



Higher Still Notes

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Higher English

HSN41100
Romeo and Juliet

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Essay Plan 1

“I am ... more sinned against than sinning”

This plan will outline the main points of an essay discussing the extent to which this applies to Juliet in Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*.

Characters

<i>Juliet’s fault</i>	<i>Not Juliet’s fault</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She continued her relationship with Romeo despite the fact that he was a Montague • She did not tell her parents about her relationship with Romeo and so refused them the chance to change • She complied with the Friar’s implausible plan 	<p>Capulet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened to disown Juliet if she did not marry Paris • Brought forward wedding which did not allow the Friar to have the note delivered to Mantua quickly enough <p>Prince Escalus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not do enough earlier to resolve “ancient grudge” <p>Tybalt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romeo would not have killed him if he had not slain Mercutio <p>Apothecary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broke the law to sell Romeo the poison in Mantua to satisfy his own greed <p>Nurse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested Juliet should marry Paris and betray Romeo <p>Friar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left Juliet in tomb

Themes

<i>Juliet's fault</i>	<i>Not Juliet's fault</i>
<p>Theme of Deceit – Juliet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juliet lied about going to pray at church when she actually went to marry Romeo • Lied about going to confession when in fact she went to get help from the Friar • Juliet lied to her parents by saying that she would marry Paris 	<p>Theme of Hate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feud between the families made the relationship impossible • Tybalt's hate for Romeo led to him killing Mercutio – “to strike him dead I hold not a sin” <p>Theme of Fate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juliet could do nothing to avert the tragic ending of the play as the Prologue had already told us that the “star-crossed lovers take their life” <p>Theme of Deceit – The Friar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Friar did not tell Prince Escalus of the relationship – if he had Romeo would probably not have been banished as the Prince would have seen an opportunity to resolve the feud • Even during the Capulets' grief, the Friar did not tell them of the plan: if he had the Capulets would probably have been happy to hear of the relationship • It seems that the reason for the Friar's deceit is his concern for his position in the Church – he would have been the person who single-handedly solved the “ancient grudge” in Verona

Essay Plan 2

A clear turning point in the drama

This plan will outline the main points of an essay arguing that Act III Scene I is the turning point of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. This is the scene in which Tybalt is slain.

Theme

<i>Before</i>	<i>During/After</i>
<p>Play <u>dominated</u> by theme of love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampson and Gregory speak of love as rape: “thrust his [Montague’s] maids to the wall” • Romeo uses elaborate oxymorons to emphasise his confused emotional state “O brawling love, o loving hate” • Romeo tells Juliet of his love for her at the masquerade when he says his lips are “two blushing pilgrims” worshipping her • Tybalt shows his hate by vowing to kill Romeo: “To strike him dead I hold it not a sin” • Juliet makes clear her love for Romeo also commenting on the fact that Romeo is a Montague: “my only love sprung from my only hate” • In the balcony scene, Romeo declared that “with love’s light wings did I o’erperch these walls” • Juliet: “My love has grown to such excess, I cannot sum up half of all my wealth” • The theme of love reaches its climax when the couple are married in Act II Scene vi 	<p>Play dominated by theme of hate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate defeats love in this scene when Romeo’s calls for peace are ignored and the fighting begins • Tybalt shows his hate: “Romeo... thou art a villain” • Hate takes over Romeo temporarily when he kills Tybalt: “fire-eyed fury be my conduct now” • When Juliet hears of Tybalt’s death, she loves and hates Romeo at the same time. The oxymorons show this: “beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical”. This shows hate in Juliet for the first time • Capulet says he will disown Juliet if she doesn’t marry Paris: “hang, beg, starve, die in the streets”. This again shows hate

Characters

Romeo

- Before this scene Romeo seems impetuous and immature. His maturity is demonstrated in this scene when he refuses to fight Tybalt but his impetuosity is demonstrated when he kills him in a rage. Also signs that he is still immature are apparent: “Oh I am fortune’s fool”

Juliet

- Before this scene, Juliet is also very immature and relies on her parents to guide her through life. After this scene however, Juliet makes her own decisions and shows that she has grown up considerably when she is able to be self-reliant after everyone abandons her

Mercutio

- Mercutio is one of the liveliest characters in the play (his Queen Mab speech). His death also shows a turning point as he is no longer involved in the play and marks a change in the mood.

Tybalt

- Tybalt is the most violent character in the play, in this scene he provokes the violence which builds to a climax ending in his death which signifies a turning point