



## Romeo and Juliet Character Development

You can better understand a story as a whole when you take the time to better understand the characters, including how each of the characters develops over the course of a story, moves a story forward, and conveys thematic elements through their actions. Trace the development of two secondary characters in *Romeo and Juliet* by doing the following:

Choose two secondary characters (characters other than Romeo or Juliet) from the play and record each of their names in the center box, one character per chart.

Choose four critical events that highlight the chosen character's central purpose in the play.

Create a headline to explain the event and cite the most relevant lines of text where each event occurs. Write the headline and the citation in each "Event" box.

Explain the significance of the event and how the character's action helps to move the plot forward in the "Significance" boxes.

Explain the character's motivation for his/her actions during the event in the "Character's Motivation" boxes.

<b>Event 1:</b>	
<b>Significance</b>	<b>Character's Name</b>
<b>Character's Motivation</b>	

**Event 2:**

**Significance**

**Character's Name**

**Character's Motivation**

**Event 3:**

**Significance**

**Character's Name**

**Character's Motivation**

**Event 4:**

**Significance**

**Character's Name**

**Character's Motivation**

## Answer Key

### Sample Student Answer

**Event 1:** Friar Lawrence agrees to marry Romeo to Juliet.

"In one respect I'll thy assistant be;/For this alliance may so happy prove/To Turn your households' rancor to pure love." (No Fear: 2.3.90–92)

#### Significance

The scene opens with Friar Lawrence collecting medicinal herbs from his garden. His opening soliloquy depicts him as a wise and educated man. He demonstrates an understanding of plants and herbs, which he later uses to create a sleeping potion for Juliet. Later in this scene, Friar Lawrence meets Romeo, whom, it becomes clear, he has been counseling. After a little convincing, he agrees to marry Romeo to Juliet.

#### Character's Name

Friar Lawrence

#### Character's Motivation

Friar Lawrence is motivated to marry the two because he believes that their marriage may stop the fighting between the two households. As a man of the cloth, the friar likely wishes peace toward both households. His love for God likely motivates him to pursue any avenue that will lead to the halting of violence between the two families.

RL.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

RL.9-10.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

RL.9-10.3 Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the them.