



Extract from Act 1 Scene 1

There's just been a huge fight in the centre of Verona (the 'fray' Lady Montague speaks about), and Romeo's parents ask Benvolio where their son is.

- What does this tell us about how close Romeo and his parents are?

LADY MONTAGUE

O, where is Romeo? saw you him to-day?
Right glad I am he was not at this fray.

BENVOLIO

Madam, an hour before the worshipp'd sun
Peer'd forth the golden window of the east,
A troubled mind drave me to walk abroad;
Where, underneath the grove of sycamore
That westward rooteth from the city's side,
So early walking did I see your son:
Towards him I made, but he was ware of me
And stole into the covert of the wood:
I, measuring his affections by my own,
That most are busied when they're most alone,
Pursued my humour not pursuing his,
And gladly shunn'd who gladly fled from me.

MONTAGUE

Many a morning hath he there been seen,
With tears augmenting the fresh morning dew.
Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs;
But all so soon as the all-cheering sun
Should in the furthest east begin to draw
The shady curtains from Aurora's bed,
Away from the light steals home my heavy son,
And private in his chamber pens himself,
Shuts up his windows, locks far daylight out
And makes himself an artificial night:
Black and portentous must this humour prove,
Unless good counsel may the cause remove.

BENVOLIO

My noble uncle, do you know the cause?

MONTAGUE

I neither know it nor can learn of him.

BENVOLIO

Have you importuned him by any means?

MONTAGUE

Both by myself and many other friends:
But he, his own affections' counsellor,
Is to himself--I will not say how true--
But to himself so secret and so close,
So far from sounding and discovery,
As is the bud bit with an envious worm,
Ere he can spread his sweet leaves to the air,

Or dedicate his beauty to the sun.
Could we but learn from whence his sorrows grow.
We would as willingly give cure as know.

Enter ROMEO

BENVOLIO See, where he comes: so please you, step aside;
I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.

MONTAGUE I would thou wert so happy by thy stay,
To hear true shrift. Come, madam, let's away.

Exeunt MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE

Extract from Act 1 Scene 3

This is the first time that we as an audience see Juliet. Her mother, Lady Capulet, has come to talk to her about the possibility of her marrying Count Paris, a relative of The Prince.

- How does she act towards her mother?
- What does this tell us about her relationship with her mother?
- To whom does she appear to be closest, Lady Capulet or the Nurse?

LADY CAPULET Nurse, where's my daughter? call her forth to me.

NURSE Now, by my maidenhead, at twelve year old,
I bade her come. What, lamb! what, ladybird!
God forbid! Where's this girl? What, Juliet!

Enter JULIET

JULIET How now! who calls?

NURSE Your mother.

JULIET Madam, I am here.
What is your will?

LADY CAPULET This is the matter:--Nurse, give leave awhile,
We must talk in secret:--nurse, come back again;
I have remember'd me, thou's hear our counsel.
Thou know'st my daughter's of a pretty age.

NURSE Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour.

LADY CAPULET She's not fourteen.

NURSE I'll lay fourteen of my teeth,--
And yet, to my teeth be it spoken, I have but four--
She is not fourteen. How long is it now
To Lammas-tide?

LADY CAPULET A fortnight and odd days.

NURSE Even or odd, of all days in the year,
Come Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen.
Susan and she--God rest all Christian souls!--
Were of an age: well, Susan is with God;
She was too good for me: [Here the Nurse goes on
for a bit – I've deleted it, because you don't need
to know it all]

LADY CAPULET Enough of this; I pray thee, hold thy peace.

