

Act 2 Character Analysis

In order to learn more about the complex characters Shakespeare has created in *Romeo and Juliet*, it is important that you take the time to evaluate and interpret what the characters say about themselves.

Directions: For this exercise, you will be evaluating both Romeo and Juliet by reading something the character said about him/herself in Act 2, Scene 2. In order to evaluate the quote, ask yourself: **What do I learn about the character from this particular quote?** Be sure to not only write down the most obvious response, but dig deeper into what the character wants (motivation), who the character is being influenced by or is trying to influence (influences), and what types of conflicts the character is facing (conflicts). Finally, jot down three character traits that describe the character, based upon your analysis in sections a-d.

Example: Juliet: “O Romeo, Romeo! / Wherefore art thou Romeo? / Deny they father and refuse they name, / Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, / And I’ll no longer be a Capulet.”

- a. **Analysis:** In this quote, it is clear that Juliet is already struck completely in love with Romeo. Juliet asks the heavens (and Romeo) *why* he has to be Romeo Montague and therefore, her enemy.
 - b. **Motivation:** Juliet wants Romeo to refuse to be himself, but if he is not willing, she declares openly that she is willing to give up her name and legacy as a Capulet.
 - c. **Influence:** Juliet is clearly controlled by her family and the centuries-old conflict between the Capulets and Montagues. Obviously, this fight is important to her and her family, otherwise Juliet would not worry about Romeo being the enemy.
 - d. **Conflict:** Juliet faces the conflict of her lover being an enemy and being torn between love and the repercussions of being with someone who is forbidden.
 - e. **Traits:** Based on this quote, Juliet is confused, impulsive, and passionate.
-
1. **Romeo: “By a name/ I know not how to tell thee who I am: / My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself, / Because it is an enemy to thee; / Had I it written, I would tear the word.”**
 - a. **Analysis:**

 - b. **Motivation:**

 - c. **Influence:**

 - d. **Conflicts:**

e. Traits:

- 2. Romeo: “I have night’s cloak to hide me from their eyes; / And but thou love me, let them find me here: / My life were better ended by their hate, / Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.”**

a. Analysis:

b. Motivation:

c. Influence:

d. Conflicts:

e. Traits:

- 3. Juliet: “In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond; / And therefore thou mayst think my ‘haviour light: / but trust me, gentleman, I’ll prove more true / Than those that have more cunning to be strange. / I should have been more strange, I must confess, But that thou overheard’st, ere I was ‘ware, / My true love’s passion: therefore pardon me...”**

a. Analysis:

b. Motivation:

c. Influence:

d. Conflicts:

e. Traits:

4. Juliet: “My bounty is as boundless as the sea, / My love as deep; the more I give to thee, / The more I have, for both are infinite.”

a. Analysis:

b. Motivation:

c. Influence:

d. Conflicts:

e. Traits:

5. Romeo: “O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard, / Being in night, all this is but a dream, / Too flattering sweet to be substantial.”

a. Analysis:

b. Motivation:

c. Influence:

d. Conflicts:

e. Traits:

6. Juliet: "Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone:/ And yet no farther than a wanton's bird,/ Who lets it hop a little from her hand,/ Like a poor prisoner in his twisted gyves,/ And with a silk thread plucks it back again,/ So loving jealous of his liberty.

Romeo: I would I were thy bird.

"Sweet, so would I: / Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing."

a. Analysis:

b. Motivation:

c. Influence:

d. Conflicts:

e. Traits: