

Romeo and Juliet

Act 1

- **S1:** An ancient feud breeds in Verona, where the battle between two families, the 'Capulet's' and the 'Montague's' escalates into fighting on the streets. The Prince, the absolute power in Verona, arrives and stops the riot. He warns everyone that after the recent disturbances of the peace, he is ready to pass a sentence of death on anyone causing further violence. Lady Montague asks Benvolio (Romeo's cousin) if he knows where her son Romeo is. Romeo is afflicted with strange sorrows, and after speaking to him, Benvolio discovers it is caused by love for a woman who does not return his feelings. Benvolio suggests he examines other beauties, but Romeo seems determined to suffer.
 - **S2:** Paris asks Lord Capulet for Juliet's hand in marriage. Capulet believes she is too young to be a wife at just 13, but invites Paris to a feast at his house that night where he may see many young women. Benvolio and Romeo return, with Romeo still expressing his love-sickness. Romeo discovers that Rosaline is invited to the Capulet's feast, and encouraged by Benvolio, Romeo agrees to attend.
 - **S3:** Lady Capulet wants a serious conversation with Juliet about Paris' marriage suit. She urges Juliet to recognise the handsome Paris as a suitable and desirable husband. Servants call everyone to the feast.
 - **S4:** Romeo, Benvolio, Mercutio and other Montague supporters are heading for the Capulet's feast. Mercutio changes the mood from excitement and anticipation, to dark and sombre with his poetic speech ('Queen Mab'). Romeo feels some evil fate awaits him, and they all continue to the party in a sombre mood.
 - **S5:** Servants and musicians make preparations for dancing before Capulet, Juliet and others greet the arriving guests. The guests wear masks so the hosts do not entirely know who they are welcoming. Romeo sees Juliet and is instantly struck by her beauty. His heart feels like he's never loved before and he quickly forgets Rosaline. Meanwhile, Tybalt recognises Romeo and angrily sends for his sword, but Capulet orders Tybalt to do nothing. Furious, Tybalt leaves, vowing revenge. Romeo persuades Juliet to hold his hand, then to kiss, which she does willingly. They fall in love. The party ends and Juliet asks the Nurse if she knows who Romeo is. She is shocked to discover that he is a Montague.
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ACT 1

“Throw your mistemper’d weapons to the ground... three civil brawls, bred of an airy word”

- The Prince of Verona confronts the brawling Capulets and Montagues (S1) -

Personification: ‘mistemper’d weapons’ conveys the passionate anger between both families. Tempered can also refer to steel which has become tough and resilient. This highlights the age old conflict between both families, which shows the stubbornness of both parties which prevails over a sense of rationale and community.

Adjective: ‘airy word’ conveys the trivial nature of the conflict. Their argument has been caused by insignificant remarks and words.

Themes: Conflict/Power/Family

“Younger than she are happy mothers made”

- Paris tries to persuade Lord Capulet into consenting his marriage proposal (S2) –

Noun: Paris’ comment speaks of a general standpoint on the female role. Women are expected to become a wife, mother children and function as the heart of domesticity. For a contemporary audience, this seems like a shocking notion, but this would have been perfectly normal during this era. Paris seems clear on his viewpoint, that happiness comes from this traditional roles.

Themes: Poverty/Family/Time

“Now by the stock and honour of my kin, to strike him dead I hold it not a sin”

- Tybalt’s words as he recognises Romeo at Lord Capulet’s feast (S5) -

Noun: Tybalt’s notion of ‘honour’ is all bound up in the masculine code of revenge: if he doesn’t fight back against Romeo, then his reputation as a man is in danger. He is also concerned with his loyalty to the family conflict. The concern to uphold the superiority of the Capulets name lies within Tybalt’s hands. His feelings go so far as to stating that killing a Montague would not be a ‘sin’ in the eyes of his ancestors.

Themes: Conflict/Family

“A madness most discreet, a choking gall and a preserving sweet.”

– Romeo describes his feelings and emotions towards love (S1) –

Metaphor: ‘madness’ suggests Romeo’s current state of mind. He is overwhelmed and confused with the notion of love; this implies his character is fickle and irrational, as it is not long before he starts professing his love for Juliet.

Metaphor: ‘choking gall’ refers to poison, whereas ‘preserving sweet’ refers to healing. This aptly conveys Romeo’s split emotions, as well as considering that love has both positive and negative dimensions.

