

Group Activity: Romeo and Juliet Act II Scene i-v Quote Analysis Answers

Act II Scene i:

“And if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.”

If he hears you, you'll make him angry. Dramatically, however, the scene is a chance for Mercutio to do what he does best: hog the limelight, say some outrageous things and prance about. Benvolio, who understands that Romeo is being accused of being in lust, tells Mercutio that he's likely to make Romeo angry.

Who said it?

Benvolio said this Mercutio.

What does this say about his/her character?

Benvolio who almost solely weaves a role of stability in a tapestry of unsettled characters. We will trace Benvolio's role of peacemaker throughout the play.

What is his/her moral alignment?

Benvolio, whose name literally means "good will," is a classic nice guy: stuck playing the straight man to Mercutio and the non-romantic-idiot to Romeo, constantly telling everyone else to chill and stop fighting and "keep the peace" (1.1.69), and being asked to spy on his friends. What? That's right: Romeo's parents (his aunt and uncle) turn to him when their son is acting weird, and the Prince always asks him to explain what went down in the most recent street fight.

What is the context of the quote?

Romeo and his friends have left the Capulet party, but Romeo hides from them. He climbs over the wall into Capulet's orchard. He intends to go back to find Juliet. Benvolio and Mercutio look for Romeo. Mercutio realises that Romeo is hiding. He makes fun of Romeo and makes sexual jokes about Romeo's love for Rosaline. This gives the scene comic relief. The friends do not know yet that Romeo is now in love with Juliet. This is dramatic irony, since the audience and Romeo do know.

What specific diction is used to convey his/her personality?

Stop you're going make him upset - peacemaker.

Act II Scene ii:

“What man art thou, thus bescreened in night, so stumblest on my counsel?”

Who are you? Why do you hide in the darkness and listen to my private thoughts?*

Who said it?

Juliet said this to Romeo.

What does this say about his/her character?

She's terrified. She doesn't know who this man is, as he's covered by the darkness of night. She

does know that he's stumbled on her admissions about being in love with Romeo (her "counsel" - her information). But then, when she realises it is Romeo, there is another fear altogether: Montague and Capulet.

Juliet Capulet is very young. Marriage and love are not yet on her mind. When her mother suggests marrying, Juliet replies, "It is an honour that I dream not of." This changes when she meets Romeo the Montague. He falls in love with her at first sight, and the attraction is mutual. Though youthful, Juliet is not shy. She banters with Romeo about hands and lips upon their first meeting. Her feelings for him are so intense, she says, that if he is married, "My grave is like to be my wedding bed." She is also ready to abandon her family identity: "if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, / And I'll no longer be a Capulet."

Juliet also expresses wisdom by noting how arbitrary the difference between Capulets and Montagues is: "'Tis but thy name that is my enemy." She is also somewhat wary of "lovers' perjuries" and questions Romeo's sincerity, telling him not to swear unless "by thy gracious self." Juliet worries that their love is "too rash, too unadvised, too sudden." However, she can be very impatient, growing angry at the nurse for taking so long to return with news from Romeo and comparing herself to "an impatient child that hath new robes / And may not wear them."

What is his/her moral alignment?

Juliet - Good. Passionate. Being with Romeo.

What is the context of the quote?

When Juliet discovers Romeo below her window she fears that he has heard her secret confessions and wonders how he has successfully climbed the wall to her property. She is also probably very fearful that Romeo will be found on their property in what looks like a compromising position. In the Enotes analysis we see that "Juliet is startled and surprised that he has heard her secret thoughts. She asks how he was able to get over the high orchard walls and find her. To this, Romeo answers that love helped him accomplish both. Juliet is concerned that she has been too forward with him. She promises that she will be more true than any girl who acts shy and distant. Romeo tries to swear on the moon that he loves her; however, Juliet begs him not to swear on something that changes so frequently. The two lovers exchange vows of love, and Juliet asks if his intentions are honorable." Juliet is afraid that she has been too aggressive with Romeo, and she is fearful that her secret thoughts have been found out. Later in the Act the nurse calls for Juliet and Juliet is afraid Romeo will be found out.

What specific diction is used to convey his/her personality?

