Name: \_\_\_\_\_**ANSWER KEY**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Romeo and Juliet- Act 5 Guided Notes

**Shakespearean Conventions**

* Shakespearean tragedies always consist of 5 Acts
* Shakespeare follows the same pattern of events in all of his tragedies
  + In Act 3, there is a death
  + In Act 5, there are more deaths
* This is consistent in all of his tragedies
  + Julius Caesar
  + MacBeth
  + Hamlet
  + Othello
* In a tragedy, the protagonist must be an admirable but flawed character
  + Do you agree that this is true for Romeo and Juliet?

**Act 5, Scene 1**

* Romeo is in Mantua in exile, recounting the strange dreams he had the previous night
  + Mercutio once said, “dreams are the children of an idle brain.”
  + Romeo “dreamt my lady came and found me dead”- are Romeo’s dreams manifesting themselves in reality?
* Romeo’s friend Balthasar arrives in Mantua with news of Juliet’s “death”
* Romeo sends him to hire horses for their immediate return to Verona
* Romeo then buys poison so he can join Juliet in death in the Capulet’s burial vault

**Act 5, Scene 1- Romeo’s Desperation**

* Romeo: “How doth my Juliet? That I ask again, for nothing can be ill if she be well.”
* Balthasar: “Then she is well and nothing can be ill. Her body sleeps in Capel’s monument, and her immortal part with angels lives.”
* Romeo: “Is it e’en so? Then I defy you, stars!”
* Balthasar: “I do beseech you sir, have patience. Your looks are pale and wild and do import some misadventure.”
* Romeo: “Leave me and do the thing I bid you…Well Juliet, I will lie with thee tonight.”

**Act 5, Scene 1- The Apothecary**

* Romeo purchases a potent, and illegal, poison
* The apothecary refuses to sell at first because “Mantua’s law is death to any he that utters them” (5.1.70)
* Romeo is persuasive: “The world is not thy friend, nor the world’s law. The world affords no law to make thee rich. Then be not poor, but break it and take this [gold].” (5.1.76-78)
* Apothecary: “My poverty, but not my will, consents” (5.1.79)

**Act 5, Scene 2**

* Meanwhile, back at Friar Lawrence’s cell…
* Friar John enters, bringing with him the letter that he was to have delivered to Romeo.
* He was unable to deliver the letter because there was allegedly a pestilence within Verona, and all residents were quarantined
  + To stop the plague from spreading, no one could leave the city
  + Mention of disease suggests evil, ugliness, and discord
* Friar anxiously goes to the tomb to be there when Juliet comes out of her trance
  + Friar: “Within three hours will fair Juliet wake. She will beshrew me much that Romeo hath had no notice of these accidents. But I will write again to Mantua and keep her at my cell till Romeo come” (5.2.24-29)

**Act 5, Scene 3**

* Paris visits Juliet’s tomb
* Romeo arrives, and Paris challenges him
  + They duel, and Paris is killed
* Romeo sees his beloved Juliet and takes poison, dying as he kisses Juliet
* As Friar enters the tomb, Juliet awakes to find Romeo lying dead.
  + Frightened by a noise, Friar flees the tomb
  + Juliet then kills herself with Romeo’s dagger
* Alerted by Paris’s page, the watch arrives and finds the bodies
* The Prince, Capulets, and Montagues arrive and listen to Friar’s account of Romeo and Juliet’s marriage
  + With their deaths, the families declare their hostility is at an end

**Act 5, Scene 3- Romeo’s Instructions**

* Romeo, to Balthasar: “Give me the light. Upon thy life I charge thee, whate’er thou hearest or seest, stand all aloof and do not interrupt me in my course. Why I descend into this bed of death is partly to behold my lady’s face, but chiefly to take thence from her dead finger a precious ring, a ring that I must use in dear employment. Therefore, hence, begone.”
* A warning: “But, if thou, jealous, dost return to pry in what I farther shall intend to do, by heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint and strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs” (5.3.25-36).

**Act 5, Scene 3- Romeo vs Paris**

* Paris, hearing Romeo approach: “Here he is come to do some villainous shame to the dead bodies. I will apprehend him” (5.3.52-3).
  + Again, Paris does not know of Romeo and Juliet’s history. He assumes Romeo is coming to harm his enemies.
* Romeo: “Tempt not a desperate man!...Put not another sin upon my head by urging me to fury. O, begone!” (5.3.62-3).
* Paris: “O I am slain! If thou be merciful, open the tomb; lay me with Juliet” (5.3.72-3).

**Act 5, Scene 3- Seeing Juliet**

* Romeo: “O my love, my wife, death, that hath sucked the honey of thy breath. Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty. Beauty’s ensign yet is crimson in thy lips and thy cheeks, and death’s pale flag is not advanced there” (5.3.93-97).
  + Romeo doesn’t know it, but he is observing signs of life!
* Romeo: “Will I set up my everlasting rest and shake the yoke of inauspicious stars from this world-wearied flesh? Eyes, look your last. Arms, take your last embrace. And, lips, O, you the doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss a dateless bargain to engrossing death…Thus with a kiss, I die.” (5.3.110-115).

**Act 5, Scene 3- Juliet Awakens**

* Friar arrives: “O, much I fear some ill unthrify thing” (5.3.140).
* Balthasar, outside: “I dreamt my master and another fought, and that my master slew him” (5.3.142-3)
  + Again, are dreams suddenly becoming reality?
* Friar, to Juliet: “Come, come away. Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead, and Paris too. Come, I’ll dispose of thee among a sisterhood of holy nuns” (5.3.159-161)
* Juliet: “What’s here? A cup closed in my true love’s hand? Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end. O churl, drunk all and left no friendly drop to help me after! I will kiss thy lips. Haply some poison yet doth hang on them” (5.3.166-170).

**Act 5, Scene 3- Juliet’s Decision**

* Juliet sends Friar away and hears the watch approaching
* Juliet: “Yea, noise? Then I’ll be brief. O, happy dagger, this is thy sheath. There rust, and let me die” (5.3.174-5).
* Friar’s confession: “Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet. And she, there dead, that Romeo’s faithful wife. I married them, and their stol’n marriage day was Tybalt’s doomsday, whose untimely death banished the new-made bridegroom from this city” (5.3.240-5)

**The Resolution**

* Prince: “See what a scourge is laid upon your hate, that heaven finds means to kill your joys with love, and I for winking at your discords too, have lost a brace of kinsmen. All are punished!” (5.3.301-5)
* Capulet: “O brother Montague, give me thy hand. This is my daughter’s jointure, for no more can I demand.”
* Montague: “But I can give thee more, for I will ray her statue in pure gold, that whilst Verona by that name is known, there shall no figure at such rate be set, as that of true and faithful Juliet” (5.3.306-314).

**The Last Words**

* Prince: “A glooming peace this morning with it brings the sun for sorrow will not show his head. Go hence to have more talk of these sad things. Some shall be pardoned, and some punished. For never was a story of more woe than this of Juliet and her Romeo” (5.3.316-322).
* This concludes the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet.

**Themes**

* Love versus Hate
  + Which force wins out in the end?
* Fate versus Free Will
  + Were Romeo and Juliet fated for their tragic end, or was it their own fault?
* Religion and Marriage
* Identity and Secrecy
* Rebellion

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