



Romeo and Juliet Tracing Love

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is a play about love, but it's not just about the compelling power of romantic love: Shakespeare also deals with the unintended consequences of hastily considered actions, which result from an inability to deal with strong emotions. Romeo and Juliet's relationship affects more characters than just the two lovers—characters that feel intense love for friends and family, God and country. This activity asks you to consider Romeo and Juliet's relationship from one of their perspectives and then explain how that character's actions affect other characters in the play.

Choose to focus on either Romeo or Juliet. Then trace the development of the couple's relationship using a single event from each act. Using this worksheet, describe an important event and connect the choices your chosen character makes to the impact the action has on the character him- or herself as well as on one other character from the story (other than Romeo or Juliet).

After filling out this worksheet, write a well-developed essay that demonstrates how each event helps to convey:

the impact love has on the character's behavior.

how the character's actions affect other characters.

what the character's actions reveal about the nature of love and how love influences a person's decisions.

Character:

Act 1

Find one or two lines of text that capture an important event. Cite the lines.



Describe what is happening in these lines.



Explain the impact this event has on your character (Romeo or Juliet). Explain the impact the event has on another character (not Romeo or Juliet).

Romeo or Juliet	Other Character: _____

Explain how this event moves the story forward.

Act 2

Find one or two lines of text that capture an important event. Cite the lines.



Describe what is happening in these lines.



Explain the impact this event has on your character (Romeo or Juliet). Explain the impact the event has on another character (not Romeo or Juliet).

Romeo or Juliet	Other Character: _____

Explain how this event moves the story forward and relates to the event chosen from the previous act.

Act 3

Find one or two lines of text that capture an important event. Cite the lines.



Describe what is happening in these lines.



Explain the impact this event has on your character (Romeo or Juliet). Explain the impact the event has on another character (not Romeo or Juliet).

Romeo or Juliet	Other Character: _____

Explain how this event moves the story forward and relates to the event chosen from the previous act.

Act 4

Find one or two lines of text that capture an important event. Cite the lines.



Describe what is happening in these lines.



Explain the impact this event has on your character (Romeo or Juliet). Explain the impact the event has on another character (not Romeo or Juliet).

Romeo or Juliet	Other Character: _____

Explain how this event moves the story forward and relates to the event chosen from the previous act.

Act 5

Find one or two lines of text that capture an important event. Cite the lines.



Describe what is happening in these lines.



Explain the impact this event has on your character (Romeo or Juliet). Explain the impact the event has on another character (not Romeo or Juliet).

Romeo or Juliet	Other Character: _____

Explain how this event moves the story forward and relates to the event chosen from the previous act.