

105 **BENVOLIO.** This wind you talk of blows us from ourselves.
Supper is done, and we shall come too late.

ROMEO. I fear, too early; for my mind misgives
Some consequence yet hanging in the stars
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date
With this night's revels and expire the term
110 Of a despised life, closed in my breast,
By some vile forfeit of untimely death.²⁸
But he that hath the steerage of my course
Direct my sail! On, lusty gentlemen!

BENVOLIO. Strike, drum.

[They march about the stage, and retire to one side.]

Scene v. A hall in CAPULET'S house.

[SERVINGMEN come forth with napkins.]

FIRST SERVINGMAN. Where's Potpan, that he helps not to
take away? He shift a trencher!¹ He scrape a trencher!

SECOND SERVINGMAN. When good manners shall lie all in one or two
men's hands, and they unwashed too, 'tis a foul thing.

5 **FIRST SERVINGMAN.** Away with the join-stools, remove the
court cupboard, look to the plate. Good thou, save me a
piece of marchpane,² and, as thou loves me, let the porter
let in Susan Grindstone and Nell. Anthony, and Potpan!

SECOND SERVINGMAN. Ay, boy, ready.

10 **FIRST SERVINGMAN.** You are looked for and called for,
asked for and sought for, in the great chamber.

THIRD SERVINGMAN. We cannot be here and there too.
Cheerly, boys! Be brisk awhile, and the longer liver
take all. [Exit.]

*[Enter CAPULET, his WIFE, JULIET, TYBALT, NURSE, and all the GUESTS and
GENTLEWOMEN to the MASKERS.]*

15 **CAPULET.** Welcome, gentlemen! Ladies that have their toes
Unplagued with corns will walk a bout³ with you.
Ah, my mistresses, which of you all
Will now deny to dance? She that makes dainty,⁴
She I'll swear hath corns. Am I come near ye now?
20 Welcome, gentlemen! I have seen the day
That I have worn a visor and could tell
A whispering tale in a fair lady's ear,
Such as would please. 'Tis gone, 'tis gone, 'tis gone.
You are welcome, gentlemen! Come, musicians, play.
[Music plays, and they dance.]

25 A hall,⁵ a hall! Give room! And foot it, girls.

28. my mind . . . death My mind is fearful that some future event, fated by the stars, shall start to run its course tonight and cut my life short.

Reading Strategy

Using Text Aids Using note 28 as a text aid, restate Romeo's words in lines 109–111 in modern English.

1. trencher wooden platter.

2. marchpane marzipan, a confection made of sugar and almonds.

Literary Analysis

Character How do flat characters like the servingmen add to the play?

3. walk a bout dance a turn.

4. makes dainty hesitates, acts shy.

5. A hall clear the floor, make room for dancing.

Reading Check

What does Romeo fear might happen in the near future?

More light, you knaves, and turn the tables up.
 And quench the fire; the room is grown too hot.
 Ah, sirrah, this unlooked-for sport comes well.
 Nay, sit; nay, sit, good cousin Capulet;
 30 For you and I are past our dancing days.
 How long is't now since last yourself and I
 Were in a mask?

SECOND CAPULET. By'r Lady, thirty years.

CAPULET. What, man? 'Tis not so much, 'tis not so much;
 35 'Tis since the nuptial of Lucentio,
 Come Pentecost as quickly as it will,
 Some five-and-twenty years, and then we masked.

SECOND CAPULET. 'Tis more, 'tis more. His son is elder, sir;
 His son is thirty.

CAPULET. Will you tell me that?
 40 His son was but a ward⁶ two years ago.

ROMEO. [To a SERVINGMAN] What lady's that which doth
 enrich the hand
 Of yonder knight?

SERVINGMAN. I know not, sir.

ROMEO. O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!
 It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night
 45 As a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear—
 Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!
 So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows
 As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.
 The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand
 50 And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.
 Did my heart love till now? Forswear⁷ it, sight!
 For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

TYBALT. This, by his voice, should be a Montague.
 Fetch me my rapier, boy. What! Dares the slave
 55 Come hither, covered with an antic face,⁸
 To fleer⁹ and scorn at our solemnity?
 Now, by the stock and honor of my kin,
 To strike him dead I hold it not a sin.

CAPULET. Why, how now, kinsman? Wherefore storm you so?

60 **TYBALT.** Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe,
 A villain, that is hither come in spite
 To scorn at our solemnity this night.

CAPULET. Young Romeo is it?

TYBALT.

'Tis he, that villain Romeo.



▲ Critical Viewing
 What can you tell about
 Romeo's personality from
 the fact that he has taken
 off his mask? [Draw
 Conclusions]

6. ward minor.

7. Forswear deny.

8. antic face strange, fan-
 tastic mask.

9. fleer mock.

