

Romeo and Juliet Act 5 Summary Notes

Act 5, Scene 1

- ✗ Scene 1: *Set in Mantua on Wednesday morning.*
- ✗ Romeo happily thinks of a dream he had of Juliet and believe that good news is on the way.
 - + In the dream: Juliet found him lying dead, but she kissed him, and breathed new life into his body.
 - + Romeo: *I dreamt my lady came and found me dead--
Strange dream, that gives a dead man leave
to think!--
And breathed such life with kisses in my lips,
That I revived, and was an emperor.*
- ✗ Romeo has not received a letter from Friar Laurence.
- ✗ Balthasar, Romeo's servant, brings the news of Juliet's death to Romeo.
- ✗ Romeo wants to leave immediately for Verona.
 - + He asks Balthasar if there is a letter for him from Friar, but there is not as far as Balthasar knows

- ✗ Balthasar tries to convince Romeo to wait for more news.
- ✗ Romeo
 - + plans to go to Verona,
 - + kill himself because he thinks Juliet is dead and
 - + lie forever in the Capulet's tomb with Juliet.
 - ✗ Romeo believes fate has been trying to keep him apart from Juliet.
 - ✗ Therefore, he wants to "defy the stars" or go against fate by being with her, even if they can only be together in death.
 - ✗ Romeo: *Well, Juliet, I will lie with thee to-night.*
 - ✗ Romeo: *Is it even so? then I defy you, stars!*

- ✗ Romeo decides he must buy some fast acting poison before leaving Mantua.
 - + The poison is illegal in Mantua.
 - + Anyone who sells it can be executed.
 - + Romeo hopes the poor and desperate *apothecary* he saw earlier will sell him this illegal poison.
 - + Romeo tries to buy the poison but
 - + the apothecary doesn't want to break the law

- ✗ In a conversation with the apothecary:
 - + Romeo points out that the apothecary is already starving to death, so what is there to be afraid of.
 - + Apothecary needs the money so he sells the poison to Romeo.
 - ✗ Apothecary: *My poverty, but not my will, consents.*
 - + Romeo pays the apothecary with money/ 40 gold coins.
 - ✗ This is a lot of money.

Romeo and Juliet Act 5 Summary Notes

- ✗ Romeo says that the “gold” is a poison that kills men’s souls.
 - ✗ Money is worse than the poison.
 - ✗ Romeo says that he is the one breaking the law by selling a deadly “poison”/ giving the apothecary so much money.
 - ✗ Romeo may want to assure the apothecary that he will not be in trouble/ Romeo will not tell
- ✗ Romeo
 - ✗ equates the poison to a *cordial*, a healing medicine which restores life.
 - ✗ He sees his death as something joyous not evil.

Act 5, Scene 2

- ✗ Scene 2 set in Verona
- ✗ Friar John was supposed to deliver Friar Laurence’s letter to Romeo.
 - + Friar John did not go to Mantua because
 - + he was quarantined in a house due to the plague.
 - + Friar John couldn’t even give the letter to anyone else to deliver.
 - + Friar Laurence: *Unhappy fortune!*
- ✗ Friar Laurence realizes that
 - + Juliet will wake in 3 hours, so
 - + he must go and free Juliet from the Capulet tomb.
 - + He sends Friar John to retrieve a crowbar to open the tomb.
 - + Friar Laurence: *Poor living corpse, closed in a dead man's tomb!*
- ✗ Friar Laurence plans to send another letter to Romeo telling him:
 - + that Juliet is alive,
 - + hiding in Friar Laurence’s room, and
 - + Romeo must come and get her.

Act 5, Scene 3

- ✗ Scene 3 set in a Verona graveyard
- ✗ Paris and a servant go to the graveyard.
 - + Paris wants to put flowers at Juliet’s tomb.
 - + Paris tells his servant to hide and watch for anyone who might be coming; he wants to be alone with Juliet.
 - + The servant signals that someone is coming.
 - + Paris hides and waits to see who comes.
 - + Paris: *Sweet flower, with flowers thy bridal bed I strew,--
O woe! thy canopy is dust and stones;-- . . .
Nighly shall be to strew thy grave and weep.*

Romeo and Juliet Act 5 Summary Notes

- ✘ **Romeo and Balthasar arrive next at the Capulet tomb.**
 - + **Balthasar is threatened by Romeo to forget everything he sees and to not interrupt him.**
 - + **Romeo to Balthasar:** *By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint
And strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs:
The time and my intents are savage-wild. . .*
 - + **Romeo gives him a suicide letter to give to his father the next day.**
- ✘ **Romeo tells Balthasar that**
 - + **he is going to open the tomb to retrieve a very important ring.**
 - + **Romeo warns Balthasar to leave or he will kill him.**