NURSE	Yes, madam: yet I cannot choose but laugh, [Here the Nurse goes on again, about a story from Juliet's youth]
JULIET	And stint thou too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.
NURSE	Peace, I have done. God mark thee to his grace! Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed: An I might live to see thee married once, I have my wish.
LADY CAPULET	Marry, that 'marry' is the very theme I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet, How stands your disposition to be married?
JULIET	It is an honour that I dream not of.
NURSE	An honour! were not I thine only nurse, I would say thou hadst suck'd wisdom from thy teat.
LADY CAPULET	Well, think of marriage now; younger than you, Here in Verona, ladies of esteem, Are made already mothers: by my count, I was your mother much upon these years That you are now a maid. Thus then in brief: The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.
NURSE	A man, young lady! lady, such a man As all the world--why, he's a man of wax.
LADY CAPULET	Verona's summer hath not such a flower.
NURSE	Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very flower.
LADY CAPULET	What say you? can you love the gentleman? This night you shall behold him at our feast; Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face, And find delight writ there with beauty's pen; Examine every married lineament, And see how one another lends content And what obscured in this fair volume lies Find written in the margent of his eyes. This precious book of love, this unbound lover, To beautify him, only lacks a cover: The fish lives in the sea, and 'tis much pride For fair without the fair within to hide: That book in many's eyes doth share the glory, That in gold clasps locks in the golden story;

So shall you share all that he doth possess,
By having him, making yourself no less.

NURSE

No less! nay, bigger; women grow by men.

LADY CAPULET

Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

JULIET

I'll look to like, if looking liking move:
But no more deep will I endart mine eye
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

Enter a Servant

SERVANT

Madam, the guests are come, supper served up,
you
called, my young lady asked for, the nurse cursed
in
the pantry, and every thing in extremity. I must
hence to wait; I beseech you, follow straight.

LADY CAPULET

We follow thee.

Exit Servant

Juliet, the county stays.

NURSE

Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days.

Extract from Act 3 Scene 5

It is the morning after Juliet and Romeo have got married. Romeo has spent the night with Juliet, and had to flee Verona early because he is banished for killing Tybalt, Juliet's cousin.

- How does Juliet act towards her parents?
- How does Capulet treat Juliet?
- Do these characters act as if they love each other, or are scared of each other?

LADY CAPULET [Within] Ho, daughter! are you up?

JULIET Who is't that calls? is it my lady mother?
Is she not down so late, or up so early?
What unaccustom'd cause procures her hither?

Enter LADY CAPULET

LADY CAPULET Why, how now, Juliet!

JULIET Madam, I am not well.

LADY CAPULET Evermore weeping for your cousin's death?
What, wilt thou wash him from his grave with tears?
An if thou couldst, thou couldst not make him live;
Therefore, have done: some grief shows much of love;
But much of grief shows still some want of wit.

JULIET Yet let me weep for such a feeling loss.

LADY CAPULET So shall you feel the loss, but not the friend
Which you weep for.

JULIET Feeling so the loss,
Cannot choose but ever weep the friend.

LADY CAPULET Well, girl, thou weep'st not so much for his death,
As that the villain lives which slaughter'd him.

JULIET What villain madam?

LADY CAPULET That same villain, Romeo.

JULIET [Aside]	Villain and he be many miles asunder.-- God Pardon him! I do, with all my heart; And yet no man like he doth grieve my heart.
LADY CAPULET	That is, because the traitor murderer lives.
JULIET	Ay, madam, from the reach of these my hands: Would none but I might venge my cousin's death!
LADY CAPULET	We will have vengeance for it, fear thou not: Then weep no more. I'll send to one in Mantua, Where that same banish'd runagate doth live, Shall give him such an unaccustom'd dram, That he shall soon keep Tybalt company: And then, I hope, thou wilt be satisfied.
JULIET	Indeed, I never shall be satisfied With Romeo, till I behold him--dead-- Is my poor heart for a kinsman vex'd. Madam, if you could find out but a man To bear a poison, I would temper it; That Romeo should, upon receipt thereof, Soon sleep in quiet. O, how my heart abhors To hear him named, and cannot come to him. To wreak the love I bore my cousin Upon his body that slaughter'd him!
LADY CAPULET	Find thou the means, and I'll find such a man. But now I'll tell thee joyful tidings, girl.
JULIET	And joy comes well in such a needy time: What are they, I beseech your ladyship?
LADY CAPULET	Well, well, thou hast a careful father, child; One who, to put thee from thy heaviness, Hath sorted out a sudden day of joy, That thou expect'st not nor I look'd not for.
JULIET	Madam, in happy time, what day is that?
LADY CAPULET	Marry, my child, early next Thursday morn, The gallant, young and noble gentleman, The County Paris, at Saint Peter's Church, Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.
JULIET	Now, by Saint Peter's Church and Peter too, He shall not make me there a joyful bride. I wonder at this haste; that I must wed Ere he, that should be husband, comes to woo. I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam, I will not marry yet; and, when I do, I swear,

It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate,
Rather than Paris. These are news indeed!

