

KEY WORDS

Tragedy, Juxtaposition, Suicide, Tenderness, Blameless, Detrimental,

Juliet Act 5

NOTE: Juliet is only in one scene of Act 5, because she has taken a sleeping potion. It is actually rather impactful that the only scene she appears in, in the final act of the play, is the scene in which her death takes place because it makes her death seem that much more significant. It is all we see of her character in this scene and thus it leaves a huge impression on us as an audience.

COMPARISON

In comparison to her family, Juliet values love over hate, and it is ironic that they learn this from her after her death, because it is the child teaching the parent.

COMPARISON

Again, Romeo and Juliet **are essentially in parallel** here, as they both experience grief and take their own lives. The play shows them to be in tune with each other, sadly it is **fate** which causes their miscommunication.

COMPARISON

Juliet actually seems **comparatively** calm in this scene than we have seen her be before, perhaps this is because she is finally **resigning herself** (letting herself succumb) to her fate. She is not fighting it anymore and so is overcome with a sense of **existential calm**.

TOPIC SENTENCES

- Juliet has been raised with the notion that 'blood is thicker than water' and her family's feud with the Montagues forced her to internalise this. And yet she chooses Romeo over her family and commits suicide to be with her in death, showing that ultimately, love is more powerful than hate.

JULIET AS THE EXEMPLARY ARISTOCRATIC DAUGHTER (ACT 1 SCENE 3)

- Juliet, upon **waking** and finding her lover **tragically** dead, curse that he **"left no friendly drop"** for her to use to take her own life. The **adjective "friendly"** juxtaposes against the idea of her suicide which is ironic because, in her eyes, in a world without Romeo, death is her friend and her **only solace** (last resort).
- She kisses his lips in the hopes that some poison **"doth hang on them"**. Again, the **tenderness** of the verb **"kiss"** juxtaposes against the idea that she is trying to **take her own life**.
- "Thy lips are warm"** she says, reminding the audience of how recently Romeo has died and thus **reinforcing the genre of tragedy** since she was so close to preventing his death.
- In one of her final lines she claims that she **"will be brief", putting an end to her life** as quickly as possible. This moment is a **harsh reminder** of how desperate she is to be with her lover in death. Juliet spends the whole play speaking at length about her feelings and **using language to express herself** and yet when it comes to her death, she is **"brief"**.
- The thing that is most **tragic** about the play, is that she might have been able to be with Romeo, if not for her family's feud. After all he is an **affluent** (rich), well-respected man.
- Shakespeare uses Juliet's death to remind the audience of the **tragic consequences of feuds** and how they might be **detrimental** (harmful) to those who are blameless. He shows hate to be **counterproductive** and love to always **prevail** (win). After all, we can only assume the lovers are united in death and the family's **reconcile** (end their feud) once they realise the harm that their feud has caused.

TOP TIP



If you are repeating a phrase such as 'commit suicide', it is important to find ways to rephrase it to avoid sounding repetitive and demonstrate that you have a wide vocabulary, such as 'end her life' or 'take her life' (AO4).