

Romeo and Juliet Act 3 Summary Notes

Act 3, Scene 1

- Mercutio and Benvolio are walking around Verona.
- Benvolio warns that the Capulets are around and looking to start a fight.
- Mercutio easily starts arguments with anyone. Benvolio is the peace maker.

- Tybalt shows up.
- Tybalt has been looking to fight with Romeo.
- Tybalt starts an argument with Mercutio.
 - Tybalt accuses Mercutio of associating with Romeo, a Montague.
- Benvolio tries to stop the argument between Mercutio and Tybalt.

- Romeo arrives in a happy mood.
- No one else knows that he's just married Juliet.
- Tybalt starts arguing with him.
 - **Tybalt:** *Romeo, the hate I bear thee can afford
No better term than this,--thou art a villain.*
- **Romeo does not want to fight Tybalt because he married Juliet.**
 - **Romeo to Tybalt:** *I do protest, I never injured thee,
But love thee better than thou canst devise,
Till thou shalt know the reason of my love:
And so, good Capulet,--which name I tender
As dearly as my own,--be satisfied.*
 - Mercutio doesn't know about Romeo's reason for not wanting to fight.
 - Mercutio stands in for Romeo in the fight which leads to fateful problems.

- **The First Fight**
- The hotheaded Mercutio draws his sword and challenges Tybalt, "the King of Cats"
- Tybalt draws his sword and the fight begins.
- Romeo tries to stop the fight by stepping between Tybalt and Mercutio.
- Tybalt reaches under Romeo's arm and stabs Mercutio.

- Tybalt and his men run away.
- While Mercutio is dying he curses both families:
 - *"I am hurt.
A plague o' both your houses! I am sped."*
 - **Mercutio to Romeo:** Why the devil came you between us?
 - I was hurt under your arm.

- **Romeo blames himself for Mercutio's death.**
 - He believes loving Juliet has made him a coward.
 - He should have fought Tybalt.
 - Romeo vows to kill Tybalt-- a rash decision, his tragic flaw.

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- **The Second Fight**
- Tybalt returns.
- Romeo challenges Tybalt
- They fight.
- Romeo kills Tybalt.
- Romeo is stunned: *"O, I am fortune's fool!" ("I am the victim of fate!")*

- **Fate = Destiny**
 - An inevitable outcome based on "the stars" or set circumstances
 - Pre-determination
 - Fortune
 - Events or life which has already been decided
 - Romeo and Juliet are "ill-fated" from the beginning as "star-crossed lovers"
- **Are the events in Act 3 and even earlier in the play a result of FATE or ACTIONS?**
 - Do Romeo and Juliet have control over their lives, or has FATE already decided their outcome?

- **After Romeo kills Tybalt, Benvolio tells Romeo to go or the Prince will kill him.**
 - **Benvolio:** *Romeo, away, be gone!
The citizens are up, and Tybalt slain.
Stand not amazed: the prince will doom thee death,
If thou art taken: hence, be gone, away!*
- **Romeo flees the scene and goes to Friar Laurence.**

- **The Aftermath**
- **The Prince arrives and demands to know who started this.**
- **Benvolio tells the Prince exactly what happened.**

- **Lady Capulet:**
 - Believes that Romeo killed Tybalt
 - She calls Benvolio a liar since he is a Montague and doesn't believe Tybalt killed Mercutio.
 - She demands Romeo's death since he killed Tybalt.

- **Lord Montague**
 - says Romeo is not at fault
 - Romeo only did what the law would have done in killing Tybalt.
- **The Prince**
 - doesn't have Romeo killed
 - he banishes Romeo from Verona
 - if Romeo returns, he will be executed.

Romeo and Juliet Act 3 Summary Notes

Act 3, Scene 2

- **Juliet**
 - is unaware that Mercutio and Tybalt are dead.
 - She waits impatiently for her wedding night.
 - Soliloquy full of foreshadowing
 - **Juliet:** Give me my Romeo; and, when he shall die,
Take him and cut him out in little stars,
And he will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night
- Nurse
 - Returns with the rope ladder
 - She is very upset because she is a loyal Capulet servant.
 - She tells Juliet what happened.
 - She confuses Juliet.
- Juliet thinks that
 - Romeo is dead
 - Or *both* Romeo and Tybalt are dead
 - **Juliet to Nurse:** What storm is this that blows so contrary?
Is Romeo slaughter'd, and is Tybalt dead?
My dear-loved cousin, and my dearer lord?
Then, dreadful trumpet, sound the general doom!
For who is living, if those two are gone?
- Nurse
 - tells Juliet that Tybalt is dead
 - Romeo killed him.
 - Nurse curses Romeo and all men.
 - She wrongly thinks Juliet is upset over Tybalt, not Romeo's banishment
 - **Nurse to Juliet:** Hie to your chamber: I'll find Romeo
To comfort you: I wot well where he is.
Hark ye, your Romeo will be here at night:
I'll to him; he is hid at Laurence' cell.
- Juliet
 - is inconsolable because Romeo is banished.
 - She says Romeo's banishment is worse than death.
 - Juliet wants to die a virgin since Romeo cannot be with her.
 - **Juliet:** Come, cords, come, nurse; I'll to my
wedding-bed;
And death, not Romeo, take my maidenhead!
- Nurse
 - goes to find Romeo and bring him to Juliet.

