

Date 11 / 1 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / Lyric / Theater ProductionTitle Romeo and JulietAuthor / Director / Mr. Ed Trafton

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I saw *Romeo and Juliet* at the Black Box Theater in the Student Life Center of Jesuit High School. The play was an Indian adaptation of the Shakespearean classic.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc? )

*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare is originally set in Verona, Italy, and it follows the story of Romeo and his lover Juliet, who are from separate feuding families, the Montagues and the Capulets. Romeo starts out with a deep passion for a Capulet named Rosaline, a woman he mostly admires rather than loves. While attending a ball at the house of Lord Capulet and hoping to see Rosaline, Romeo in fact falls in love with Juliet at first sight, and they secretly get married the next day. Meanwhile, Tybalt, Romeo's cousin, is outraged at Romeo for crashing the Capulets' ball, and he wishes to fight Romeo, who, unbeknownst to him, is his new cousin. Mercutio, Romeo's friend steps in and Tybalt slays him. In a fit of rage, Romeo slays Tybalt, and he banished forever from Verona. Juliet, now unable to see her husband and being forced to marry Paris by his father, takes a sleeping potion from Friar Laurence so that she looks dead but is then able to be taken to Mantua to be with Romeo. Romeo only hears that his wife is dead, and so he finds her and drinks a poison to die next to her body. Juliet, however, wakes up from her sleep, and, seeing her husband dead, she stabs herself. The Capulets and the Montagues, both grieving from their relatives' deaths, decide to end their conflict and to live in peace.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

*Romeo and Juliet* revolves around two major themes: love and hate. In this case, love and hate both seem to come in a package as the relationship between Romeo and Juliet develops throughout the play. It is obvious that the the Capulets and the Montagues despise each other, and perhaps it is this mutual dislike that drives the most passionate love that literature and the theater that has ever seen. Romeo and Juliet unconditionally love each other despite family conflict and any other obstacle that may hold back their relationship. Even after Romeo slays Juliet's cousin, Tybalt, Juliet is more upset over Romeo's exile rather than over her cousin's death. They value each other over each other's behaviors, and, with their suicides, Shakespeare is suggesting that this type of true and intimate love can actually exist.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

Shakespeare of course wrote in Early Modern English, and so the Jesuit interpretation of the play was spoken in the same way with some of the exact lines from the original play (many were cut out for time purposes). Moreover, the original play was set in Verona, Italy, a place known for violence in Shakespeare's time; nevertheless, Jesuit set their stage in Verona, India, and accompanied their production with Indian inspired costumes and music.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections /

Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

Although I have never been to a Shakespearean play and I had my doubts as to whether I would enjoy it or not, I actually thoroughly appreciated the unique "spin off" of the original *Romeo and Juliet*. Despite not being able to understand the language and words being spoken and oftentimes being confused, the actors were able to keep me informed and up to date through their actions and emotions rather than through the lines of the play. The increasingly growing love between Romeo and Juliet can somewhat be compared to the love that John has for Lenina in *Brave New World*. Obviously, Lenina is not allowed to love, probably unaware of what real love is; however, John loves her wholeheartedly. John's love for Lenina is a hate-driven love, much like the love between Romeo and Juliet, as he despises himself for even thinking about sexual contact with Lenina before getting bound together by true love in a marital bond. Unfortunately, John can not have Lenina the way that he wants her because she has been conditioned for an entirely different society, and John's outrageously passionate and unfulfilled desire ultimately contributes to his suicide. Both this relationship and the relationship between Romeo and Juliet are provoked significantly by hatred, as if not being allowed to have one another initiates a notably more intimate relationship. Because love and hate are essentially attached to each other, especially in *Romeo and Juliet*, it brings up the question as to whether this sort of true and extremely passionate love can exist without any obstacles or any form of hostility. Nevertheless, Shakespeare is trying to influence his audience in believing in true love, and this is what makes the play poetic. The fact that love triumphs over hatred and malevolence in the form of death sends an inspiring message to the audience. Romeo and Juliet overcome many obstacles that hinder their relationship, and they eventually find a way to live together forever in the afterlife. In overcoming these obstacles, Shakespeare presents a hopeful and optimistic view of humanity through the genuine actions of Romeo and Juliet, suggesting that humans can love with their entire beings. Love, ultimately, in the end, resolves the conflict between the Montagues and the Capulets, proving how love between adversaries is crucial for progress. In the modern world, however, this does not seem likely on a large scale level.

**over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)**