‘Romeo and Juliet’ - Shakespeare - Act 1, Scene 5

***(Sunday night, at the Capulet house)***

**Romeo**

***[Romeo sees Juliet]***

***[to Servant]***

What lady's that, which doth enrich the hand

*(Who is that lady dancing with)*

Of yonder knight?

*(That gentleman there?)*

**Servant**

I know not, sir.

*(I don't know, sir.)*

**Romeo**

***[aside]***

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

*(Oh, she shows the torches how to burn bright!)*

It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night

(*It seems she hangs on the ear of night)*

Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear,

*(Like a jewel in an Ethiopian earring)*

Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!

*(Beauty too rich to wear everyday, too valuable for this earth!)*

So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,

*(She's like a white dove)*

As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.

*(Standing out among the crows).*

The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,

*(When the dance is done, I'll see where she goes),*

And, touching hers, make blessèd my rude hand.

*(And I'll touch her hand, making my rough hand blessed.)*

Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight,

*(Did my heart love before now? My eyes were wrong,)*

For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

*(For I never saw true beauty before tonight.)*

**Romeo**

***[Approaches Juliet and holds her hand]***

If I profane with my unworthiest hand

*(If my unworthy hand defiles)*

This holy shrine, the gentle sin is this:

*(Your holy hand, a lesser sin is this):*

My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand

*(My lips, like two blushing pilgrims, are ready)*

To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

*(To smooth my rough touch with a tender kiss)*

.

**Juliet**

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,

*(Good pilgrim, you're hand is no sin)*

Which mannerly devotion shows in this,

*(For showing such devotion,)*

For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,

*(For pilgrims do touch the hands of statues of saints,)*

And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

*(And holding hands is how pilgrims kiss.)*

**Romeo**

Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

*(Don't saints have lips, and pilgrims too?)*

**Juliet**

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

*(Yes, pilgrim, lips they must use to say prayers.)*

**Romeo**

O, then dear saint, let lips do what hands do;

*(Then dear saint, let lips do what hands do;)*

They pray: Grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

*(They pray: Grant me a kiss, or else I'll lose my faith.)*

**Juliet**

Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

*(Saints don't move to initiate, but they do grant prayers.)*

**Romeo**

Then move not while my prayer's effect I take.

*(Then don't move while I make my prayer come true).*

***[He kisses her]***

Thus from my lips, by thine, my sin is purged.

*(Now your lips have washed away the sin from my lips.)*

**Juliet**

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

*(Then my lips now have your sin.)*

**Romeo**

Sin from my lips? O, trespass sweetly urged!

*(Sin from my lips? How sweetly you tell me!)*

Give me my sin again.

*(Give me back my sin again).*

***[He kisses her]***

**Juliet**

You kiss by th' book.

*(You kiss by the book).*

**Nurse**

*[She approaches]*

Madam, your mother craves a word with you.

*(Madam, your mother needs to speak to you).*

*[Juliet goes]*

**Romeo**

**[to Nurse]**

What is her mother?

*(Who is her mother?)*

**Nurse**

Marry, bachelor,

*(Well, young sir),*

Her mother is the lady of the house,

*(Her mother is the lady of this house)*

And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous.

*(And a good lady, and wise and virtuous.)*

I nursed her daughter that you talked withal.

*(I nursed her daughter whom you were talking with).*

I tell you, he that can lay hold of her

*(I tell you, the man who can get her)*

Shall have the chinks.

*(Will be wealthy.)*

***[Walks away]***

**Romeo**

***[aside]***

Is she a Capulet?

*(Is she a Capulet?)*

O dear account! My life is my foe's debt.

*(A costly mistake! Now my life is in debt to my enemy)*

.

**Benvolio**

***[Comes to Romeo]***

Away, be gone! The sport is at the best!

*(Let's go! The party is at its peak!)*

**Romeo**

Ay, so I fear. The more is my unrest.

*(I'm afraid so, and so is my confusion).*

***[All start to exit but Juliet & Nurse]***

**Capulet**

Nay, gentlemen, prepare not to be gone,

*(No, gentlemen, do not leave),*

We have a trifling foolish banquet towards —

*(We'll have desert soon —)*

Is it e'en so? Why then, I thank you all.

*(Is that so? Then I thank you all.)*

I thank you, honest gentlemen. Good night. —

*(I thank you, gentlemen. Good night. —)*

More torches here! — Come on, then let's to bed. —

*(Bring more torches here! — Come on, let's go to bed. —)*

Ah, sirrah, by my fay, it waxes late.

*(Ah, servant, I swear, it's getting late.)*

I'll to my rest.

*(I'll go rest.)*

***[All exit but Juliet & Nurse]***

**Juliet**

Come hither, Nurse. What is yond gentleman?

*(Come here, Nurse. Who is that gentleman?)*

**Nurse**

The son and heir of old Tiberio.

*(The son of old Tiberio.)*

**Juliet**

What's he that now is going out of door?

*(Who is that one now going out the door?)*

**Nurse**

Marry, that, I think, be young Petruchio.

*(Well, that, I think, is young Petruchio).*

**Juliet**

What's he that follows there, that would not dance?

*(And who is that one there, who would not dance?)*

**Nurse**

I know not.

*(I don't know.)*

**Juliet**

Go ask his name.

*(Go ask his name.)*

***[Nurse goes]***

***[aside]***

If he be married,

*(If he is married,)*

My grave is like to be my wedding bed!

*(I'll die and be married to death!)*

**Nurse**

**[Returning]**

His name is Romeo, and a Montague,

*(His name is Romeo, a Montague,)*

The only son of your great enemy!

*(The only son of your family's enemy!)*

**Juliet**

My only love sprung from my only hate!

*(The only one I love is from the only ones we hate!)*

Too early seen unknown, and known too late!

*(I saw him too soon, and learned this too late!)*

Prodigious birth of love it is to me,

*(This wonderful love is ominous,)*

That I must love a loathed enemy.

*(That I love a hated enemy.)*

**Nurse**

What's this? What's this?

*(What did you say?)*

**Juliet**

A rhyme I learned even now

*(It's a rhyme I just learned)*

Of one I danced withal.

*(From someone I danced with.)*

**Lady Capulet**

***[Yelling from offstage]***

Juliet!

*(Juliet!)*

**Nurse**

***[to Lady Capulet]***

Anon, anon. —

*(In a minute. —)*

***[to Juliet]***

Come, let's away. The strangers all are gone.

*(Let's go. The guests are all gone.)*

***[They exit]***

Act 1, scene 5)

QUESTIONS (use full sentences and speech marks round your quotes)

1. Quote the simile Romeo uses to describe Juliet. Explain the meaning of this simile.
2. What other words/phrases does Romeo use to describe his fascination with her? (find 4-6 words/phrases.)
3. Which quote shows he is falling in love with her before he has even spoken to her? What do we think of Romeo at this point in the play?
4. When Romeo finally speaks to Juliet they use repetition (repeated words or phrases). Find and write down some examples of repetition.
5. Why does Romeo say, *“O dear account! My life is my foe's debt.”?* How does the mood change?
6. Juliet says, *“My grave is like to be my wedding bed!”* Explain how this is dramatic irony.
7. The emotions ‘love’ and ‘hate’ are examples of oxymorons (words with opposite meanings) Find other examples of oxymorons used in this scene. What is the effect of the use of oxymorons?
8. How do we as the audience feel by the end of this scene?