Romeo and Juliet Act 3 Summary Notes

Act 3, Scene 3

- **Romeo hides in Friar Laurence's room.**
- **Friar Laurence tells Romeo he is banished.**
 - **Romeo didn't know his punishment because he ran away after killing Tybalt.**
- **Romeo says that banishment is worse than death.**
 - **Romeo:** *Is death mis-term'd: calling death banishment, Thou cutt'st my head off with a golden axe, And smilest upon the stroke that murders me.*
- **Friar Laurence scolds Romeo for thinking banishment is death;**
 - **but he can't get Romeo to listen.**

- **Romeo continues to sob and roll around on the floor**
- **Nurse arrives, tells Romeo "to be a man" (get a grip), and stop crying.**
 - **Nurse:** *Stand up, stand up; stand, and you be a man: For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand;*
- **Romeo doesn't listen and threatens to kill himself with a dagger he finds on the floor**

- **Friar Laurence comes up with a plan:**
 - **After the Capulets are asleep, Romeo will go to Juliet's room for their wedding night.**
 - **Romeo is to leave before dawn and to go Mantua and**
 - **Romeo is to wait in Mantua until he hears from Friar Laurence via letter.**

- **Friar Laurence will publish Romeo & Juliet's marriage at the "right time"**
 - **Friar believes the Montagues and Capulets will reconcile due to the marriage**
 - **Friar feels the Prince will be overjoyed at the reconciliation between families**
 - **Friar thinks Romeo will be pardoned by the prince.**
 - **Then, the prince will allow Romeo to live in Verona.**
 - **And everyone will live happily ever after.**

Act 3, Scene 4

- **Scene 4 occurs while Romeo is upstairs with Juliet at the Capulet's.**
 - **Paris comes over to see how Juliet is doing**
 - **Juliet's parents believe that she is grieving for Tybalt's death.**
 - **To cheer Juliet up, her parents decide that she'll marry Paris in 3 days (Thursday)**

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- Lord Capulet first decided on Wednesday but realized it would not look like the family was grieving over Tybalt if they only waited 2 days.

Act 3, Scene 5

- *Scene 5 occurs at dawn/ early morning in Juliet's bedroom*
- Juliet tries to convince Romeo that it is still night so that he won't leave.
- Romeo says he'll stay and let her family kill him. One night with Juliet is all he needs.
- Eventually Romeo leaves for Mantua.
- **Romeo:** More light and light; more dark and dark our woes!

- Juliet imagines that she sees Romeo lying dead in a tomb: **FORESHADOWING**
 - Juliet (to Romeo): *O God, I have an ill-divining soul!
Methinks I see thee, now thou art below,
As one dead in the bottom of a tomb:
Either my eyesight fails, or thou look'st pale.*

- Lady Capulet goes to see Juliet
 - She thinks that Juliet is still crying over Tybalt's death.
 - Juliet is really sobbing over Romeo's banishment.
 - Lady Capulet tells Juliet that they will send someone to Mantua to poison Romeo.
 - Juliet tells her mother that she will never be happy with Romeo until she sees him. . . dead is her heart.
 - Her mother does not catch on to this pun on the word "dead".

- Marriage to Paris
 - Lady Capulet tells Juliet that she gets to marry Paris on Thursday morning!
 - Juliet refuses to marry Paris.
 - She tells her mother it is because Paris never courted her & the marriage is too quick.
 - She says she would rather marry her enemy Romeo! **DRAMATIC IRONY**

- Lord Capulet orders her to marry Paris or he'll disown her.
- His honor is more important than his daughter's happiness.
 - *"Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch!
I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,
Or never after look me in the face:"-- Lord Capulet*

Romeo and Juliet Act 3 Summary Notes

- **After Juliet's parents leave her room:**
 - **Juliet panics because she is already married.**
 - **Nurse tells her that Romeo is as good as dead since he has been banished.**
 - **Nurse thinks that she should marry Paris.**
 - **Nurse:** *I think it best you married with the county.
O, he's a lovely gentleman!
Romeo's a dishclout to him:*
 - **The Nurse's comment about Romeo and Paris severs her relationship with Juliet.**
- **Juliet**
- **realizes that the Nurse won't help her.**
- **She pretends to go along with the plan to marry Paris.**
- **After the Nurse leaves, she speaks ill of her: "a most wicked fiend".**
- **She leaves to go to confession at Friar Laurence's.**
 - **Juliet:** *I'll to the friar, to know his remedy:
If all else fail, myself have power to die.*