Reading Strategy
Using Text Aids What
 does Tybalt mean by
 saying that Romeo has
 come to the party with an
 "antic face, / To fleer and
 scorn at our solemnity"?

CAPULET. Content thee, gentle coz,¹⁰ let him alone.

65 'A bears him like a portly gentleman,¹¹
And, to say truth, Verona brags of him
To be a virtuous and well-governed youth.
I would not for the wealth of all this town
Here in my house do him disparagement.¹²
Therefore be patient; take no note of him.
70 It is my will, the which if thou respect,
Show a fair presence and put off these frowns,
An ill-beseeming semblance¹³ for a feast.

TYBALT. It fits when such a villain is a guest.
I'll not endure him.

75 **CAPULET.** He shall be endured.
What, goodman¹⁴ boy! I say he shall. Go to!¹⁵
Am I the master here, or you? Go to!
You'll not endure him, God shall mend my soul!¹⁶
You'll make a mutiny among my guests!
80 You will set cock-a-hoop.¹⁷ You'll be the man!

TYBALT. Why, uncle, 'tis a shame.

CAPULET. Go to, go to!
You are a saucy boy. Is't so, indeed?
This trick may chance to scathe you.¹⁸ I know what.
You must contrary me! Marry, 'tis time—
85 Well said, my hearts!—You are a princox¹⁹—go!
Be quiet, or—more light, more light!—For shame!
I'll make you quiet. What!—Cheerly, my hearts!

TYBALT. Patience perforce with willful choler meeting²⁰
Makes my flesh tremble in their different greeting.
90 I will withdraw; but this intrusion shall,
Now seeming sweet, convert to bitt'rest gall.

ROMEO. If I profane with my unworthiest hand
This holy shrine,²¹ the gentle sin is this:
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
95 To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

JULIET. Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,
Which mannerly devotion shows in this:
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch
And palm to palm is holy palmers'²² kiss.

100 **ROMEO.** Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

JULIET. Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO. O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do!
They pray; grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

JULIET. Saints do not move,²³ though grant for prayers' sake.

10. coz Here coz is used as a term of address for a relative.

11. 'A . . . gentleman He behaves like a dignified gentleman.

12. disparagement insult.

13. ill-beseeming semblance inappropriate appearance.

14. Goodman term of address for someone below the rank of gentleman.

15. Go to! expression of angry impatience.

16. God . . . soul! expression of impatience, equivalent to, "God save me!"

17. You will set cock-a-hoop You want to swagger like a barnyard rooster.

18. This . . . you This trait of yours may turn to hurt you.

19. princox rude youngster; wise guy.

20. Patience . . . meeting enforced self-control mixing with strong anger.

Literary Analysis

Character Which character traits do Romeo and Juliet reveal in their words to each other?

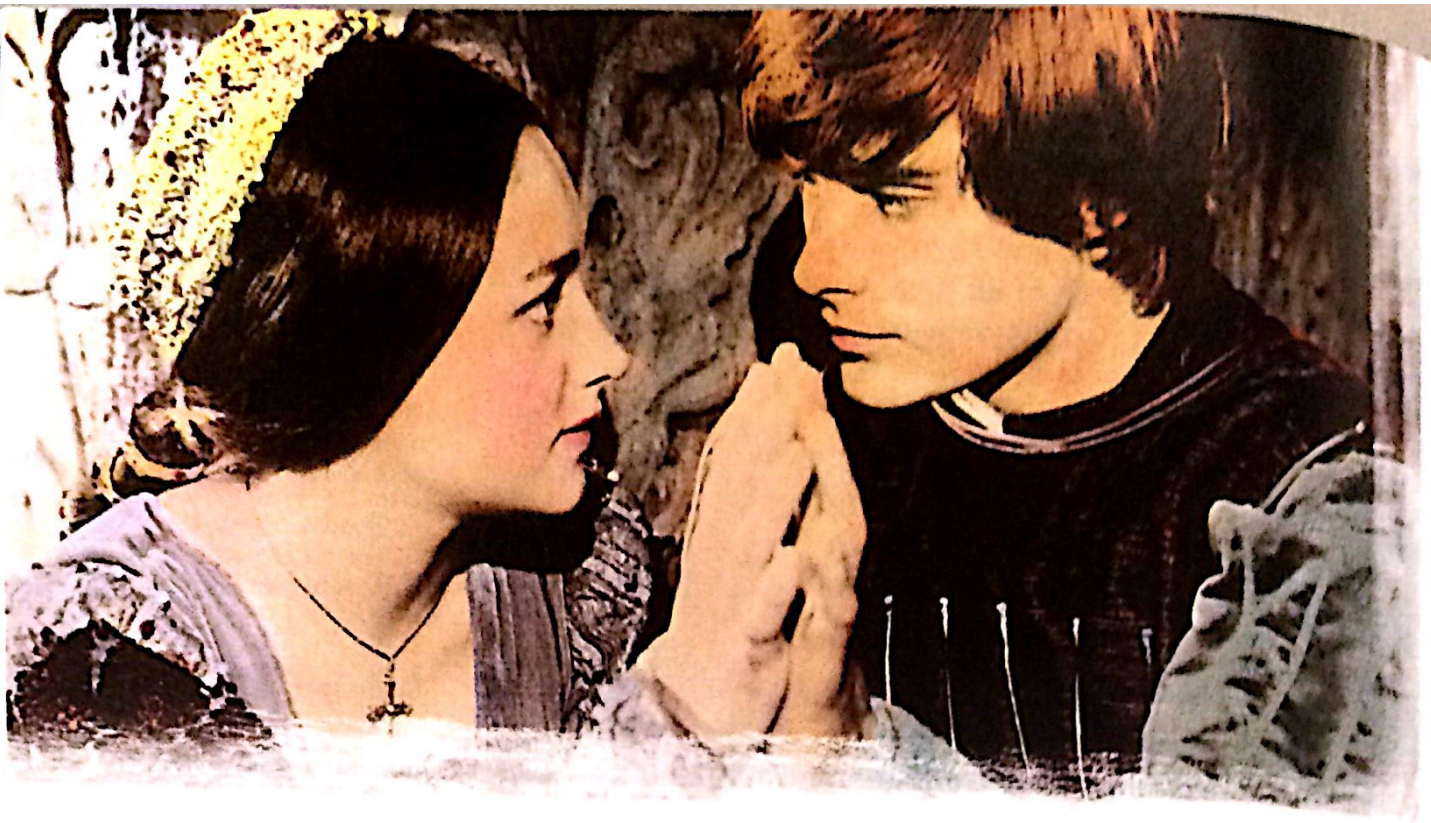
21. shrine Juliet's hand.

