

25 It may be thought we held him carelessly,<sup>7</sup>  
Being our kinsman, if we revel much.  
Therefore we'll have some half a dozen friends,  
And there an end. But what say you to Thursday?

**PARIS.** My lord, I would that Thursday were tomorrow.

30 **CAPULET.** Well, get you gone. A Thursday be it then.  
Go you to Juliet ere you go to bed;  
Prepare her, wife, against<sup>8</sup> this wedding day.  
Farewell, my lord.—Light to my chamber, ho!  
Afore me,<sup>9</sup> it is so very late  
35 That we may call it early by and by.  
Good night.

[Exit all.]

**7. held him carelessly**  
did not respect him  
enough.

### Reading Strategy

**Paraphrasing** Paraphrase lines 25–26 to explain why Capulet wants to hold a small wedding.

**8. against** for.

**9. Afore me** indeed  
(a mild oath).

### Scene v. CAPULET'S orchard.

[Enter ROMEO and JULIET aloft.]

**JULIET.** Wilt thou be gone? It is not yet near day.  
It was the nightingale, and not the lark,<sup>1</sup>  
That pierced the fearful hollow of thine ear.  
Nightly she sings on yond pomegranate tree.  
5 Believe me, love, it was the nightingale.

**ROMEO.** It was the lark, the herald of the morn;  
No nightingale. Look, love, what envious streaks  
Do lace the severing<sup>2</sup> clouds in yonder East.  
Night's candles<sup>3</sup> are burnt out, and jocund day  
10 Stands tiptoe on the misty mountaintops.  
I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

**JULIET.** Yond light is not daylight; I know it, I.  
It is some meteor that the sun exhales<sup>4</sup>  
To be to thee this night a torchbearer  
15 And light thee on thy way to Mantua.  
Therefore stay yet; thou need'st not to be gone.

**ROMEO.** Let me be ta'en, let me be put to death.  
I am content, so thou wilt have it so.  
I'll say yon gray is not the morning's eye,  
20 'Tis but the pale reflex of Cynthia's brow;<sup>5</sup>  
Nor that is not the lark whose notes do beat  
The vaulty heaven so high above our heads.  
I have more care to stay than will to go.  
Come, death, and welcome! Juliet wills it so.  
25 How is't, my soul? Let's talk; it is not day.

**JULIET.** It is, it is! Hie hence, be gone, away!  
It is the lark that sings so out of tune,  
Straining harsh discords and unpleasing sharps.<sup>6</sup>  
Some say the lark makes sweet division;<sup>7</sup>

**1. nightingale . . . lark**  
The nightingale was associated with the night; the lark, with dawn.

**2. severing** parting.

**3. Night's candles** stars.

**4. exhales** sends out.

**5. reflex . . . brow**  
reflection of the moon  
(Cynthia was a name for the moon goddess).

**6. sharps** shrill high notes.

**7. division** melody.

### ✓ Reading Check

What do the Capulets plan for Juliet on Thursday?

- 30 This doth not so, for she divideth us.  
 Some say the lark and loathèd toad change eyes;<sup>8</sup>  
 O, now I would they had changed voices too,  
 Since arm from arm that voice doth us affray,<sup>9</sup>  
 Hunting thee hence with hunt's-up<sup>10</sup> to the day.  
 35 O, now be gone! More light and light it grows.

ROMEO. More light and light—more dark and dark our woes.

[Enter NURSE.]

NURSE. Madam!

JULIET. Nurse?

- NURSE. Your lady mother is coming to your chamber.  
 40 The day is broke; be wary, look about. [Exit.]

JULIET. Then, window, let day in, and let life out.

ROMEO. Farewell, farewell! One kiss, and I'll descend.

[He goeth down.]

- JULIET. Art thou gone so, love-lord, ay husband-friend?  
 I must hear from thee every day in the hour,  
 45 For in a minute there are many days.  
 O, by this count I shall be much in years<sup>11</sup>  
 Ere I again behold my Romeo!

