

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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Mercutio 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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. This shows us that Romeo's attraction to Juliet increased since the last time they met. In addition, this metaphor \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ is when a character speaks his or her private thoughts aloud while alone on stage. This is to benefit the audience. A \_\_\_\_\_ 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)

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 their love." (2.2, 78-81)

Romeo tells Juliet he would rather stay and die near her than live far away from her.

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 to speak to Nurse, she told Romeo she loved him but she cautioned that shouldn't move too fast. When Juliet returns she tells Romeo that if he really loves her they must make plans to marry tomorrow. 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. "such sweet sorrow" is also an example of \_\_\_\_\_.