22. palmers pilgrims who at one time carried palm branches from the Holy Land.

23. move initiate involvement in earthly affairs.

Reading Check

How does Capulet respond when Tybalt says he will not tolerate Romeo's presence at the party?



105 **ROMEO.** Then move not while my prayer's effect I take.
Thus from my lips, by thine my sin is purged. *[Kisses her.]*

JULIET. Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO. Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly urged!²⁴
Give me my sin again. *[Kisses her.]*

JULIET. You kiss by th' book.²⁵

110 **NURSE.** Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

ROMEO. What is her mother?

NURSE. Marry, bachelor,
Her mother is the lady of the house,
And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous.
I nursed her daughter that you talked withal.
115 I tell you, he that can lay hold of her
Shall have the chinks.²⁶

ROMEO. Is she a Capulet?
O dear account! My life is my foe's debt.²⁷

BENVOLIO. Away, be gone; the sport is at the best.

ROMEO. Ay, so I fear; the more is my unrest.

120 **CAPULET.** Nay, gentlemen, prepare not to be gone;
We have a trifling foolish banquet towards.²⁸
Is it e'en so?²⁹ Why then, I thank you all.
I thank you, honest gentlemen. Good night.
More torches here! Come on then; let's to bed.
125 Ah, sirrah, by my fay,³⁰ it waxes late;
I'll to my rest.

[Exit all but JULIET and NURSE.]

▲ Critical Viewing

What does this picture suggest about Romeo and Juliet's feelings for each other? *[Infer]*

24. O . . . urged! Romeo is saying, in substance, that he is happy. Juliet calls his kiss a sin, for now he can take it back—by another kiss.

25. by th' book as if you were following a manual of courtly love.

26. chinks cash.

27. My life . . . debt Since Juliet is a Capulet, Romeo's life is at the mercy of the enemies of his family.

Reading Strategy

Using Text Aids What do you learn from the text aid that helps you understand Romeo's conflict?

28. towards being prepared.

29. Is . . . so? Is it the case that you really must leave?

30. fay faith.

JULIET. Come hither, nurse. What is yond gentleman?

NURSE. The son and heir of old Tiberio.

JULIET. What's he that now is going out of door?

130 **NURSE.** Marry, that, I think, be young Petruchio.

JULIET. What's he that follows here, that would not dance?

NURSE. I know not.

JULIET. Go ask his name—If he is married,
My grave is like to be my wedding bed.

135 **NURSE.** His name is Romeo, and a Montague,
The only son of your great enemy.

JULIET. My only love, sprung from my only hate!
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!
Prodigious³¹ birth of love it is to me
140 That I must love a loathèd enemy.

31. Prodigious monstrous;
foretelling misfortune.

NURSE. What's this? What's this?

JULIET. A rhyme I learnt even now.
Of one I danced withal. [One calls within, "Juliet."]

NURSE. Anon, anon!
Come, let's away; the strangers all are gone. [Exit all.]