

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare**Act 4: Love Letters**

Introduction: Romeo and Juliet have declared their love for each other, and married secretly. Because of Romeo's banishment, the two lovers have only spent one night together as a married couple. Before leaving, Romeo promises to write to Juliet as often as he can ('I will omit no opportunity/that may convey my greetings, love, to thee.'). Afterward, Juliet learns of her father's arrangement to have her marry Paris. She visits Friar Lawrence, and he presents her with an escape plan. In scene 3 of Act 4, Juliet reveals her fears about the plan and the potion given to her by the Friar. Before she drinks the potion, she calls out to Romeo, almost as if his name can give her the strength she needs to go through with the act ('Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! Here's drink – I drink to thee.').

Part 1: Write a love letter from Romeo to Juliet after his arrival in Mantua (he's only been gone less than a day by the end of Act 4). Keep Romeo's previous actions and words in mind as you write. Be sure to incorporate as much of Shakespeare's language of love as possible (see below).

Part 2: Imagine Juliet stopped to write Romeo a letter before she drinks the potion (or, perhaps, as she is discussing her fears aloud, she might be writing the letter). Write a farewell letter to Romeo, in case the plans go wrong, telling him what you are doing, describing your fears and telling him how you feel about him now. While keeping Juliet's previous actions and words in mind, use as much of Shakespeare's language as possible in your letter.

Words of "Love:"

Forsworn-promised not to
Nuptial-wedding
Fair-beautiful
Beloved-loved by
Vestal-pure/virginal
Chaste-pure
Maiden-young virgin
Paramour-lover
Enamoured-loved by/of

Greetings and Farewells:

God gi'god den.
Good den.
God ye good morrow.
Happily met, my lady and my wife!
Go hence, good night.
Farewell.
Dear love, adieu.
Parting is such sweet sorrow.
A thousand times good night!

References to "Love" in the play:

- 'Alas that Love, so gentle in his view,
Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!'
- 'Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs'
- 'This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath
May prove a beauteous flower.'
- 'O she doth teach the torches to burn bright.'
- 'You are a lover, borrow Cupid's wings.'
- 'My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep; the ore I give to the
The more I have, for both are infinite.'
- 'Under love's heavy burden do I sink.'
- 'Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight!'
- 'My only love sprung from my only hate!'
- 'Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized.'
- 'With love's light wings did I o'erperch these
walls'
- 'Love goes towards love as schoolboys from
their books.'
- 'Therefore love moderately, long love doth so.'
- 'For stony limits cannot hold love out.'
- 'Thy love's faithful vow.'
- 'A maiden blush'
- 'And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay.'
- 'My heart's dear love'
- 'You kiss by th'book.'
- 'O my love, my wife!'
- 'I will kiss thy lips.'