

Romeo and Juliet Dialectical Journal

Assignment: As we read William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, it will be your responsibility to keep a dialectical (double-entry) journal. The purpose of the dialectical journal is to provide a platform for you to further develop your reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. As you complete the dialectical journal it will also become a very useful reference for completing additional assignments and participating in class discussions. It is recommended that you use a spiral notebook for your journal; however, you may also use loose-leaf paper – you will just need to be more diligent in keeping your journal together and organized should you choose to use loose-leaf paper. If you choose to use a spiral notebook, devote a whole notebook to this journal – do not combine this work with your science, math, or even other English assignments. It is expected that you will complete this journal as we read, listen, watch, and act out the play. Therefore, the majority of this assignment will be completed as classwork.

Grading: There are five acts that comprise the play *Romeo and Juliet*. Each act will be worth 25 points making the finished journal worth a total of 125 points. Journals will be checked at the end of each act and a final score will be awarded at the end of the unit.

Format: The format of a dialectical journal is specific. Make sure you follow this organization so you do not lose points on this assignment:

Your paper should be divided into two columns.

Within the left-hand column, you will record text directly as it appears in the play along with the line numbers. If you need to write down more than two lines, you may paraphrase or summarize the text within the left side column and be sure to include the range of lines you are paraphrasing or summarizing.

Within the right-hand column you must explain the significance of the passage you recorded in the left hand column. Significance is a broad term and it includes a discussion of themes revealed or developed, significant insight into a character, an explanation on why the use of a literary device is effective, and/or how the event may influence the plot.

Dialectical Journal Guide: The following are the prompts of what you are expected to address in your dialectical journal. These are NOT optional. If you would like to respond to more of the play, you may.

Act 1 Scene 1

- Purpose of lines 1-60?
- Foils
- Prince's speech (lines 78-100)
- Where has Romeo been?
- oxymorons (173-178)
- allusion (206)
- couplets exit the scene
- What is Romeo's problem & what does Benvolio advise?

Act 1, Scene 2

- Capulet's speech (13-34)
- servant's role (38-44)
- dramatic irony (80-82)
- Benvolio's advice to Romeo & Romeo's response (98-103)

Act 1, Scene 3

- Foils?
- Monologue?
- Purpose of nurse?
- Lady Capulet's speech (79-94)

Act 1, scene 4

- Romeo's attitude
- Friends: Benvolio & Mercutio
- dreams are reality or illusion (51-52)
- pun (41)

Act 1 Scene 5

- Capulet's monologue (16-33)
- Romeo's "infatuation/love at first sight" (44-53)
- Tybalt vs. Capulet about Romeo
- foreshadowing (89-92)
- sonnet (93-106)
- inciting incident: who reveals the problem to R & J?

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Act 2, Scene 1

- Chorus states sonnet
- Where is Romeo and what is he thinking?
- What are Benvolio and Mercutio doing?
- Dramatic irony (17)

Act 2, Scene 2

- Romeo's soliloquy (2-32....)
- aside (37)
- Dialogue (52....)
- bird imagery
- practical vs. reckless
- engagement/ plans (127,144-146, 169)
- hard time parting
- foreshadowing (184)

Act 2, Scene 3

- Soliloquy (1-30)
- Foreshadow (23)
- dramatic irony (44)
- tragic flaw (65-68)
- end the feud (90-92)

Act 2, Scene 4

- dramatic irony (4-5)
- Mercutio's characterization
- Match of wits, Romeo and Mercutio
- 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 (9)
- flaw (14-15)
- marriage occurs after scene ends

Act 3, Scene 1 -- CLIMAX

- Significance of Benvolio's lines 1-4
- Foils (Benvolio & Mercutio) (16)
- Romeo's speech (60-63)
- Dramatic irony (66-67)
- Verbal irony (90-91)
- Summarize the external conflict / plot in scene 1
- who dies and how?
- Prince's ruling on the fight (184-194)

Act 3, Scene 2

- Juliet's soliloquy (1-34) -- love poem, dramatic irony
- dramatic tension & dramatic irony in dialogue between Juliet & Nurse
- foreshadowing (60)
- truth revealed (69-70)
- oxymorons (73+)
- Who is Juliet loyal to? (Tybalt or Romeo)
- What is she sending to Romeo?

Act 3, Scene 3

- Where is Romeo hidden?
- How does Romeo bear the news of his punishment? How is that different than the way the Friar views it?
- Banished (lines 29+)
- Romeo's emotions
- Friar's monologue (109)
- What is Romeo going to do next?

Act 3, Scene 4

- New agreement about marriage
- dramatic irony

Act 4, Scene 1-- Falling Action

- opens in the middle of a dialogue
- aside (16)
- double meaning/playing with words (26+)
- irony (36)
- how does Juliet feel about Paris and he about her?
- Juliet threatens to... (54)
- What is friar's "remedy" for this problem? (89-120)
- Does Juliet agree to the plan?

Act 4, Scene 2

- Scene 1 vs. Scene 2 (death vs. life)
- What does Juliet say to her father? (17-22)
- Irony (35, 46-47)

Act 4, Scene 3

- Juliet's soliloquy (14-58)
- *what concerns does she have about
- *what she's about to do?
- * what does she do in the end?

Act 4, Scene 4

- How does this scene contrast with scene 3?
- Who is Angelica?
- irony & suspense (23-28)

Act 4, Scene 5

- What does the Nurse discover? (14)
- personification (36-40)
- dramatic irony
- comic scene (96+)
- word play & exchange of wits (113-116)

Act 5, Scene 1- Resolution

- irony (1-2)
- foreshadow (6)
- flaw (34)
- setting through words (38-47)
- Who is the Apothecary and why does Romeo go to him?
- verbal irony (85)

Act 5- Scene 2

- Why didn't Friar John deliver the message to Romeo in Mantua?
- What complications will now result?
- foreshadow (18-19)
- How is Friar L going to try to fix the situation (23-29)

Act 5- Scene 3

- Why is Paris at the Capulet tomb?
- aside (10-11)
- Why is Romeo at the Capulet tomb?
- Who is Balthasar?
- aside (43-44)
- How has Romeo changed since Act 3, Scene 1? (shown in 58-67)
- External conflict (70-71)
- Soliloquy (74-120)
- foreshadow (135-136)
- Where does Friar want to take Juliet? (156-157)
- What happens to Juliet and why? (170)
- What does Montague reveal? (210-212)
- Verbal irony (229)
- Who reveals truth?
- How does the play conclude?