

## KEY WORDS

*Affectionately, Tragic, Imagery of nature, Connote, Deduce, Inner conflict, Patriarch, Demeanour Tyrannous, Villainous, Lament, Fatherhood, Catalyst.*

# Lord Capulet

## LORD CAPULET CONFLICT

### COMPARISON

Lord Capulet seems calm and **amiable** (friendly) in this scene, but later in the play is far more forceful with Juliet in regard to her marriage. He shows his true nature when he is angered and thus Shakespeare is encouraging us to look at his character **critically**.

### COMPARISON

Lord Capulet plays a similar role to his wife in encouraging Juliet in marriage. Together they create a **united front** to do what they believe is communally best for their daughter.

### COMPARISON

From this we can also conclude the Tybalt is not as **villainous** as he might seem either. All the characters in the play are genuinely doing what they think is best for their family, which shows **devotion and loyalty**, a term that is not normally **synonymous** (a synonym of) with **villainy**.

### COMPARISON

Capulet, like his wife, develops as a character and the death of his daughter is a **catalyst** for that. How he stands at the end of the play is so very different to how he was when he was introduced.

- Lord Capulet, when discussing a potential marriage between Juliet and Paris, he speaks of his daughter **affectionately**, saying that ***"she is the hopeful lady of [his] earth"***. The word ***"earth"*** shows Juliet to be extremely valued by Capulet, showing that she means the literal world to him.
- This is also a reference to the fact that Juliet is his only child (his 'earth' revolves around her existence), making her death at the end that much more **tragic**.
- In fact, he initially considered her too young to marry, wanting to wait ***"two more summers"***. He uses a lot of **imagery of nature** and the word ***"summer"*** **connotes** calm and warmth. His choice of language shows their conversation to be a friendly one. Not yet is he **authoritative** and forceful in regards to their marriage.
- Yet the natural imagery could suggest he is aligned with the **natural order (great chain of being) and his duties within a patriarchal society**- the audience cannot fully trust nor be hopeful about any character considering it's tragic nature.
- He seems genuinely concerned for her **wellbeing**. He worries that she will be ***"too soon marred"*** if she is married off to young.
- ***"my will to her consent is but a part"*** he reasons and from this we can **deduce** that he appears he genuinely cares about his daughters opinion. This being undercut with irony considering his **forceful authoritative nature** later on in the play when he forces her to marry Paris.
- Capulet's **conflict** represents the conflict of many fathers of this era in that they duty fell to them to secure **a financially, socially and politically beneficial marriage** for their children. It was a challenge for them to do this and **satisfy** their children as well.
- In this scene we see a **glimpse of the inner conflict** which Capulet seems to be battling. He is keen for his daughter to marry Paris and yet wants to make sure his daughter is happy in the marriage. It is the same conflict Lady Capulet feels only he has the final say on the matter due to him being the **patriarch** (father).



## LORD CAPULET AS A TYRANT

- When Juliet refuses to marry Paris, he **exclaims** that she has **"chopped logic!"**. He uses an **exclamative** and this makes him sound **frightening and assertive**. An actor playing Lord Capulet might use a suddenly loud volume for this line which would have echoed through the theatre performed in.
- "Fettle your fine joints"** he orders, using an **imperative** to, again, make him sound domineering. The adjective **"fine"** seems mocking, as if he **is ridiculing (mocking) her entitled**, spoiled nature, as he sees it.
- Capulets sudden switch in **demeanour** (disposition) from the first act where he seemed genuinely concerned for his daughters **wellbeing** is shocking. Shakespeare, ensures we feel the same shock Juliet does by making his anger seem to appear from nowhere and thus we sympathise for her more.
- He calls her a **"disobedient wretch"**, using **epithets** (insults) to express his anger. He says that his **"fingers itch"**, threatening her with violence in an attempt to scare her into submission (following his demands).
- In a rage, he shouts **"hang, beg, starve, die"**, addressing his daughter, whom we once assumed he cared so much for, with such **cruel indifference** (he doesn't care what happens to her) that he seems **tyrannous** (evil).
- Capulet's change in disposition on the matter of marriage makes him seem like a villain in a play where the villain is ambiguous.
- The characteristic that **distinguishes** (separates) Romeo and Juliet from other Shakespeare plays, is it's complex villains. In play's such as 'Much Ado', or 'Twelfth Night', the villains are purely evil and live for creating Chaos. All characters who could be **deemed villainous** in this play, Tybalt of course but in this context Capulet, are extremely **nuanced** (complex) with many layers within them. Capulet seem villainous in this context but in reality, he is doing what he thinks is right for his family.
- Ultimately **it is fate that is the villain** not Capulet or Tybalt, as it is fate which causes all the tragedy in the play.

## FATHERHOOD VS DUTY

- In the play's final scene, Capulet learns, after the death of his daughter, that **fatherhood** was always a more important responsibility than his duty in upkeeping societal expectations and the patriarchy
- He **laments** (says sadly) **"look how our daughter bleeds!"** this moment is brutal, and we feel immense pity for Capulet, as he has realised his mistake, valuing his duties over his daughter's happiness, far too late. This adds to the **genre of tragedy** that the play falls into.
- He calls the dagger she used to take her own life **"mis-sheathed"**, which is an odd choice of words, almost as if the dagger was accidentally placed in her chest. It shows his **inability to grasp the magnitude of what has happened** to his daughter.
- This shows death to be a **complex** concept to full comprehend.
- In his final line, he speaks of **"sacrifices for [his] enmity"**. This line marks the **moment of realisation** for him but the irony is it has come too late.
- The death of his daughter, like it was for her mother, is a **catalyst** (cause) for his realisation of the **juvenile** (childish) nature of his feud and his prioritising his responsibilities.
- Shakespeare uses this tragedy to communicate that love should always **superseded** (more important than) hate and family, duty.

## TOPIC SENTENCES

- Like Lady Capulet, lord Capulet seems conflicted between being a loving father but also doing what he societally expected to do, which is to marry off his daughter.
- Lord Capulet, in his harsh treatment of his daughter, acts a villain in the play and shows that he ultimately values status over his daughter, contrary to what we have been led to believe from previous scenes in the play.
- Capulet changes immensely after the event of the **denouement** (climax) of the play and realises that fatherhood should always **take precedence** (be more important than) over duty.