LADY CAPULET

Here comes your father; tell him so yourself,
And see how he will take it at your hands.

Enter CAPULET and NURSE

CAPULET

When the sun sets, the air doth drizzle dew;
But for the sunset of my brother's son
It rains downright.
How now! a conduit, girl? what, still in tears?
Evermore showering? In one little body
Thou counterfeit'st a bark, a sea, a wind;
For still thy eyes, which I may call the sea,
Do ebb and flow with tears; the bark thy body is,
Sailing in this salt flood; the winds, thy sighs;
Who, raging with thy tears, and they with them,
Without a sudden calm, will overset
Thy tempest-tossed body. How now, wife!
Have you deliver'd to her our decree?

LADY CAPULET

Ay, sir; but she will none, she gives you thanks.
I would the fool were married to her grave!

CAPULET

Soft! take me with you, take me with you, wife.
How! will she none? doth she not give us thanks?
Is she not proud? doth she not count her blest,
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought
So worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom?

JULIET

Not proud, you have; but thankful, that you have:
Proud can I never be of what I hate;
But thankful even for hate, that is meant love.

CAPULET

How now, how now, chop-logic! What is this?
'Proud,' and 'I thank you,' and 'I thank you not;'
And yet 'not proud,' mistress minion, you,
Thank me no thankings, nor, proud me no pouds,
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next,
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.
Out, you green-sickness carrion! out, you
baggage!
You tallow-face!

LADY CAPULET

Fie, fie! what, are you mad?

JULIET

Good father, I beseech you on my knees,
Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

CAPULET	<p>Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch! I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday, Or never after look me in the face: Speak not, reply not, do not answer me; My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest That God had lent us but this only child; But now I see this one is one too much, And that we have a curse in having her: Out on her, hilding!</p>
NURSE	<p>God in heaven bless her! You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.</p>
CAPULET	<p>And why, my lady wisdom? hold your tongue, Good prudence; smatter with your gossips, go.</p>
NURSE	<p>I speak no treason.</p>
CAPULET	<p>O, God ye god-den.</p>
NURSE	<p>May not one speak?</p>
CAPULET	<p>Peace, you mumbling fool! Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl; For here we need it not.</p>
LADY CAPULET	<p>You are too hot.</p>
CAPULET	<p>God's bread! it makes me mad: Day, night, hour, tide, time, work, play, Alone, in company, still my care hath been To have her match'd: and having now provided A gentleman of noble parentage, Of fair demesnes, youthful, and nobly train'd, Stuff'd, as they say, with honourable parts, Proportion'd as one's thought would wish a man; And then to have a wretched puling fool, A whining mammet, in her fortune's tender, To answer 'I'll not wed; I cannot love, I am too young; I pray you, pardon me.' But, as you will not wed, I'll pardon you: Graze where you will you shall not house with me: Look to't, think on't, I do not use to jest. Thursday is near; lay hand on heart, advise: An you be mine, I'll give you to my friend; And you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in</p>

the streets,
For, by my soul, I'll ne'er acknowledge thee,
Nor what is mine shall never do thee good:
Trust to't, bethink you; I'll not be forsworn.

Exit

JULIET

Is there no pity sitting in the clouds,
That sees into the bottom of my grief?
O, sweet my mother, cast me not away!
Delay this marriage for a month, a week;
Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed
In that dim monument where Tybalt lies.

LADY CAPULET

Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word:
Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee.