Themes: Love/Conflict

“My child is yet a stranger in this world”
“Within her scope of choice lies my consent”

- Capulet recites this to Paris when he requests to marry Juliet (S2) –

Metaphor: Lord Capulet conveys his concern for his daughter’s welfare; he is suggesting she is inexperienced. Despite Juliet being his only heir, he is still protective of her and seems to have her best interests at heart. At this point in the play, it can be argued that he shows qualities of being a good father. He makes a reasonable request that Paris wait a while before marrying Juliet.

Noun: Lord Capulet is giving Paris the opportunity to win Juliet’s heart; he will then give his ‘consent’ to their marriage. He is allowing Juliet a voice – which is quite unusual considering the female’s role in context; this emphasises his modern viewpoint.

Themes: Love/Family/Marriage

“Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight! For I never saw true beauty till this night.”

- Romeo’s words as he observes Juliet for the first time at Lord Capulet’s feast (S5)–

Hyperbole: To ‘forswear’ something is to abandon old habits. When he asks himself the question, he is asking if he truly knew what love was before he met Juliet. This marks a transition in Romeo’s character, as he believes he is now beginning to learn how love really feels.

Meaning that all that went before, all he thought was beautiful until that moment, suddenly was nothing when compared to the beauty in front of him at this moment.

Themes: Love/Fate

Romeo and Juliet

Act 2

- **S1:** Romeo, driven by the burning desire to see Juliet again, climbs into the Capulet's orchard. Benvolio and Mercutio search for him, before returning home. Mercutio speaks cruelly at length about the love he thinks Romeo still has for Rosaline.
 - **S2:** Romeo, hidden in the darkness, delivers a long speech praising Juliet's beauty when she appears on the balcony. Believing herself to be alone and not overheard, she professes her love for Romeo and her sadness that he is a Montague. Romeo reveals himself and the lovers speak. Neither can bear to meet in secret and they exchange vows of absolute, undying devotion. Juliet strikes a notion of caution when she compares their all-consuming love to lightning, which is short lived and dangerous. The Nurse calls for Juliet and her and Romeo reluctantly part.
 - **S3:** After the passions of the previous scene, Friar Lawrence opens S3 with a thoughtful discourse on the power of medicinal herbs and plants that can harm as well as heal. This thoughtfulness is disrupted by Romeo, who tells him of his new passion for Juliet and his desire to marry her. The Friar has been Romeo's friend and confessor for some time, and is confused about Romeo's sudden change of heart. He is amazed that Rosaline can be so soon and completely forgotten. However, he shows a keen political understanding in agreeing to marry them both: he hopes that the marriage will end the feud between the Capulets and the Montagues.
 - **S4:** Mercutio and Benvolio wander the streets of Verona, concerned for Romeo. Tybalt has left a note at Montague's house, challenging Romeo to a duel. Montague is concerned that Tybalt, who is a skilled fighter, will kill Romeo who is too preoccupied to fight. Romeo enters and is more cheerful than he has been for days. Soon after, Juliet's Nurse enters with a servant. She desires some confidence with Romeo. After Mercutio and Benvolio leave, Romeo asks the Nurse to relay to Juliet to information about their marriage plans. The wedding will be that afternoon. The Nurse agrees, but informs Romeo of the Capulet's plans to marry Juliet to Paris.
 - **S5:** Juliet impatiently awaits the Nurse's return with news about Romeo. When she arrives, the Nurse tells Juliet that whilst she does not care much for the boy, she approves of his handsome face and caring nature. She finally tells Juliet everything and Juliet leaves at once for Friar Lawrence's cell.
 - **S6:** Friar Lawrence and Romeo await Juliet's arrival. The Friar cautions Romeo to love moderately. Juliet appears and they exit to undertake the marriage ceremony.
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ACT 2

"He jests at scars that never felt a wound"

- Romeo has just overheard Mercutio making fun of his short-lived passion for Rosaline (S2) -

Metaphor: The 'wound' that Romeo speaks of is the previous pain he felt with Rosaline's unrequited love. He infers that it's easy for someone to make jokes about things they've never experienced. Ironically, Romeo does not have a clear view on love, as his actions are easily led by his spontaneous emotions.

