

Romeo and Juliet: Themes and Motifs Organiser

THEMES	EXAMPLES
The Danger of Hasty Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What you say to my suit?” (1.2.6) • Page 52: 51-60 Romeo forgets about his love, Rosaline and falls in love with Juliet the moment he sees her. • Page 57: 104-107 At Romeo and Juliet’s first meet, Romeo asks Juliet to kiss him. • Juliet says that everything is just going “too rash” (2.2.123-131) • “Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow” (2.2.151) • “That thou consent to marry us today.” (2.3.68) • “O, let us hence. I stand on sudden haste” (2.3.100) • Juliet sends the nurse to Romeo in order to talk Romeo about their marriage. She is really impatient. (Act 2 Scene 4) • “These violent delights have violent ends” (2.6.9) • “And bring in cloudy night immediately.” (3.2.4) • “Well Wednesday is too soon. O’ Thursday let it be...She shall be married...Do you like this haste?...What say you to Thursday?” (3.4.23-31) • “My father Capulet will have it so, and I am nothing to slack his haste” (4.1.2-3) • “I’ll have this knot knit up tomorrow morning.” (4.2.25) • “Go, Nurse. Go with her. We’ll to church tomorrow” (4.2.38) • “Go awaken Juliet. Go and trim her up...make haste, I say.” (4.4.29-32)
Power of Tragic Fate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “From forth the fatal lions of these two foes.” (Prologue 1 Line 5) • “A pair of star-crossed lovers takes their life.” the stars have a way of controlling fate. (Prologue 1 Line 7) • “Death marked love” It has already been decided that Romeo and Juliet’s love is going to lead their lives towards death. (Prologue Line 9) • “Earth hath swallowed all of my hopes but she” (1.2.14-15) • “Some consequence hanging in the starts” (fate through astrology) Romeo predicts that something bad is about to happen which will result in his own death. (1.4.114) • “Alike bewitched by the charm of good looks” (Prologue 2 Line 6) • Romeo’s intension was to stop the fight between Tybalt and Mercutio, but instead it ends up in Mercutio and Tybalt’s death. (Act 3 Scene1) • “A plague o’ both your houses” (3.1.94) • “This day’s black fate on more days doth depend.” (3.1.124) • After Romeo kills Tybalt, he says “O, I am a Fortune’s fool!” He get really mad at himself for doing this (3.1.142) • “Immediately we do exile him” The prince makes his decision to banish Romeo from Verona and not kill him (3.1.197) • “O Fortune, Fortune, all men call thee fickle...send him back” (3.5.59-64) • “Is it e’ en so?-Then I deny you, stars!” Romeo curses his fate. (5.1.25) • “Unhappy fortune!” (5.3.17) • “That heaven finds mean to kill your joys with love” (5.3.303)
Forcefulness of Passion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 17: Romeo is forcing himself away from the society and it’s only because of his love, Rosaline. • Page 25: 221-222: Romeo is ready to give money to Rosaline to love him.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 65: 13-14 they meet each other because love gives them power. • “But passion leads them to power, time mean, to” Love would make them go to all extremes. (Prologue 2 Line 13-14) • Romeo rushes over to Juliet’s abbey just to seek her love. He is risking his life even though he knows he can be killed by the Capulets. (Act 2 Scene 2) • If Romeo agrees to marry Juliet; she will be ready to give up her name, family and identity. (2.2.41-46) • Romeo is willing to take risks for love even if his life would be in danger. (2.2.75) • Although Romeo kills Juliet’s cousin, Tybalt, Juliet forgives him. “But wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin? That villain cousin would have killed my husband” (Act 3 Scene2) • “There on the ground, with his own tears made drunk” Romeo is crying because he can’t see Juliet anymore. He even tries to kill himself. (3.3.90) • “Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee tonight.” (5.1.37) • “Let me have a dram of poison...from fatal cannon’s womb” Romeo is going to poison himself because he thinks Juliet is dead (5.3.174-1.75) • “O, happy dagger, this is thy sheath. There rust, and let die.” (5.3.174-175)
The Struggle of Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite ‘foe’ and ‘fearful hooks’ they will time to meet as “passion lends them power” Despite being powerless youth, they will find ways to meet & thus navigate around the social convections [conflict of youth vs. society]

MOTIFS	EXAMPLES
Love/Sex and Violence Contracting Imagery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs” • “A chocking gall, and a preserving sweet” • “Why then, O brawling love, O loving hate, O anything of nothing, O heavy lightness” (1.1.181-183) • “I am too sore enpeirced with his shaft” (1.4.19) • “It is too rough, too rude, too boist’ rous, and it pricks like thorns” (1.4.25-26) • “For I ne’er saw true beauty till this night...Fetch my rapier, boy” Tybalt’s words after Romeo sees Juliet. (1.5.60-62) • “If he be married my grave is like to be my death bed.” (1.5.148-149) • “Now old desire doth in his deathbed lie.” (Prologue 1 Line 1) • “My life were better ended by their hate than prorogued, wanting of thy love.” (2.2.81-83) • “love-devouring death” (2.6.7) • Juliet talks about her wedding night and then the nurse enters; she tells Juliet about Tybalt’s death and Romeo’s banishment. (Act 3 Scene 3) • “I dreamt my lady came and fond me dead...and breathed such life with kisses in my lips that I revived and was an emperor...love’s shadows are so rich in joy!” (5.1.6-12) • “The heaven finds mean to kill your joys with love” (5.3.303)
Light and Darkness Contrasting Imagery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Many a morning hath he there been seen...but all so soon as the all cheering sun” (1.1.134-137) • “At my poor house...behold this night...stars make dark heaven light” (1.2.24-25) • “O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright...cheek of night” (1.5.51-52)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon” (2.2.4)• “The brightness of her cheek would shame those starts...that birds sing and think it were not night” (2.2.19-22)• “The gray-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night” (2.3.1)• “Gallop apace...bring in cloudy night immediately...and may not wear them” (3.2.1-33)• “Come, thou day in night” (3.2.17-18)• “it’s not yet near day. It was the nightingale, and not the lark...it was the lark, the herald of the moon...thou need’st not to be gone” (3.4.1-16)• “More light and light, more dark and dark our woes.” (3.5.36)• “This vault a feasting presence full of light by a dead man interred.” (3.5.86-87)
Contrast of Comedy and Tragedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mercutio mocking Benvolio saying he fights for stupid reasons. After a while, Mercutio fights Tybalt for no reason and end up killed in the fight.