Exit

JULIET

O God!--O nurse, how shall this be prevented?
My husband is on earth, my faith in heaven;
How shall that faith return again to earth,
Unless that husband send it me from heaven
By leaving earth? comfort me, counsel me.
Alack, alack, that heaven should practise
stratagems
Upon so soft a subject as myself!
What say'st thou? hast thou not a word of joy?
Some comfort, nurse.

NURSE

Faith, here it is.
Romeo is banish'd; and all the world to nothing,
That he dares ne'er come back to challenge you;
Or, if he do, it needs must be by stealth.
Then, since the case so stands as now it doth,
I think it best you married with the county.
O, he's a lovely gentleman!
Romeo's a dishclout to him: an eagle, madam,
Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye
As Paris hath. Beshrew my very heart,
I think you are happy in this second match,
For it excels your first: or if it did not,
Your first is dead; or 'twere as good he were,
As living here and you no use of him.

JULIET

Speakest thou from thy heart?

NURSE

And from my soul too;
Or else beshrew them both.

JULIET Amen!

NURSE What?

JULIET Well, thou hast comforted me marvellous much.
Go in: and tell my lady I am gone,
Having displeased my father, to Laurence' cell,
To make confession and to be absolved.

NURSE Marry, I will; and this is wisely done.

Exit

JULIET Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend!
Is it more sin to wish me thus forsworn,
Or to dispraise my lord with that same tongue
Which she hath praised him with above compare
So many thousand times? Go, counsellor;
Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be twain.
I'll to the friar, to know his remedy:
If all else fail, myself have power to die.

Exit

Examine How Shakespeare Shows Conflict Between Parents and Children in 'Romeo and Juliet', With Reference to li, liii and Illv

This Assignment Plan is intended as a guide only, rather than an exhaustive list. You will need to add your own ideas.

1

- This is an introductory paragraph – introduce the theme of parental conflict in the play (the feud, expectations of the parents).
- Outline how you intend to show this theme in this assignment

2

- Act I scene i; Romeo's parents haven't seen Romeo. They ask Benvolio to talk to Romeo and find out what's going on.
- What this shows about the relationship between Romeo and his parents (not very close, don't talk etc.)
- Is this unusual in a lovesick teenager?

3

- Act I scene iii; Juliet and her mother – what's their relationship like?
- How do we see The Nurse as a surrogate mother to Juliet?
- The way that Juliet's marriage is being arranged for her.

4

- Explain how Juliet actually wishes to please her parents and that they are being quite liberal with her – they've actually asked her about marriage, rather than just telling her!

5

- Try to think about how Juliet and Lady Capulet's feelings could be shown on stage – the way that the characters speak and act towards each other.
- How have you seen this scene in the films – refer to the Baz Luhrman film and the Franco Zeffirelli film. What do you think of the ways that the directors have chosen to change things?

6

- Act III scene v; How has the situation in the play changed? (Romeo and Juliet are married, Tybalt has been killed and Romeo banished for his murder. Romeo and Juliet have spent their first night together as a married couple and Romeo has just left Juliet's room).
- Explain how Juliet is on something of an 'emotional roller-coaster' – up one minute and down the next – she's more than a bit mixed up!
- Her parents, out of kindness, have brought forward the wedding to Paris.

7

- Look at how Capulet treats his daughter; at the start he's **sympathetic**, but then he starts getting angrier until he goes too far (?).
- Juliet isn't entirely honest with her parents – she lies to them and hides the truth about her marriage to Romeo
- The Nurse backs Capulet and Lady Capulet (they are her employers after all), so Juliet is left without any 'parental' guidance.

8

- Try to think about how the characters' feelings could be shown on stage – the way that the characters speak and act towards each other.
- How have you seen this scene in the films – refer to the Baz Luhrman film and the Franco Zeffirelli film. What do you think of the ways that the directors have chosen to change things?

9

- This is a concluding paragraph – refer back to the question.
- How effective is Shakespeare at showing a conflict between parents and children? Is it believable? Is it still relevant today? **Refer back to the evidence that you have gathered.**