

Key Quotations: Act 1-3

"A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their lives"

"Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?"

"But soft, what light from yonder window breaks?"

"Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear"

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet"

"The day is hot, the Capulets abroad

and if we meet, we shall not 'scape a brawl"

"A plague on both your houses."

"O she doth teach the torches to burn bright!"

"These violent delights have violent ends"

"Hang thee young baggage, disobedient wretch!"

Techniques

Sibilance – The repeated 'S' sound in a line / sentence (the hissing sausages sizzled).

Assonance – The repeated vowel sound in a line / sentence (the crumbling thunder hid the hum of the murderer).

Consonance – A repeated consonant sound in a line / sentence (the giggling girls galloped).

Onomatopoeia – A word which sounds like its meaning (hiss, crack, ooze).

Pathetic Fallacy – When the weather reflects the mood / atmosphere in a piece of writing (the rain poured down the window pane as she wept for the loss of her cat).

Ambitious Vocabulary

Feud – a long and bitter quarrel or argument; there is an ancient feud between the Montagues and the Capulets.

Fickle – changeable; Romeo is fickle when he changes his affection from Rosalind to Juliet.

Tragedy – drama based on suffering, which ends in death; Romeo and Juliet ends in tragedy.

Patriarchy – a society in which men hold all the power; in Elizabethan era society was governed by the patriarchy (adjective – patriarchal).

Androcentric – to be dominated by a masculine view point or masculine interests; the androcentric beliefs of Elizabethan England dominate the play.

Honour – Pride in one's name and reputation; Romeo's sense of honour commands him to avenge Mercutio's death.

Benevolent – Kind and generous, all loving; Benvolio is named because of his benevolent nature.

Mercurial – easily angered, changeable, volatile; Mercutio is named because of his mercurial nature.

Hamartia – an error or flaw in the protagonist, which leads to their death; Romeo's hamartia is his impetuous nature.

Catharsis – The process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong emotions; the audience experience catharsis at the end of the play as we feel relief that, at last, the two feuding families resolve their conflict and prevent further suffering.

Spelling - plurals

Change to ves or add s?

Some words ending in f or fe change to ves: knife—knives, life—lives, wife—wives, shelf—shelves.

Exceptions: add s: roof—roofs, proof—proofs, chief—chiefs

Words ending on ff add s: cliffs, sniffs, scoffs, toffs, stiffs, tiffs...

These words can be either ves or s: scarf—scarves or scarfs, dwarf—dwarves or dwarfs

Change y to ies or s?

A. If the word ends in a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) + y then just add s: boys—boys.
Journey—journeys, key—keys, tray—trays

B. If the word ends in a consonant + y change y to ies: country—countries, baby—babies, body—bodies, memory—memories

Punctuation: The colon

Colons are like flashing arrows: they are there to direct your attention to the information that follows them. Colons are used to connect sentences, to present information, and to set off lists and quotations. They call your attention to information following an independent clause, and that information amplifies, explains, or fulfils the information presented before the colon. Once you know how to use a colon, it's easy to remember.

To introduce a list: I went to the shops and bought a lot of fruit: strawberries, apples and bananas.

To emphasis a noun: The clouds broke through the sun to light up her favourite place: her father's rose garden.

To introduce a quotation: Romeo thinks Juliet is beautiful: "she is the sun".

To separate closely related clauses and add EMPHASIS to the second clause:

Remember the saying: be careful what you wish for!

If the two clauses are of equal importance, use the semi-colon.

Key Words: Narrative

Protagonist: The main character in a story who creates the plot e.g. August

Setting: Where and when the story takes place e.g. America

Dialogue: Any speech or conversation which takes place between the characters

Narrative voice: The person telling the story:

1st person: I, we

2nd person: You

3rd person: They, it, he, she

Theme: the big idea that dominates the story e.g. discrimination and prejudice