Themes: Love/Conflict

"What's in name? That which we call a rose by any name would smell as sweet"

- Spoken during Juliet's soliloquy on her balcony (S2) -

Metaphor: Juliet is not allowed to associate with Romeo because he is a Montague. If he had any other name it would be allowed and she complains that his name is meaningless. If the 'rose' had any other name it would still be the same. So with Romeo; he would still be the same man even if he had a different name. This seemingly trivial dispute lies at the heart of the play's theme of deception and conflict.

Themes: Love/Conflict

"Within the rind of this weak flower, poison hath residence, and medicinal power"

- Spoken by Friar Lawrence, who is musing over his herbs before Romeo comes to greet him (S3)

Imagery: Friar Lawrence suggests that, depending on how it's used, a flower can be both healing or poisonous. The Friar also muses that people are a lot like the flower he holds in his hand - being full of both "grace" and "rude will," human beings also have the capacity to be good or deadly.

Metaphor: His observations are key to the plot, as Romeo and Juliet's love turns deadly when it's "poisoned" by their family's hateful feud. At the same time, their love also has the capacity to heal, which becomes evident when their parents decide to reconcile at the play's end.

Themes: Death/Conflict/Love

"O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon that monthly changes"

- Juliet's words to Romeo as he professes his love (S3)

Metaphor: Juliet tells Romeo not to swear their love on the moon. The moon constantly changes: sometimes it's full, sometimes it's half there, and sometimes it's completely gone. This mirrors the transitions taking place in Romeo's character and also shows Juliet as a character of wisdom and propriety: she shows concern by the sudden power of her and Romeo's love and fears that it will burn itself out. This line provides an element of foreshadowing as it alludes to the outside forces which can influence an individual's situation.

Themes: Love/Marriage/Fate/Light and Dark

"If ye should lead her into a fool's paradise [...] deal double with her, a very weak dealing"

- The Nurse expresses her concerns to Romeo for Juliet's welfare (S5) -

Metaphor: The 'fool's paradise' refers to a state of happiness based on a person not knowing or denying the existence of potential trouble. The Nurse is arguably more protective of Juliet than her own mother as she foregrounds her emotions as the most important thing, whereas Lady Capulet has previously persuaded Juliet to marry Paris for gain of status. This also shows the Nurse as a much more lowly character; she is aware of the ... of young gentlemen ('deal double' means to seduce blindly) and is not naïve to the motivations of sexual and seduction.

Themes: Family/Desire/Conflict

"These violent delights have violent ends [...] triumphs die like fire and powder"

- Spoken by Friar Lawrence in response to Romeo's request that he should hurriedly conduct R&J's marriage (S6)-

Simile: Friar Lawrence suggests that the couple's fiery and aggressive passion would end just as savagely as it had begun, implying that this great desire for each other would suddenly die at its pinnacle, just as fire and gunpowder do. The one ignites the other, and the burst they create exists for a brief but profound period and then quickly fizzles out. The friar advises Romeo to love in moderation since this is the quality of an enduring love.

Foreshadowing: Friar Lawrence's observations once again allude to the future events, which shows both lovers meeting a 'violent' end. The short marriage scene (act 6) reflects the haste of their relationship so far.