- ✘ **Balthasar**
 - + **doesn't believe Romeo's excuse for opening the tomb,**
 - + **he hides and watches.**
- ✘ **Paris sees Romeo enter the graveyard and open the Capulet tomb.**
 - + **Paris thinks that Romeo is there to desecrate the tomb.**
 - + **Paris tries to stop Romeo.**
 - + **Paris to Romeo:** *This is that banish'd haughty Montague,
That murder'd my love's cousin, with which grief,
It is supposed, the fair creature died;
And here is come to do some villanous shame
To the dead bodies: I will apprehend him.*

- ✘ **Romeo tells Paris**
 - + **he wants to be alone with Juliet and that he is a "madman".**
 - + **he wants to kill himself.**
 - + **Paris should leave the graveyard and live.**
 - + **Romeo to Paris:** *Put not another sin upon my head,
By urging me to fury: O, be gone!
By heaven, I love thee better than myself;
For I come hither arm'd against myself:
Stay not, be gone; live, and hereafter say,
A madman's mercy bade thee run away.*

- ✘ **Paris refuses and fights Romeo.**
- ✘ **Paris's servant**
 - + **sees them fighting and**
 - + **goes to find the guards.**

Romeo and Juliet Act 5 Summary Notes

- ✗ **Romeo kills Paris.**
 - + Paris, as he is dying, asks Romeo to lay him next to Juliet in the tomb.
- ✗ **Romeo**
 - + enters the Capulet tomb
 - + notices Juliet still has color in her lips and cheeks
 - + drinks the poison and
 - + Romeo dies.
 - + **Romeo:** *O true apothecary! (He drinks.)
Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.*
- ✗ **Friar Laurence arrives too late.**
- ✗ **Balthasar tells Friar Laurence that Paris and Romeo fought.**

- ✗ **Friar Laurence enters the tomb.**
 - + He finds Romeo and Paris dead.
- ✗ **Juliet wakes up.**
 - + **Juliet to Friar Laurence:**
*O comfortable friar! where is my lord?
I do remember well where I should be,
And there I am. Where is my Romeo?*
- ✗ **Friar Laurence tries to convince Juliet to leave the tomb because the guards are coming.**
- ✗ **Friar Laurence plans to hide Juliet in a convent.**
- ✗ **Juliet refuses to leave the tomb and Romeo.**
- ✗ **Friar Laurence leaves and hides.**

- ✗ **Juliet stays with Romeo**
 - + She finds the vial of poison.
 - + She tries to drink from the empty vial.
 - + She kisses Romeo hoping that some poison remains on his lips.
 - + Neither action kills her.
- ✗ **Juliet hears the guards.**
 - + She grabs Romeo's dagger and
 - + stabs herself.
 - + She dies.
 - + **Juliet:** *Yea, noise? then I'll be brief. O happy dagger!
Snatching ROMEO's dagger
This is thy sheath;
Stabs herself
there rust, and let me die.
Falls on ROMEO's body, and dies*

Romeo and Juliet Act 5 Summary Notes

- ✗ The Guards arrive at the Capulet tomb.
 - + They find three dead bodies.
- ✗ The Chief Guard sends another guard to find the Prince and the families.
- ✗ The other guards find Balthasar and Friar Laurence.
 - + They are to be held until Prince Escalus arrives.

- ✗ Juliet's parents and the Prince arrive.
 - + The Prince wants to know what happened.
- ✗ Lord Montague arrives and tells them that his wife died of grief because Romeo was exiled/ banished from Verona.
- ✗ Friar Laurence
 - + knows what happened.
 - + He also says he is both guilty and innocent for the deaths.
 - + Friar Laurence tells the entire story of Romeo and Juliet's love and deaths.

- ✗ Balthasar (Romeo's servant)
 - + fills in the holes in Friar Laurence's story.
 - + He gives Romeo's letter to the Prince.
- ✗ The letter confirms everything that Friar Laurence said.

- ✗ Prince Escalus
 - + tells both families that they are responsible for the deaths.
 - + Their hate caused this.
- ✗ The Prince also blames himself because
 - + He should have enforced the law and stopped the feud.
 - + **Prince:** *See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate,
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.
And I for winking at your discords too
Have lost a brace of kinsmen: all are punish'd.*

- ✗ Lord Capulet and Lord Montague
 - + see what damage they have caused.
- ✗ They families end their long-standing feud.
- ✗ Lord Montague will build a pure gold statue of Juliet so that all may know of her love and loyalty.
- ✗ Lord Capulet pledges to build a statue of Romeo.
- ✗ **Prince:** *A glooming peace this morning with it brings;
The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head:
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;
Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished:
For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.*