

# Lord Capulet

## Key Themes

- Chance/fate
- Youth
- Individuals vs society
- Family vs duty
- Violence
- Love

## Key Words/Phrases

- Symbol of patriarchal (male-dominated) and hierarchical power
- Unchecked pride
- Oppressive (cruel treatment)
- Tyrannical (cruel/oppressive)
- Villainous (villain)
- Cruel indifference (doesn't care about Juliet)
- Adheres to social conventions and fulfilling of one's duties
- Sacrifices Juliet's well-being
- Laments (feels grief)
- Remorseful (guilt)
- Futility (pointlessness) of familial feuds

## Shakespeare's intentions

- Shakespeare constructs Lord Capulet to symbolise the **patriarchal and hierarchical structure of Elizabethan society**. Shakespeare compels the audience to confront the oppressive nature of patriarchal systems and the toll they exact on individual lives.
- Lord Capulet's **grief-stricken outburst** after Juliet's death is created by Shakespeare to deliver a powerful message about the **destructive nature of pride and hatred**. The audience are forced to acknowledge the **destructive power** of feuds and the importance of valuing compassion over hatred.

## “Hang, beg, starve, die”, Act 3

### Link to main key themes:

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## Analysis

- **Asyndetic listing (using commas in a list instead of and):** Lord Capulet’s venomous anger towards Juliet’s **disobedience** in marrying Paris is shown through “*hang, beg, starve, die*”. The **asyndeton** intensifies his fury as he is so enraged, he can only think to utter violent insults at Juliet.
- His resort to verbal abuse, signals a stark departure from the **tenderness** he once showed Juliet in Act 1. Instead, he displays **cruel indifference** (doesn’t care about her), portraying him as having a **tyrannical** (cruel/oppressive) demeanour.
- **Patriarchy (male-dominated society):** Lord Capulet symbolises the **patriarchal and hierarchical structure of Elizabethan society**, where fathers held authority over their daughters and used their marriages to enhance their own social and financial standing. Juliet's refusal was an **assault on the patriarchy and a gross revolt** (action against) **against the natural order of society**.
- This conflict highlights the **conflict between adhering to social conventions and fulfilling one’s duty**. Lord Capulet, consumed by duty and societal expectations, clings to these conventions even if it means sacrificing his daughter's well-being.

"Death lies on her like an untimely frost / Upon the sweetest flower of all the field." Act 4

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### Analysis

- **Connotation of "flower":** "*flower*" has connotations of **delicacy and fragility** (easily broken), emphasising Lord Capulet's sorrow over the **fragility of Juliet's life** in her death. The **superlative** "*sweetest*" further illustrates Juliet's exceptional innocence and purity, suggesting that she was the **epitome** (perfect example) of sweetness and beauty among all children.
- However, despite her delicate nature, Lord Capulet's focus on **duty and hatred** blinded him to her vulnerabilities. His inability to recognise and protect Juliet's **fragility** ultimately leads to her tragic demise.
- **Natural imagery:** the natural image created through "*frost*" and "*flowers*" serves to emphasise the **unnatural and premature** (early) death of Juliet.
- It also illustrates Lord Capulet's **remorse** (guilt) towards this unnatural and **futile** (pointless) feud which produced this tragedy. Shakespeare uses Lord Capulet to show the tragic consequences of **unchecked** (uncontrolled) pride and hatred.