Themes: Love/Fate/Conflict/Light and Dark

Romeo and Juliet

Act 3

- **S1:** Mercutio and Benvolio are again walking the streets of Verona. Benvolio senses that a brawl could erupt any moment and shortly after, sees the Capulets approaching. He knows a confrontation is inevitable. Tybalt asks where he can find Romeo. At that moment, Romeo appears and expresses that he has no wish to fight. Mercutio, unaware of why Romeo is reluctant to fight, continues to goad Tybalt who draws his sword. They fight and Mercutio is stabbed. Benvolio takes Mercutio to a nearby house, returning moments later to say that he is dead. Romeo is crushed by the realisation that Mercutio is dead, and when Tybalt re-enters, Romeo attacks him furiously. Within moments, Tybalt is dead. As his rage subsides, Romeo realises that he has destroyed his chances of happiness: he has shown his fatal flaw. Lady Capulet demands that the Prince pass a death sentence on Romeo. Hearing different appeals, the Prince decides that Romeo should not be executed but instantly banishes. If he returns, he will be killed.
 - **S2:** Juliet, unaware of what has happened, longs for Romeo. The Nurse brings the dreadful news about Tybalt's death and Romeo's banishment. Juliet battles between her loyalties but quickly forgives Romeo, realising that he acted in self-defence. She claims that she cannot live without Romeo and this quickly ends her allegiance with her family. The Nurse promises to bring Romeo to Juliet to celebrate their wedding night.
 - **S3:** Romeo hides in Friar Lawrence's cell and hears the news that he is banished from Verona. He is appalled that his own violent actions have separated him from Juliet. The Nurse arrives at the cell and Romeo asks her if Juliet hates him for killing her cousin. The Nurse explains that Juliet weeps for Romeo. Both Friar Lawrence and the Nurse encourage Romeo to risk Capulet's anger and go to Juliet's bed to consummate their marriage. Then, before dawn, Romeo should flee to Mantua. The Friar will send him regular news. Romeo and the Nurse head for Capulet's house.
 - **S4:** Meanwhile, Capulet, Lady Capulet and Paris are discussing Juliet's distress, which they believe to be caused by Tybalt's death. Capulet decides the best remedy for her grief is to marry Paris the following Thursday.
 - **S5:** Romeo and Juliet spend a secret evening together at the Capulet's house. When dawn comes, they must part. Juliet cannot bear Romeo leaving and tries to convince him that the night is not yet over. The Nurse warns that Lady Capulet is coming and Romeo escapes through the window, reassuring Juliet that they will be united. Lady Capulet enters and brings the news that she will be married to Paris the following Thursday. She is stunned when Juliet refuses. Capulet, hearing her refusal, is furious at her disobedience. He threatens to disown her and throw her onto the streets before exiting.
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"A plague on both your houses! They have made worms meat of me"

- Mercutio's last words after he is slain during the battle with Tybalt (S2) -

Metaphor: Mercutio curses the Montague's and the Capulet's with the figurative 'plague'. This line is repeated three times throughout the scene to indicate the severity of his anger. As the play develops, love and loss is experienced from both families as a direct result of their conflict; although the Montagues and Capulets were only wishing harm on the opposite side, their feud harmed them both equally.

Metaphor: Mercutio has been mortally wounded, and will therefore become food for the 'worms' (a buried corpse).

Themes: Love/Conflict/Fate/Death

"Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical!"

- Spoken by Juliet after hearing that Romeo has killed Tybalt (S2) -

Oxymoron: Juliet's contrasting image presents Romeo as both good and evil, linking back to Friar Lawrence's message about humans possessing both 'grace' and 'rude will'.

Metaphor: 'tyrant' implies someone who takes over. In regards to Romeo, he has taken over Juliet's heart and emotions. Similarly, 'fiend' projects Romeo as an evil spirit, yet Juliet is torn between loving and hating him.

Themes: Death/Conflict

"Thy noble shape is but a form of wax, digressing from the form of a man"

- Friar Lawrence's words to Romeo as he is in a state of despair (S3) -

Metaphor: 'Wax' portrays Romeo as fluid and impressionable. Friar Lawrence is encouraging Romeo to 'be a man' and remain composed during such a difficult time. This quote can be read in multiple ways; it refers to Romeo's key hamartia; his irrational and spontaneous emotions which spiral out of control - in this case, his vulnerable temper and rage which has led to the death of Tybalt.

Themes: Conflict/Fate

"'Tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door, but 'tis enough"

- Mercutio describes the wounds he has gained in battle with Tybalt (S2) -

Simile: Mercutio maintains that fate has not killed him, but Romeo's intervention with Tybalt has led to his death. Despite his wounds being small and somewhat insignificant on the outside, it runs deeper; similarly, the metaphorical wounds that run through the Montagues and the Capulets are ingrained in history and have mortal consequences.

Themes: Conflict/Death

"Thou cut my head off with a golden axe, and smile upon the stroke that murders me"

- Spoken by Romeo when he is sentenced to banishment (S3) -

Metaphor: the 'golden axe' refers to the actions taken by the Prince. Romeo is adamant that banishment is no better than death, as this creates a divide between him and Juliet. In his opinion, banishment is equally fatal.

Themes: Death/Conflict

"Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender of my child's love; I think she will be rul'd in all respects by me"

- Spoken by Romeo when he is sentenced to banishment (S4) -

Metaphor: A "tender" is an offer; Capulet's offer of Juliet's love is "desperate" because he has made the offer without knowing how Juliet feels about Paris. But the more common meaning of "desperate" is "reckless" which is pertinent as Capulet doesn't think before he speaks. However, once Capulet makes the offer he quickly becomes quite sure that he can follow through. He first thinks Juliet will obey him, then he has no doubt that she will. This highlights the fraught relationship between father and daughter; Capulet uses the opportunity of Tybalt's death to exploit his daughter in her so-called 'grieving' state.

