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Suicide

Is it believable that warning signs for teenage suicide have stayed the same for centuries? Believe it or not, warning signs for those contemplating suicide have not changed for over 450 years. For example, Romeo and Juliet showed many warning signs before they both committed suicide throughout their play *Romeo and Juliet.* “Suicide now is the second leading cause of death among adolescents. (Komaroff, 1023)” Teen suicide warning signs are the same today as they were back in the Shakespearean time of Romeo and Juliet.

There are many signs one many show before they try or succeed to commit suicide. “Studies show that 4 out of 5 teen suicide attempts have been preceded by clear warning signs. (Teen Suicide)” “Some of these signs include disinterest in favorite activities, problems at school, substance abuse, withdraw from family and friends, risk taking behavior, changes in eating habits, change in appearance, and/or acting sad or depressed. (Teen suicide) “Also someone who is contemplating suicide may give verbal hints such as, “I wish I could die” or “I want to kill myself.” (Teen Suicide)”

Also there are many indications in a teenager’s personality or things that may have happened in their lifetime that puts them at a greater risk of becoming suicidal. “A few risk factors for teenage suicide consist of being an impulsive person, being abandoned by a boyfriend or girlfriend, being a perfectionist, suffering from disorders that affect emotions or behavior, and/or making a previous suicide attempt. (Moragne, 69-72)”

In the famous play *Romeo and Juliet* there are many clear warning signs of suicide leading up to the death of Romeo and Juliet. “Both Romeo and Juliet engaged in risk taking behavior, risk taking behavior is a big sign of suicide. (Teen Suicide)” “Romeo was being very unwittingly risky when he snuck into the Capulet garden to talk to Juliet out on her balcony in act two, scene two. (Shakespeare, 971-977)” “Also in act three scene one Romeo toke place in more risk taking behavior when he fought and killed Juliet’s cousin Tybalt. (Shakespeare 996)” “Romeo and Juliet both toke big risks when they got married to each other despite their families’ coral in act two scene six. (Shakespeare 989-990)” “Juliet acted risky when she drunk the potion that would make her sleep even though her father ruined her plan. (Shakespeare 1024-1026)” “In act five scene one Romeo decided to go back to Verona in spite of the fact that he had been banished just days before, clearly taking place is risk taking behavior. (Shakespeare 1036)” “Risk taking behavior is a warning sign of suicide, and both Romeo and Juliet took place in risk taking behavior before they both committed suicide. (Teen Suicide)”

“Being impulsive is a risk factor that puts a person at risk for becoming suicidal. (Teen Suicide)” Both Romeo and Juliet are very impulsive and do not think their thoughts through, this puts them at risk of committing suicide. “Romeo was being impulsive when he fell in love extremely quickly in act one scene five. In line 50 and 51 Romeo said, “Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight! For I ne’er saw true beauty till this night.” This is being impulsive because Romeo is stating he loves Juliet even though this is only his first time seeing her. (Shakespeare 963)” “In act two scene two Juliet and Romeo were both being impulsive when they quickly decided to marry even though they just met each other. (Shakespeare 975-976)” “Romeo acted impulsively when he decided to kill himself as soon as he heard of Juliet’s alleged death in act five scene one. (Shakespeare 1034-1036)” “Juliet was being impulsive when she decided to take the potion despite not having a plan without even pondering what could happen. (Shakespeare 1024-1026)” Romeo and Juliet should have thought things through more before doing unwise decisions.

There are many verbal hints that Romeo and Juliet both said that show they may have been suicidal. “Verbal hints are a obvious sign of suicide and should never be ignored. (Teen Suicide)” “Juliet said in act four scene one that she would kill herself if Friar Lawrence would not give her a plan. (Shakespeare 1020)” “In act four scene four Juliet said that she would rather die than marry Paris. (Shakespeare 1026)” “Romeo said that banishment from Verona is worse than death. (Shakespeare 1003)” “Juliet again gave verbal hint when she threatend to kill herself in act three scene two. (Shakespeare 1000)” Romeo and Juliet both gave many verbal hints that endicate that they were suicidal.

“Acting sad or depressed is a major sign one may see in a person who is suicidal. (Teen Suicide)” Both Romeo and Juliet acted very sad at many points in the play. “The first time Romeo acted depressed was in act one scene one, Romeo was very sad because Rosaline did not love him. (Shakespeare 947-950)” “Then in act three scene two Juliet acted depressed because she was upset about Romeo’s banishment from Verona. (Shakespeare 1000-1002)” “Romeo is again acting extremly sad when he gets banished from Verona in act three scene three. (Shakepeare 1003)” Juliet and Romeo both showed that they were depressed which is a common sign of suicide.

William Shakespeare is one of the greatest writers of American Literature, and will still be popular for many more years to come. Shakespeare is such a great writer because he unterstands the feelings of teenagers and signs they might show when approaching death by suicide. This is why his work has stayed around for the past 450 years! It is simply amazing that the warning signs Romeo and Juliet showed before commiting suicide are still shown today in teens. Teen suicide warning signs are the same today as they were back in the Shakespearean time of Romeo and Juliet.

Works Cited

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