

English

Appearance V Reality – Romeo and Juliet

Year 8

Autumn



1. Context - Shakespeare

Shakespeare: Shakespeare wrote many plays in support of the monarchy, and showing different views in society.

Religion: The vast majority of Shakespeare's audiences will have been Christian, and had a strong faith in God – they believed a person's life is planned out by God

Fate: In contrast to the Christian belief that God plans a certain destiny, many including Shakespeare held the belief that your actions create your fate.

2. Key Vocabulary

Dowry: An exchange of money for a bride on her marriage

Oxymoron: Two contrasting words next to each other in a sentence

Fickle: Someone who changes their mind or opinions regularly

Unrequited: Something that you give but don't receive

Conflict : Fighting or arguing with others or your own thoughts

3. Themes and ideas

Love: Through Romeo and Juliet's characters we see the power of love, and the extents that people may go to, to display their love

Fate: Students will evaluate their views on fate and whether these are created by God or the characters themselves

Conflict: There are many conflicts in the play, the conflict between Capulets and Montagues, as well as the conflict between character choices

4. Characterisation

Romeo: Romeo starts off the play in love with Rosaline, is fickle, and falls immediately in love with Juliet devoting himself entirely to her.

Juliet: Juliet defies her father and falls in love with Romeo, marrying him and risking her family relationships

Capulet: Capulet is the head of the feud, attempts to force his daughter into an unloving marriage, and ultimately suffers for this.

Friar Lawrence: Agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet for their love, however he warns them and the audience to love moderately and the consequences of not thinking before acting.

5. Subject Terminology

Dramatic Irony: When the audience know something that the characters on stage do not

Foreshadowing: Hinting or warning of a future event

Prologue: Told at the start of the play to inform the audience

Soliloquy: A character speaking their thoughts aloud to the audience

Narrator: Used to drive the story forward and inform the audience of things happening

6. Social influences - Patriarchy

Patriarchal Society: A patriarchal society is a society dominated by male power, men were viewed as superior to women.

Father/ Daughter Relationships: Until marriage, daughters must obey their fathers. In many wealthy families, the father would arrange a marriage for his daughter, in which a dowry would be paid.

Marriage: Arranged and forced marriages were legal and common. When married, a woman would be expected to obey their husband, and bare children.