned	rudesby
24. unmuzzled	rug-headed	ruffian
25. vacant	rump-fed	scantling
26. waggish	shag-eared	scullion
27. wanton	shrill-gorged	snipe
28. wenching	sour-faced	waterfly
29. whoreson	weak-hinged	whipster
30. yeasty	white-livered	younker

INSULT HURLER: _____

INSULT:

Thou _____

DEFINITION:

You _____

R&J Lit. Terms

- **setting: a story's time, place, and background**
 - *Romeo and Juliet* probably takes place around 1200 or 1300 A.D., when Italian families were feuding.
- **foreshadowing: events which hint of things to come**
 - Example: In the Prologue to Act 1, the Chorus foreshadows what will happen in the play. One thing that will happen is that a feud will be renewed violently, as "civil blood makes civil hands unclean."
- **oxymoron: bringing together two contradictory terms**
 - Example: In Act 1, Scene 1, line 181, Romeo describes the relationship of love and hate. He says, "O brawling love, O loving hate."
- **allusion: reference to historical or literary figure, event, or object**
 - Example: In Act 1, Scene 1, line 217, Romeo says that Rosaline "hath Dian's wit." He is alluding to Diana, goddess of chastity, who opposed love and marriage. In other words, Rosaline thinks like Diana and will not fall in love with Romeo.
- **imagery: representation in words of a vivid sensory experience**
 - Example: In Act 1, Scene 5, lines 55 and 56, Romeo uses imagery to describe Juliet's beauty when he says, "So shows a dove trooping with crows / As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows."
- **metaphor: an implied comparison between two unlike things, without "like" or "as".**
 - Example: In Act 2, Scene 2, line 3, Romeo uses a metaphor, saying, "Juliet is the sun," meaning that Juliet is bright and beautiful.
- **soliloquy: a speech an actor gives as though talking to himself or herself**
 - Example: Romeo starts his famous soliloquy about Juliet with the words, "But soft, what light through yonder window breaks" (II.ii.2). He is speaking to himself about Juliet.
- **pun/homonym: using words that sound alike but have different meanings to create humor**
 - Example: Mercutio in Act III, when he realizes he has been fatally wounded: grave meaning "serious"...but in this case, dead.

...ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man.
- **aside: words spoken by an actor supposedly heard only by the audience**
 - Example: Romeo uses asides as he is listening to Juliet's soliloquy in Act 2, Scene 2. In line 27, he says, "She speaks." He is not talking to Juliet, the only other person on stage. Only the audience is intended to hear this line.

R&J Lit. Terms

- **hyperbole: a figure of speech in which the truth is exaggerated for emphasis or humorous effect**
 - Example: In Act 2, Scene 2, line 140, Juliet says that her “bounty is as boundless as the sea.” In other words, she says what she has to offer Romeo is wider than the ocean.
- **simile: a direct comparison of unlike things using “like” or “as”**
 - Example: In Act 2, Scene 6, lines 8-10, Friar Lawrence uses a simile to warn Romeo about being too passionate too soon:

*“These violent delights have violent ends
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,
Which, as they kiss, consume.”*
- **personification: when a non-human is given human characteristics**
 - Example: Romeo says: "Arise, fair sun and kill the envious moon"
- **dramatic irony, a situation where the reader knows more than the characters do**
 - Lady Capulet's misunderstanding of Juliet's feelings is ironic. She believes Juliet is "evermore weeping for [her] cousin's death," when she sees her sorrow. The reader knows she's weeping for Romeo.
- **sonnet: a form of poetry invented in Italy, has 14 lines with a specific rhyme scheme.**
 - William Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets.
 - The topic of most sonnets written in Shakespeare's time is love—or a theme related to love.
- **dramatic foil: a pair of opposite characters**
 - Example:
 - Romeo is the ultimate "**head in the clouds**" lover. He broods over Rosaline, then he completely loses it over Juliet. He is the incurable romantic.
 - Benvolio is **the voice of reason**. He's the one who tries to remind Romeo that there are other fish in the sea when Romeo is depressed over Rosaline.