Themes: Family/Conflict/Marriage

"Speak not, reply not, do not answer me"
"Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!"

- Lord Capulet's anger towards Juliet as she refuses to marry Paris (S5) -

Context: In contrast to Capulet's words in Act 1, he no longer allows her a 'voice'. He acts volatile towards her in response to her refusal. He is stripping her of free speech and choice, which situates him at the top of the patriarchal structure in the family.

Hyperbole: His anger is paramount at this point, as he no longer addresses Juliet by her name, but as a 'disobedient wretch'. He now describes her as 'baggage', rather than a source of 'hope', as he did in Act 1.

Themes: Conflict/Family/Marriage

Romeo and Juliet

Act 4

- **S1:** Paris discusses his marriage to Juliet with Friar Lawrence. The Friar feels that he does not know the young lady's mind well enough to marry her. He suggests to Paris that Capulet is keen to see Juliet married only because she is too affected by Tybalt's murder. Juliet arrives and is polite but cool towards Paris, who leaves, assuming Juliet is there to confess her sins. Juliet and the Friar discuss what can be done to save her from marrying Paris. The Friar proposes a dangerous plan. He has a potion that will make her appear dead for forty-two hours, during which she will be interred into a crypt. While she lies sealed, Friar Lawrence will send word to Romeo. He will return to Verona and free Juliet and they will live in Mantua, away from the Prince and their feuding families. Juliet approves and takes the potion home.
 - **S2:** The Capulets are busy planning a huge event to celebrate the forthcoming marriage between Juliet and Paris. Juliet speaks with her father, who is happily anticipating the wedding. Juliet apologises for her disobedience. Capulet advances the wedding to the next morning. Juliet is horrified, but does not let her parents suspect the danger that this advance causes: will Romeo get word in time to release her when she wakes in the crypt?
 - **S3:** Juliet asks to be left alone to pray. In a lengthy, poetic soliloquy, she expresses her thoughts and fears about what she intends to do. She imagines waking in the crypt, next to Tybalt's mutilated body. We see how the awful prospect of being 'buried alive' is for the young girl, yet love for Romeo overcomes these fears and she drinks the potion.
 - **S4:** The Capulet household is preparing for the wedding. Juliet's parents are happy. Music announces the arrival of the bridegroom.
 - **S5:** The Nurse goes to wake Juliet and realises that she is dead. Lady Capulet, then Capulet, rush in, then Friar Lawrence and Paris. The Friar gives a speech urging everyone to dry their tears, for though Juliet may never be married, she is 'advanced high as heaven itself'. He does not show panic at realising Juliet has 'died' a day earlier than planned and conceals his guilt at the pain his plan has caused for others.
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ACT 4

"The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade [...] like death when he shuts up the day of life"

- Friar Lawrence explains to Juliet how the potion will work (S1) -

Imagery: The 'rose' of Juliet's lips refers to the colour. A rose symbolises beauty, and the Friar emphasises how Juliet's beauty will be the first thing that will leave her. Colour is utilised here, as the 'light' in Juliet's complexion will fade and dim, alluding to her death.

Personification: Death is personified and shown as an entity that has the ability to control her state. Although this is just a simulation of death, the notion haunts Friar Lawrence's speech as another form of foreshadowing.

Themes: Love/Conflict/Light and Dark

"Where for this many hundred years the bones of all my ancestors are packed"

- Spoken by Juliet as she deliberates over the plan to fake her death (S3) –

Imagery: Juliet's fears conjure up powerful images of death and decay. Overall, she presents a contrast to Romeo as she deliberates over situations more than he does. Despite this, her love for Romeo proves more significant than any concerns she has. The fears are ironical, as this is indeed how her fate plays out. Ancestry is key to the conflict throughout the play: the historical bloodlines of both the Montagues and the Capulets have presumably cost lives and Juliet fears that this conflict will situate her firmly with others who have met the same fate.