ROMEO. Farewell!

- I will omit no opportunity  
 50 That may convey my greetings, love, to thee.

JULIET. O, think'st thou we shall ever meet again?

ROMEO. I doubt it not; and all these woes shall serve  
 For sweet discourses<sup>12</sup> in our times to come.

- JULIET. O God, I have an ill-divining<sup>13</sup> soul!  
 55 Methinks I see thee, now thou art so low,  
 As one dead in the bottom of a tomb.  
 Either my eyesight fails, or thou lookest pale.

ROMEO. And trust me, love, in my eye so do you.  
 Dry sorrow drinks our blood.<sup>14</sup> Adieu, adieu!

[Exit.]

- 60 JULIET. O Fortune, Fortune! All men call thee fickle.  
 If thou art fickle, what dost thou<sup>15</sup> with him  
 That is renowned for faith? Be fickle, Fortune,  
 For then I hope thou wilt not keep him long  
 But send him back.

[Enter MOTHER.]

- 65 LADY CAPULET. Ho, daughter! Are you up?

JULIET. Who is't that calls? It is my lady mother.

8. **change eyes** exchange eyes (because the lark has a beautiful body with ugly eyes and the toad has an ugly body with beautiful eyes).

9. **affray** frighten.

10. **hunt's-up** morning song for hunters.

### Reading Strategy

**Paraphrasing** Restate Romeo's complaint in line 36 to explain the contrast he makes between light and dark.

11. **much in years** much older.

### Reading Strategy

**Paraphrasing** Translate Romeo and Juliet's conversation in lines 48–53 into modern English.

12. **discourses** conversations.

13. **ill-divining** predicting evil.

14. **Dry sorrow . . . blood** it was once believed that sorrow drained away the blood.

**fickle** (fik'el) *adj.* changeable

15. **dost thou** do you have to do.

### Literary Analysis

**Allusion** To which quality of Fortune, the Greek goddess of chance, does Juliet allude?

**JULIET.** Nurse, will you go with me into my closet<sup>11</sup>  
To help me sort such needful ornaments<sup>12</sup>  
As you think fit to furnish me tomorrow?

35 **LADY CAPULET.** No, not till Thursday. There is time enough.

**CAPULET.** Go, nurse, go with her. We'll to church tomorrow.  
[Exit JULIET and NURSE.]

**LADY CAPULET.** We shall be short in our provision.<sup>13</sup>  
'Tis now near night.

**CAPULET.** Tush, I will stir about,  
And all things shall be well, I warrant thee, wife.  
40 Go thou to Juliet, help to deck up her.<sup>14</sup>  
I'll not to bed tonight; let me alone.  
I'll play the housewife for this once. What, ho!<sup>15</sup>  
They are all forth; well, I will walk myself  
To County Paris, to prepare up him  
45 Against tomorrow. My heart is wondrous light,  
Since this same wayward girl is so reclaimed. [Exit with MOTHER.]

### **Scene iii.** JULIET's chamber.

[Enter JULIET and NURSE.]

**JULIET.** Ay, those attires are best; but, gentle nurse,  
I pray thee leave me to myself tonight;  
For I have need of many orisons<sup>1</sup>  
To move the heavens to smile upon my state,<sup>2</sup>  
5 Which, well thou knowest, is cross<sup>3</sup> and full of sin.

[Enter MOTHER.]

**LADY CAPULET.** What, are you busy, ho? Need you my help?

**JULIET.** No, madam; we have culled<sup>4</sup> such necessities  
As are behoveful<sup>5</sup> for our state tomorrow.  
So please you, let me now be left alone,  
10 And let the nurse this night sit up with you:  
For I am sure you have your hands full all  
In this so sudden business.

