

SAMPLE Dialectical Journal  
Romeo and Juliet  
Act 2

Scene 1

“Now old desire doth in his deathbed lie /  
And young affection gapes to be his heir...

The sonnet begins Act Two by confirming that Romeo is no longer in love with Rosaline and that he now loves Juliet. The sonnet goes on to tell us that this is a conflict because the two are sworn enemies but their passion for one another motivates them to put the ancient grudge aside. When they are together all of their troubles are forgotten.

Where is Romeo and what is he thinking?

Romeo is hiding in the Capulet's orchard. He says, “Can I go forward when my heart is here?” (2.1, 1-2)

Where is Romeo and what is he thinking?

Romeo wants to go find Juliet but his friends are leaving. He decides to hide from his friends and let them leave without him. Romeo has ostracized himself once again from his friends and family. At the beginning of Act 1 he was hiding in a grove sycamore trees. In the beginning of Act 2 he is hiding in trees again, but these trees bare fruit. The fruit, although only implied is symbolic of the nourishment Romeo craves... that nourishment is a romantic love that is returned.

What are Benvolio and Mercutio doing?

“Go then for 'tis vain / To seek him here  
that means not to be found.” (2.1, 44-45)

What are Benvolio and Mercutio doing?

Benvolio and Romeo called for Romeo to join them They think he is still depressed over Rosaline so he disappeared into the trees again to feel sorry for himself.

Dramatic Irony

Mercutio says, “I conjure thee by  
Rosaline's bright eyes.” (2.1, 19)

Mercutio and Benvolio think Romeo is still in love with Rosaline. We, the audience, know that he did not climb over the wall to weep for Rosaline, but to find his new love, Juliet.

## Scene 2

Romeo's Soliloquy:  
"But soft what light through yonder  
window breaks..." (2.2, 1)

Romeo compares Juliet to the sun. This is a metaphor that tells the audience that Romeo thinks Juliet is hot. The light imagery is also a symbol of Romeo's hope for falling in love. When he first saw Juliet at the party he said "O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright" (45), but now she is the sun, which is larger and brighter than any torch, so we can see that having found Juliet again has increased his desire to love her. In addition, this metaphor foreshadows Romeo's death: If Juliet is indeed Romeo's sun, then if she dies, then Romeo will not be able to survive without her.

Aside:  
Romeo says, "Shall I hear more, or shall I  
speak at this?" (2.2, 38)

This is an example of an aside because Romeo actually asks this question to the audience. While Juliet is on her balcony, she thinks she is alone. Shakespeare is blurring the lines between a soliloquy and a monologue. A soliloquy is when a character speaks his or her private thoughts aloud while alone on stage. This is to benefit the audience. A monologue is when a character speaks to one or more other characters on stage. In this scene, Juliet is speaking her private thoughts aloud not realizing the Romeo is there and can hear what she is saying.

Dialogue:  
Romeo responds to Juliet's words and startles her. She does not realize who it is, at first. (2.2, 51-68)

Dialogue is when two or more actors have a conversation on stage. Although Juliet cannot see Romeo, she does recognize his voice. Romeo knows that by simply being a Montague he might never have chance with Juliet, so he forsakes his name by telling her she can call him what ever she wants.

## Scene 2 continued...

### Practical vs Reckless

Romeo says, "I have night's cloak to hide me from their eyes / ... / Than death prorogued, wanting of they love." (2.2, 78-81)

Romeo tells Juliet he would rather stay and die near her than live far away. This is foreshadowing a future event in the play. See if you can spot it when it happens.

### Engagement plans:

Juliet leaves the stage briefly to speak to the nurse who is calling her from off stage. When Juliet returns she says, "If that thy bent of love be honorable, / Thy purpose marriage send me word tomorrow" (2.2, 144-45).

Before Juliet left the stage she told Romeo she loved him but she cautioned that shouldn't move too fast. After Juliet leaves the stage to speak to the Nurse she tells Romeo that they must make plans to marry tomorrow if he really loves her. Why do you think she had this sudden desire to speed up their relationship?

