

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

5.2: 'Unhappy fortune!' – Friar John's delay

Introduction:

Friar John explains that he was seeking another Franciscan friar to accompany him to Mantua in order to deliver Friar Lawrence's letter to Romeo. He found his brother friar visiting the sick. There disaster struck: the 'searchers' called!

The 'searchers' were health officers of the town appointed to prevent the spread of disease by examining dead bodies to establish the cause of death. They thought that the Franciscans were in a house where plague raged, so refused to allow them to travel ('Sealed up the doors'). This was common practice in London at the time Shakespeare was writing.

Directions: Step into role as Friar Lawrence and write his letters to Romeo. The first letter explains the desperate plan he has devised for Juliet's "death" (see 4.1.91-119), and the other is his second, futile attempt to reach Romeo (see 5.2.28-29). Unfortunately for Friar Lawrence, he has no idea that Romeo is already on his way to Verona.

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Language Arts

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