**LADY CAPULET.** Good night.  
Get thee to bed, and rest: for thou hast need.  
[Exit MOTHER and NURSE.]

**JULIET.** Farewell! God knows when we shall meet again.  
15 I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins  
That almost freezes up the heat of life.  
I'll call them back again to comfort me.  
Nurse!—What should she do here?  
My dismal scene I needs must act alone.

11. **closet** private room.  
12. **ornaments** clothes.

13. **short . . . provision**  
lacking time for preparation.

14. **deck up her** dress  
her; get her ready.

15. **What, ho!** Capulet is  
calling for his servants.

**wayward** (wā' wərd) adj.  
headstrong; willful

#### **Literary Analysis**

**Dramatic Irony** What is  
ironic about Lord  
Capulet's relief and joy?

1. **orisons** prayers.

2. **state** condition.

3. **cross** selfish;  
disobedient.

4. **culled** chosen.

5. **behoveful** desirable;  
appropriate.

#### **Literary Analysis**

**Dramatic Irony and  
Suspense** In what ways  
does Juliet's statement—  
"I have a faint cold fear  
thrills through my  
veins"—add suspense to  
the drama?

**dismal** (diz' māl) adj. caus-  
ing gloom or misery



Come, vial.

What if this mixture do not work at all?

Shall I be married then tomorrow morning?

No, no! This shall forbid it. Lie thou there. [*Lays down a dagger.*]

What if it be a poison which the friar

Subtly hath minist'ed<sup>6</sup> to have me dead,

Lest in this marriage he should be dishonored

Because he married me before to Romeo?

I fear it is; and yet methinks it should not,

For he hath still been tried<sup>7</sup> a holy man.

How if, when I am laid into the tomb,

I wake before the time that Romeo

Come to redeem me? There's a fearful point!

Shall I not then be stifled in the vault,

To whose foul mouth no healthsome air breathes in,

And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes?

Or, if I live, is it not very like

The horrible conceit<sup>8</sup> of death and night,

Together with the terror of the place—

As in a vault, an ancient receptacle

Where for this many hundred years the bones

Of all my buried ancestors are packed;

Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth,<sup>9</sup>

Lies fest'ring in his shroud; where, as they say,

At some hours in the night spirits resort—

Alack, alack, is it not like<sup>10</sup> that I,

So early waking—what with loathsome smells,

And shrieks like mandrakes<sup>11</sup> torn out of the earth,

That living mortals, hearing them, run mad—

O, if I wake, shall I not be distraught,<sup>12</sup>

Environèd<sup>13</sup> with all these hideous fears,

And madly play with my forefathers' joints,

And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his shroud,

And, in this rage, with some great kinsman's bone

As with a club dash out my desp'rate brains?

O, look! Methinks I see my cousin's ghost

Seeking out Romeo, that did spit his body

Upon a rapier's point. Stay, Tybalt, stay!

Romeo, Romeo, Romeo, I drink to thee.

[*She falls upon her bed within the curtains.*]

**Scene iv. Hall in CAPULET's house.**

[*Enter LADY OF THE HOUSE and NURSE.*]

**LADY CAPULET.** Hold, take these keys and fetch more spices, nurse.

**NURSE.** They call for dates and quinces<sup>1</sup> in the pastry.<sup>2</sup>

6. minist'ed given me.

7. tried proved.

### Literary Analysis

**Dramatic Irony and Suspense** How do Juliet's anxieties add to the suspense for readers or audiences?

8. conceit idea; thought.

9. green in earth newly entombed.

10. like likely.

**loathsome** (lōth' sēm) *adj.* disgusting

11. **mandrakes** plants with forked roots that resemble human legs. The mandrake was believed to shriek when uprooted and cause the hearer to go mad.

12. **distraught** insane.

13. **Environèd** surrounded.

### Reading Strategy

**Predicting** What do you think will happen when Juliet's "lifeless" body is found on her bed?

1. **quinces** golden apple-shaped fruit.

2. **pastry** baking room.

### ☒ Reading Check

What does Juliet do after her mother and the Nurse leave her chambers?