Themes: Death/Conflict/Fate

"The heavens do lour upon you for some ill;
Move them no more by crossing their high will"

- Friar Lawrence's words as he is taken to Juliet's chamber. She has drunk the poison he has administered (S5) -

Dramatic irony: Friar Lawrence is implying that it was meant for Juliet to pass away that day and it had been decided by the heavens. He gives them a small threat by stating that the heavens are aware of their sins, so they must not resist to follow his instructions to prepare for the funeral, for they would not want to furthermore disturb the heavens by disrupting its will. The audience are aware that fate has not yet intervened with Romeo and Juliet – her death is the product of a concocted plan.

Friar Lawrence is in fact concerned about the interference with his own plan.

Themes: Death/Fate/Deception

"My heart is wondrous light, since this same wayward girl is so reclaimed"

- Lord Capulet's relief as Juliet apologises and (falsely) agrees to marry Paris (S2) –

Noun: Light suggests the opposite of heavy, showing how the 'baggage' and burden of Juliet's disobedience has been removed. In addition, light connotes a sense of hope and new perspective, which Capulet believes Juliet has gained.

Dramatic irony: The audience are aware of Juliet's pretence, even though Lord Capulet is not. There is irony as he describes Juliet as 'reclaimed'. He believes she is back under the control of him, yet she is claimed in another sense, by her marriage to Romeo.

Themes: Love/Conflict/Family

"Death lies on her lips like an untimely frost upon the sweetest flower of all the field"

- Spoken by Lord Capulet when Juliet's body is discovered (S5) –

Personification: 'death' has made its mark on Juliet, and just as Friar Lawrence predicted, Juliet's lips have lost their colour. The imagery of flowers is utilised further, as Capulet notes her as 'the sweetest'. The use of the word 'frost' alludes that it may not be a permanent state, as frost melts with heat and warmth.

Adjective: 'untimely' is used in an ironic sense, as this suggests it is unpredictable and out of the blue. As Capulet alludes to the death of his young daughter as being a tragedy, in Juliet's eyes, her future with Romeo is just beginning.

Themes: Death

"Flower as she was, deflowered by him [...] death is my son-in-law, death is my heir"

- Spoken by Lord Capulet when Juliet's body is discovered (S5)–

Personification: Lord Capulet is haunted by the idea of death taking possession of his daughter. There is the animated image of death in an abject portrayal; 'deflowering' has sexual connotations, further emphasising Juliet's assumed innocence and purity. In addition, death has taken away his Juliet which is his 'heir'. Through this line, the audience can see that Capulet disregards the emotional loss of a daughter, but instead fixates on the loss of wealth and loss of an "heir".

- **Dramatic irony:** Despite Capulet suggesting 'death' as his son-in-law, he is still not aware of her marriage and consummation with Romeo.

Themes: Death/Conflict/Family

Romeo and Juliet

Act 5

- **S1:** In Mantua, Romeo is waiting for news of Juliet. He greets Balthasar excitedly, asking three questions without waiting for a reply. Balthasar eventually tells him that Juliet is dead and interred at the Capulet's tomb. Not until Balthasar leaves, does Romeo reveal that he will buy poison, return to Verona and himself to join Juliet in death. Romeo calls for the apothecary and demands poison.
 - **S2:** Back in Verona, Friar John reports that he has been unable to deliver the vital message to Romeo. Plague has broken out, restricting travel. Friar Lawrence sends John to find a crowbar so they can pry open the tomb, for there are only three hours until Juliet will awake. Friar Lawrence plans to hide Juliet in his cell until Romeo can be reached.
 - **S3:** Paris stands, genuinely grief-stricken, before the Capulet tomb. Romeo and Balthasar enter with a torch and tools. Romeo hands Balthasar a letter to deliver to Lord Montague in the morning. He opens the tomb and tells Balthasar to leave, but sensing Romeo's desperate mood, hides in the shadows. Paris, who blames Romeo for causing Juliet's death by murdering Tybalt, challenges him to a duel. Romeo warns Paris to leave: he does not want another death on his conscience. Paris attacks and Romeo is forced to fight. He mortally wounds Paris. Paris asks Romeo to place his body beside Juliet's. Romeo carries Paris into the crypt, where he sees his beloved Juliet. Romeo bids a long farewell to his young bride, drinks the potion, and kissing Juliet, falls dead. Friar Lawrence rushes into the crypt to find Romeo dead and Juliet waking. She asks where Romeo is: Friar Lawrence has to tell her the horrible truth. Watchmen are approaching but Juliet refuses to go and the Friar, afraid for his own life, runs outside. Juliet sees the poison in Romeo's hand and drinks, but there is none left. She kisses Romeo, hoping that some poison remains on her lips, but she still lives. Desperate to die, she stabs herself with Romeo's dagger and falls onto his body. The Watchmen capture Balthasar and Friar Lawrence, as the Prince, the Capulets and Lord Montague arrive. The Friar recounts the whole tragic story, and the feuding families realise that their hate has killed their children. They vow to end their feud.
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"See what scourge is laid upon your hate, that heaven finds means to kill your joys with love!"

