

Essay Plan – Fate

‘How is the power of fate presented in the play?’

Overview of Plan:

- Para 1: Love is a transcendent force, capable of defying fate or any other limitations
- Para 2: Fate is unchangeable and looming
- Para 3: realisation fate is a malevolent force working against them

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

The naive eponymous (name is title of the play) Romeo believes that his love for Juliet is a **transcendent** (beyond human) force, capable of defying **fate**, societal and physical boundaries – he diminishes the power of fate, rendering it as surmountable (able to overcome).

- **Evidence:** *“with love’s wings did [he] o’erperch these walls, for stony limits cannot hold love out”* act 2.
- **Metaphor:** classical allusion to Cupid, the Roman God of love, often depicted with wings – his love is a **transcendent** (beyond human) force capable of defying physical limitations and **fate**.
- **Speaks in verse:** Romeo speaks in verse, in iambic pentameter, this characterises him to be romantic and decorative in his language showing **transcendent** love to take precedence (priority) over any obstacle or barrier – **fate** holds no power or *“limit”* that can stop him.
- In this scene, Shakespeare creates a **haven** (place of safety) of **transcendent** romance and hope, momentarily separate from the play's **undertones** of the bleak and looming **fate** of the lovers

Point 2

Shakespeare utilises dramatic irony to illustrate that **fate** is **unchangeable** and the malevolent looming power in the play. Juliet's hamartia is her impetuousness (impulsiveness) and her folly of youth (foolishness of being young) – she can't see her looming tragedy as she is too blinded by love.

- **Evidence:** *"If he be married, / My grave is like to be my wedding bed."* (Act 1)
- **Dramatic irony (audience knows something character doesn't):** ("star-cross'd") sets the stage for the audience, creating dramatic irony since Juliet remains unaware of her impending **fate**. Her impulsive nature becomes her hamartia (tragic flaw), as she fails to grasp the true consequences of pursuing forbidden love and is blinded to the **unchangeable** nature of her **fate**.
- Shakespeare follows Aristotle's conventions of tragedy, aiming to produce pathos (pity) from the audience. Here, pathos arises from Juliet's youthful recklessness in love, leading to her demise as she is ignorant to the **unchangeable** and omnipotent (all-powerful) power of **fate**.
- **Syntax:** The syntax of "grave" before "wedding bed" foreshadows the power of Juliet's **unchangeable fate** of looming death – she will die before she can consummate (marriage complete by having sex) her marriage with Romeo.

Point 3

Shakespeare characterises Romeo as the tragic hero (has a downfall), as his mind is too engulfed with love that he begins to descend into insanity. He recognises the power of **fate**, branding it as a **malevolent force** working against him to separate him and his beloved Juliet.

- **Evidence:** *"Then I defy you, stars!"*. Act 5
- **Apostrophe (address something that is absent/dead/ abstract concept):** The apostrophe personifies them as tangible (can touch) forces capable of replying to him. This shows both Romeo's deteriorating mental state, and the recognition of power of the celestial bodies and **fate** which he now sees as another **malevolent force** opposing their love (stars/moon/planets).
- **Exclamative sentence:** The exclamative sentence emphasises Romeo's descent into despair and his recognition the **power of fate** is coming into fruition (fulfilment).
- The stars, once symbols of destiny and hopeful **fate**, now feel like a **malevolent (evil) force** actively working against him.