By comparing their use of language in Act II, scene ii, lines 53-111, I can infer the differences in Romeo and Juliet's character. While Romeo is very emotional and impulsive, Juliet is more rational and practical. Romeo declares that he will give up his family name and believes that he is invulnerable all in the name of love. "Henceforth I will never be Romeo." (Line 55) Romeo daringly throws himself and what he stands for away because he believes nothing will bring him harm as long as he is with Juliet. Also, he shows no fear for Juliet's kinsmen even when she tells Romeo that being with her can lead to his death. "Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye / Than twenty of their swords. Look thou but sweet, / And I am proof against their enmity." (Lines 76-78) Moreover, Juliet's warning proves her responsible and rational character. Even though Juliet is in love, she still is aware and rightfully worried of the dangers

their forbidden love can bring when on the other hand, Romeo is only focused on his love for Juliet.

Act II Scene iii:

“Holy Saint Francis! What a change is here! Is Rosaline, that thou didst love so dear, so soon forsaken? Young men’s love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.”

Before Juliet, Romeo was madly in love with this woman named Rosaline. However, Rosaline made a vow to live as a virgin, so Romeo was extremely depressed because he can't get his woman. The Friar means that young men aren't faithful lovers. Romeo spent a very long time weeping and wailing over his unrequited love, but after he met Juliet, he forgot about Rosaline just like that. Young men don't truly love with their hearts, they can forget about their former lover after they meet another prettier woman.

Who said it?

This is Friar Lawrence talking to Romeo.

What does this say about his/her character?

This is only some of the wisdom spoken by Friar Laurence to young Romeo in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* on the decision made by him to wed thirteen year old Juliet in such hastiness. Romeo sought after the confidence of Friar Laurence when he first met Juliet as there was no one else he could turn to, especially when the couple decided they were going to be married. There are many instances in the play that indicate 'Friar Laurence always intended the best for Romeo and Juliet.' That is, no matter the tragic outcome of the play, Friar Laurence's only intention was for the marriage of Romeo and Juliet to be happy, everlasting and for it to bring peace to the civil feud between the families.

What is his/her moral alignment?

Friar Lawrence occupies a strange position territory in *Romeo and Juliet*. He is a kindhearted cleric who helps Romeo and Juliet throughout the play. He performs their marriage and gives generally good advice, especially in regard to the need for moderation. He is the sole figure of religion in the play. But Friar Lawrence is also the most scheming and political of characters in the play: he marries Romeo and Juliet as part of a plan to end the civil strife in Verona; he spirits Romeo into Juliet's room and then out of Verona; he devises the plan to reunite Romeo and Juliet through the deceptive ruse of a sleeping potion that seems to arise from almost mystic knowledge. This mystical knowledge seems out of place for a Catholic friar; why does he have such knowledge, and what could such knowledge mean? The answers are not clear. In addition, though Friar Lawrence's plans all seem well conceived and well intentioned, they serve as the main mechanisms through which the fated tragedy of the play occurs. We should recognize that the Friar is not only subject to the fate that dominates the play—in many ways he brings that fate about.

What is the context of the quote?

Friar Laurence: Holy Saint Francis! What a change is here! Is Rosaline, that thou didst love so dear, So soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes...
Line: 70-72 Friar is asking Romeo how he was able to get over Rosaline so quickly when he was head over heels in love with her. He is then suggesting that he is being too hasty to fall in

love, and marry, Juliet and that he may only love her because of her looks and because he needs a rebound instead of actually loving her.

What specific diction is used to convey his/her personality?

Friar Laurence is trying to convince Romeo that Juliet would be something he would grow out of i.e. like his love for Rosaline. In the last two lines of the quote, the Friar is trying to convince Romeo that nothing as important as love and marriage should not be jumped into when it could be done just as slow to be confident that the right decision is made leaving no room for regrets.

Act II Scene iv:

"Pardon good Mercutio. My business was great, and in such a case as mine a man may strain courtesy."

I had urgent business and that made me less than courteous. Romeo was in an urgent hurry. See his speech.

Who said it?

Romeo said to Mercutio.

What does this say about his/her character?

At first glance, Romeo might be perceived as a flake, or even a fake. He spends a great deal of time reading love poetry and pining for a girl named Rosaline, and seems to be more infatuated with the idea of love than love itself. This love for Rosaline is easily discarded once he sees Juliet, who, though younger, naive and immature, will prove to be the voice of reason in this ill-fated relationship. As the young lovers proceed ominously through their plan to be together, we see Juliet making thoughtful decisions and acknowledging that she is about to cut ties with everyone associated with her life to be with Romeo; meanwhile, Romeo makes one impulsive decision after another (killing Tybalt, killing himself within seconds of discovering Juliet's "corpse") and ultimately the plan fails. If he had stopped to think in either case about what he was going to do, crisis would likely have been averted. However, many have argued that without the impulsive, reckless characteristics that caused him to sneak into the Capulet garden in the first place, the love story between the two would never have occurred.

