Love

## Lesson 4: Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet, act 1, scene 5*

### Last time: Sonnet 18

Check that everyone has handed in their essay

## The Renaissance (ppt)

Blank verse, chain of being, functions of verse and prose in plays (Shakespeare online)

## What Is a Tragedy?

The word tragedy was derived from the Greek word *tragoidia*, which means *‘the song of the goat.’* It is called "the song of the goat" because in ancient Greece the theatre performers used to wear goatskin costumes to represent satyrs.

Today in theatre and literature, a tragedy is a work that has an unhappy ending. The ending must include the main character's downfall.

*“Tragedy is a serious play or drama typically dealing with the problems of a central character, leading to an unhappy or disastrous ending brought on, as in ancient drama, by fate and a tragic flaw in this character, or, in modern drama, usually by moral weakness, psychological maladjustment, or social pressures.”*

— Webster Dictionary

*“A tragedy is the imitation of an action that is serious and also, as having magnitude, complete in itself; in appropriate and pleasurable language; in a dramatic rather than narrative form; with incidents arousing pity and fear, wherewith to accomplish a catharsis of these emotions.”*

— Aristotle

## The 9 Elements of Shakespearean Tragedy:

| **Elements** | **Explanation** |
| --- | --- |
| Tragic Hero | A main character cursed by fate and possessed of a tragic flaw. |
| A Struggle Between Good and Evil | This struggle can take place as part of the plot or exist within the main character. |
| Hamartia | The fatal character flaw of the tragic hero. |
| Tragic Waste | The good being destroyed along with the bad at the resolution of the play. Often played out with the unnecessary loss of life, especially of "good guy" characters. |
| External Conflict | This can be a problem facing the hero as a result of the plot or a "bad guy" character. |
| Internal Conflict | The struggle the hero engages in with his/her fatal flaw. |
| Catharsis | The release of the audience's emotions through empathy with the characters. |
| Supernatural Elements | Magic, witchcraft, ghosts, etc. |
| Lack of Poetic Justice | Things end poorly for everyone, including the "good guys." |
| Comic Relief | One or more humorous characters who participate in scenes intended to lighten the mood. |
| Dramatic irony | When the audience knows something that certain characters do not know. |

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/Shakespearean-Tragedy-Definition-and-Characteristics-of-Shakespearean-Tragedy>

## Watch Baz Luhrmann’s version of *Romeo and Juliet,* act 1, scene 5

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAf2OuBkiBM>

## Groups: Line up by the length of your little finger

## Discuss the following questions in relation to act 1, scene 5

1. Read the scene. One person will be Romeo, and another will be Juliet. Take turns.
2. In effect, this scene constitutes a sonnet. Prove it☺ Notice significant deviations and the effect of them. What are we to notice?
3. Sum up in one sentence what Romeo says. Make sure you understand the words ‘profane’ (verb), ‘shrine’ (noun) and possibly other words.
4. Sum up in one sentence what Juliet says. Make sure you know what saints and pilgrims are, and what devotion is.
5. Find examples that prove that Romeo and Juliet understand each other instantly.
6. Comment on the use and effect of metaphors in this scene. In relation to that, what is the effect of using religious imagery (figurative language in relation to saints, pilgrims, palmers, prayer)?
7. What is the effect of letting both Romeo and Juliet speak in the couplet (ll. 13-14)?

## Class discussion