

# Essay Plan - Love and Violence

‘When there is love in the play, there is also violence’ explore this idea in Romeo and Juliet

## Overview of Plan:

- Point 1: moment of **inception**, **love** is tainted with **violence**
- Point 2: **love and violence** have a **symbiotic** relationship
- Point 3: their death finalises that **violence** and **love** are **inseparable**

## Key:

- **Purple words** = my point for that paragraph
- **Orange words** = linking back to the question
- (make sure you have 1 point per paragraph constantly link back to, this can normally be another key theme but if not use a word/phrase, and then the word from the question)

## Point 1

Shakespeare skilfully crafts the tragedy so that their boundless **love**, from the moment of its **inception**, is tainted with **violence** and tragedy.

- **Evidence:** *"There lie more peril in [her] eye/ Than twenty of their swords"* act 2
- **Violent image:** Romeo's subconscious recognition of the **violence intertwined with his love** for Juliet. Their defiance of societal and familial boundaries positions their love as a violating act, filled with "peril."
- **Other violent allusions:** Tybalt's **violent** demand for Romeo to "draw his sword." simultaneously marks the moment Romeo falls in **love** with Juliet – grim foreboding (something bad will happen) as from the moment of its **inception**, it is tarnished.
- Romeo's **love** for Juliet, from its very **inception**, is tarnished by the shadow of death and **violence**, hinting at the "star-cross-d" nature of their romance.

## Point 2

In Shakespeare's tragedy, he ceaselessly (ongoingly) shows how **love and hatred** have a **symbiotic** (dependent) relationship. Juliet personifies this **symbiotic** relationship between **love and violence**, as she simultaneously despises and adores Romeo due to his violent actions acting out of passion.

- **Evidence:** "O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!". Act 3
- **Biblical allusions:** story of Adam and Eve's fall in Genesis- suggests her disillusionment (not as good as originally thought) with their love. Serpent brought sin and violence into the world in Genesis, Juliet realises that Romeo's involvement in her life will lead to both **love + excessive violence**. As she still loves him, it reinforces the **symbiotic** relationship between love + hate.
- **Natural imagery:** The natural image with "serpent" and "flowering" makes **violence and love** seem natural and the **symbiotic** relationship innate (something born with) among all humans.
- Critic D. A Traversi says that "love and death" are "separate and identical" in the play, this is clear as Juliet's passionate **violent** hatred for Romeo here, has similarities for her **passionate love** for him throughout.

### Point 3

The dramatically ironic tragic death of Romeo and Juliet finalises that **love and violence** are **inseparable**. Although a symbiotic relationship can be argued, it could be seen that their death immortalises this inextricable (closely linked) relationship.

- **Evidence:** *"Then I'll be brief. O happy dagger!"* Act 5
- **Oxymoron:** (two contrasting words placed side by side)- Juliet's profound sorrow as she seeks comfort in death, seeing it as an eternal reunion with Romeo. **Violence** is a mean of returning to **love**, reinforcing them as **inseparable forces**.
- **Diction on "brief":** shows Juliet's urgent desire to escape from a world where their forbidden love challenges societal norms. In death, through **violence, their love** is free from these obstacles but they aren't able to **separate out** love without violence.