What is his/her moral alignment?

Romeo's mode of loving change from infatuation to a much more profound love. First he is in love with a girl called Rosaline and is miserably love-sick. Then he meets Juliet and his emotional life is transformed by excitement and affection. The thing that has changed is that with the second girl his love is reciprocated and this seems to release him from a paralysing spell of depression. He is released to fly high with Juliet - but not for long as their stars are crossed. Juliet's love for Romeo empowers him, gives him courage and determination to press ahead with his suit. Sadly, we never find out how well they will be matched, or how long the love will last.

What is the context of the quote?

The time is the day after the masked ball at which Romeo met and fell in love with Juliet. Mercutio and Benvolio, friends of Romeo, have this morning found Romeo, and have teased

him about his whereabouts on the night before. It creates a mischievous mood as Mercutio and Romeo banter about Romeo's disappearance.

What specific diction is used to convey his/her personality?

Early in the play, Romeo is lovelorn and devastated by the news that Rosaline, a young woman for whom he has openly declared his love, has decided to remain chaste, and will not return his affections. He is completely lovesick, wandering alone and refusing to interact with anyone. This changes when he attends the Capulet family masque, where he immediately falls in love with Juliet. The fact that he switches his total infatuation from Rosaline to Juliet so quickly suggests that Romeo is impetuous; indeed, the Friar accuses him of exactly this. Emotional and sometimes irrational, Romeo wears his heart on his sleeve. His love for Juliet is sincere.

Act II Scene v:

"Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a courteous, and kind, and a handsome, and, I warrant, a virtuous—Where is your mother?"

Just when it sounds like the Nurse is finally going to give Juliet an answer...psych! She gets distracted, wondering where Lady Capulet is. Juliet is not amused.

Who said it?

The Nurse said this to Juliet.

What does this say about his/her character?

The ability of the nurse to be simultaneously loving, pious, modest, tender, and bawdy helps to make her one of the most appealing of all of Shakespeare's characters.

The nurse loves to talk, often repeating herself. She seems full of life, energy, and good humor. It often takes the nurse a long time to get to a point. She rambles a bit, in the process revealing not only her prodigious memory but also her tendency to think and speak not by following a straight logical line but by engaging in many amusing detours.

The nurse recalls details that others might ignore but that help to re-create in our minds the vivid pictures that already exist in hers. Thus at one point she states,

For I had then laid wormwood to my dug (that is, her breast),

Sitting in the sun under the dove-house wall.

The nurse is proud of her good memory (as when she says, "I do bear a brain").

The nurse loved, and still loves, Juliet, as she shows throughout this entire reminiscence and especially when she calls Juliet by the affectionate nickname "fool."

The Nurse's key function within the play is to act as a go-between for Romeo and Juliet, and is the only other character besides Friar Laurence to know of their wedding. The Nurse, despite being a servant in the Capulet household, has a role equivalent to that of Juliet's mother and regards Juliet as her own daughter.

What is his/her moral alignment?

If I had to choose one trait that Romeo, Juliet, Friar Lawrence, and the Nurse all share that

leads to the death of the sweethearts in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, I would have to say it is their inability to view the world in a more realistic fashion. All of these people have something vested in the love shared between Romeo and Juliet.

What is the context of the quote?

Juliet sends her Nurse to see Romeo. The Nurse delivers the news to Juliet of her upcoming marriage to Romeo. Oh my God, here she comes! Oh sweet Nurse, what news do you bring? Have you spoken to him? She plays with her.

What specific diction is used to convey his/her personality?

The Nurse, like Mercutio, loves to talk at length. She often repeats herself, and her bawdy references to the sexual aspect of love set the idealistic love of Romeo and Juliet apart from the love described by other characters in the play. The Nurse doesn't share Juliet's idea of love; for her, love is a temporary and physical relationship, so she can't understand the intense and spiritual love Romeo and Juliet share. When the Nurse brings Juliet news of Romeo's wedding arrangements, she focuses on the pleasures of Juliet's wedding night, "I am the drudge, and toil in your delight, / But you shall bear the burden soon at night" (II.5.75-76).