

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Act 1: The Love Connection

Directions: Read the lines listed for each of the following characters. Then draw some conclusions about each line or set of lines: what insights do they give into each character’s experiences with, feelings toward, or attitudes about love and marriage? Jot down these insights in the space provided. Then, answer the questions on the back of this page.

Romeo: “Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs;/Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers’ eyes;/Being vexed, a sea nourished with loving tears.” (1.1.195-199)	
Benvolio: “Examine other beauties.” (1.1.235-236) “Tut man, one fire burns out another’s burning;/One pain is lessened by another’s anguish.” (1.2.47-48)	
Paris: “Younger than she are happy mothers made.” (1.2.12)	
Capulet: “And too soon marred are those early made.” (1.2.13) “But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart;/My will to her consent is but a part.” (1.2.16-17)	
Juliet: “It is an honor that I dream not of.” (1.3.71) “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.” (1.3.103-105)	
Lady Capulet: “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.” (1.3.75-79)	
Nurse: “No less? Nay, bigger. Women grow by men.” (1.3.101)	
Mercutio: “If love be rough with you, be rough with love.” (1.4.27)	

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Directions: Answer these questions using the information from the front. Be prepared to discuss your responses.

1. What is the effect of having such a variety of experiences, feelings, and attitudes about love and marriage in one play?
2. What are some insights about the characters, story, or time period that you gained that made a strong impression on you?
3. What are some complications that might arise between the different groups of people (Lord & Lady Capulet, Romeo & his friends, Juliet & the Nurse or her Mother, Capulet & Paris, Juliet & Paris) because of these different viewpoints?
4. In addition to the feud, what are some other possible problems the young lovers will encounter?
5. Regarding the topic of love and marriage, with which character do you most identify and why?

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<p>Romeo: "Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs;/Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;/Being vexed, a sea nourished with loving tears." (1.1.195-199)</p>	<p>Romeo believes love is an emotional roller coaster. Love is "hot or cold."</p>
<p>Benvolio: "Examine other beauties." (1.1.235-236) "Tut man, one fire burns out another's burning;/One pain is lessened by another's anguish." (1.2.47-48)</p>	<p>Benvolio probably does not believe in long-term relationships. He sounds kind of like a player. Maybe he bounces from "relationship to relationship."</p>
<p>Paris: "Younger than she are happy mothers made." (1.2.12)</p>	<p>Paris is eager to marry. Age is not an issue.</p>
<p>Capulet: "And too soon marred are those early made." (1.2.13) "But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart;/My will to her consent is but a part." (1.2.16-17)</p>	<p>Capulet seems to think that marrying too early can be damaging to a relationship. He may believe that people should marry for love and be forced into a marriage.</p>
<p>Juliet: "It is an honor that I dream not of." (1.3.71) "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." (1.3.103-105)</p>	<p>Juliet does not want to get married. She doesn't even seem interested in love. It appears she is only trying to please her mother.</p>
<p>Lady Capulet: "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." (1.3.75-79)</p>	<p>Lady Capulet's experiences reflect the social constructs of the times. For Lady Capulet, love/marriage for her are a given: you do it because it is expected of you.</p>
<p>Nurse: "No less? Nay, bigger. Women grow by men." (1.3.101)</p>	<p>The Nurse seems to share Lady Capulet's idea: marriage should be to increase a woman's status in life (or for the purpose of having children).</p>
<p>Mercutio: "If love be rough with you, be rough with love." (1.4.27)</p>	<p>Mercutio believes love is a game. There is also a sexual connotation here ('be rough with love') that suggests Mercutio doesn't really believe in love at all; for him everything should be about sex.</p>