In both "Romeo and Juliet" and "West Side Story," the central romantic pairs, Tony and Maria, and Romeo and Juliet, respectively, embody the purity and tragedy of youthful love. Despite the different cultural settings, these characters share an impulsive and intense affection that ultimately leads to their tragic ends. While Romeo and Juliet's relationship is set against the backdrop of familial feuds, Tony and Maria's love story unfolds amidst ethnic tensions between rival gangs (Ref-f424547). Similarly, Riff and Mercutio serve as the spirited, loyal friends whose fates are intricately tied to the protagonists. Their deaths, along with those of Tybalt and Bernardo, catalyze the ensuing chaos, highlighting the destructive nature of vengeance and hostility—central themes in both narratives (Ref-f424547). These character parallels underscore how each work reflects the universality of love and conflict, yet adapts these elements to their unique contexts.