### Hard Time Parting:

Romeo and Juliet say goodbye several times but each time Juliet comes back to say goodbye once again. Finally, she says, "Parting is such sweet sorrow / That I shall say good night till it be morrow" (2.2, 187-188).

Romeo and Juliet do not want to leave one another. Juliet says that it is always sad to say good night, but it is sweet because she has had a good night and will have a good tomorrow when Romeo and she plan to get married.

## Scene 3

### Soliloquy (1-30)

"morn smiles on the frowning night / .... I must upfill this osier cage of ours / with baleful weeds and precious-juiced flowers.... Nor aught so good but, strained from that fair use / Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse. / Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied and vice sometime by action dignified / (2-23)

### Soliloquy (1-30)

The Friar observes that opposing forces coexist within nature. The morning is described as smiling making this light imagery positive. The light imagery in this play up until this point has been a symbol for Romeo's love for a girl. The light imagery here can also represent the Romeo and Juliet's love because Romeo will visit Friar Lawrence to request he marry Romeo and Juliet. The Friar also describes herbs and flowers that have both poisonous and healing properties. He philosophizes that too much of a good thing can be bad and a vice can be a virtue in the right circumstance.

Foreshadow (23)

Within the infant rind of this small flower /  
Power hath residence and medicine power”  
(23-24)

If we look at these lines as foreshadowing we also have to look at the small flower as a metaphor. What can be compared to a small flower? Romeo and Juliet’s relationship. If we accept that metaphor that these lines also foreshadow the reasons why Friar Lawrence performs Romeo and Juliet’s marriage – The marriage (the small flower) can heal the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets. Additionally, when viewed in context with all the information in his soliloquy – especially the line “Virtue itself turned vice” then this also foreshadows that the quick marriage of Romeo and Juliet (too much of a good thing) will turn bad.

dramatic irony

“Therefore thy earliness doth me assure / Thou art  
uproused by some distemperture.” (2.3, 40-41)

Friar Lawrence recognizes that Romeo looks like he has been up all night and he assumes it is because he is not well. The Dramatic Irony is that we know Romeo was up all night because he was happy and with Juliet. Friar Lawrence knows that Romeo was lovesick over Rosaline, which shows us that they have a close relationship; similar to the close relationship between Juliet and Nurse.

tragic flaw (65-68)

“When, and where, and how, / We met, we  
wooed, and made exchange of vow”

“Young men’s love, then, lies / Not truly  
in their hearts, but in their eyes.” (2.3, 65-  
71)

Romeo tells Friar Lawrence that he met Juliet and they promised to love each other. Friar Lawrence is shocked and believed that Romeo falls in love with girls for their beauty and not for their character. Romeo’s emotions that cause him to act impulsively is his tragic flaw. Have you ever heard the saying “Fools rush in”?

end the feud (90-92)

#### Act 2 Scene 4

Dramatic irony (4-5)

“Why, the same pale hard-hearted wench,  
that / Rosaline, torments him so that he  
will sure run mad.” (2.4, 4-5)

Mercutio is telling Benvolio that Rosaline is a cold-hearted witch because she does not return Romeo’s love. What Mercutio does not know is Romeo no longer loves Rosaline; he loves Juliet.

Mercutio's Characterization  
"Without his roe, like a dried herring. O flesh,  
flesh, / how art thou fishified" (2.4, 34-35)

Mercutio is a passionate and loyal friend. Romeo's depression upsets Mercutio. Mercutio wants Romeo to be happy. He thinks Tybalt would win a duel against Romeo only because Romeo is depressed.

Match of Wits, Romeo and Mercutio  
"Good morrow to you both"

Romeo's greeting actually shows that he is having a good day – his mood has changed. Earlier he said, "Is the day so young?" which indicates that he felt like the day was taking too long – typically the sign of a bad day.

Mocks the Nurse (96-101)

Plans for Marriage (169-172)

Plans for Marriage Night (176-180)

## Act 2 scene 5

Soliloquy (1-17)

Nurse as comic relief

Act 2 scene 6

Foreshadowing

Flaw (14-15)

Marriage