- Prince's final words to Capulet at the scene of Romeo, Juliet and Paris' death (S3) –

Noun: The prince states that they are being punished 'scourged' for their hate. God has punished them for their 'airy' conflicts, by allowing those they love to be killed. Everyone has been punished for their mistakes. By 'loving' something, you open yourself up as vulnerable. This is poignant, for the love shared by Romeo and Juliet ultimately ends their lives because they have been afraid to reveal this love.

Themes: Love/Death/Fate/Conflict

"I dreamt my lady found me dead [...] and breathed such life with kisses in my lips"

- Spoken by Romeo who is in Mantua, awaiting 'joyful news' from the Friar (S1) -

Foreshadowing: Romeo's vivid dreams pre-empt devastating news from Verona, brought to Romeo by Balthazar and the death of Romeo himself later on in the play. The significance lies in how Juliet does not revive him, but they secure their fate together in death.

Themes: Love/Death/Fate

"Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death [...] I enforce thy rotten jaws to open"

- Romeo's words as he forces open the Capulet crypt(S3) –

Metaphor: The resting place of Juliet, the grave, becomes a "maw" or mouth that eats the dead, and Romeo threatens to force more food into that mouth by his act of suicide.

Personification: Death becomes animated into a human shape. Romeo tracks through the mouth, the stomach and the womb. The 'womb' - the place where Juliet is buried is also the place which produces life. This, again, alludes to the dramatic irony of the scene, as Juliet resting place is a temporary marking before her future with Romeo was to begin.

Themes: Death/Fate

"For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes this vault a feasting presence full of light"

- Romeo's words as he witnesses Juliet in the Capulet's vault (S3) -

Imagery: For Romeo, the comparison to Juliet to light is effective in communicating his own feelings towards Juliet. Juliet has represented light in several ways. Romeo seeks to find his way out of the melancholy he feels with Rosaline. This state of darkness is illuminated with Juliet. When Romeo pursues her, she serves as the "light" for him that guides him through the dark of night. This line is particularly poignant because her 'light' still shines and has the power to illuminate in the darkest of places (the crypt).

Love/Death/Light and Dark

"Her body sleeps in Capel's monument and her immortal part with angels live "

- Balthazar delivers the news of Juliet's death to Romeo (S1) –

Dramatic irony: Balthazar uses the phrase 'sleep' as a polite and sensitive way to break the news to Romeo. The audience are aware that indeed Juliet is merely sleeping. Shakespeare uses double meanings at the pinnacle moments of tension to further frustrate the plot and events, emphasising how the individual is not in control of their fate.

Imagery: Juliet is heralded as angel; she is the epitome of purity and innocence even in her presumed death.

Themes: Death/Fate

"Suspecting that we both were in a house where the infectious pestilence did reign"

- Friar John explains that the outbreak of plague did not allow him to travel to Mantua and deliver the important letter (S2) –

Metaphor: Friar John describes the plague outbreak as a 'infectious pestilence'. This can also relate to the conflict throughout Verona and how it has been a source of disease and disorder. It has led to the death of Tybalt, Mercutio and will eventually lead to the death of Paris, Romeo and Juliet. There is a sense that Verona has people trapped; similar to the mind set of the Montagues and the Capulets who cannot escape their violent history. Fate comes into play, suggesting that Romeo and Juliet were doomed from the outset.

Themes: Death/Conflict/Fate

"Haply some poison yet doth hang on them, to make me die with a restorative"

- Spoken by Juliet as she awakens to find Romeo's dead body (S3)–

Metaphor: Juliet does not hesitate to follow Romeo into death. Poison, to her, is like a medicine, a "restorative" that could bring her back together with Romeo. Death is now the only remedy for her pain. To die and be reunited with Romeo would be relieving the pain of grief and heartbreak. In addition, this line is comparable to Friar Lawrence's discourse of double meanings in Act 2 S3.

Themes: Love/Fate/Death