

Violent scenes in *Romeo and Juliet*

Act 1 Scene 1.

In Act 1 Scene 1 different members of the Capulet and Montague households become involved in arguments in a public place in Verona and when they lose their tempers, swords are drawn.

Where does the scene take place?

(1) Who is involved?

Samson and Gregory (Capulet) and Abraham and Balthasar (Montague).

Who are they?

They are servants from the Capulet and Montague households.

How does the fight start? Find a quote.

(2) Who is involved?

Tybalt tries to pick a fight with Benvolio.

Who are they?

Benvolio is

Tybalt is

Find a quote that shows Tybalt trying to pick a fight.

"talk of peace! I hate.....

(3) Who is involved?

Lord Capulet and Lord Montague.

Who are they and why do they dislike each other so much?

--

How do they behave and what do they say?

--

What warning does the Prince give?

The prince warns both the Capulets and the Montagues that.....

Violence and conflict in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Act 3 Scene 1.

The second scene in which there is violence leads to the deaths of Tybalt and Mercutio. The scene takes place on a street in Verona and happens soon after Romeo and Juliet get married.

Benvolio wants to avoid a fight with the Capulets and he suggests to Mercutio that they should go home. What exactly does he say?

Lines 1 & 2

This shows us that Benvolio is

.....

What kind of mood is Mercutio in?

When Tybalt arrives, Mercutio says ".....

.....". This shows us that he

.....

.....

When Tybalt and Mercutio speak to each other there is tension between them. What do they say? (Lines 39 - 42)

Mercutio says, "I will not budge for no man's pleasure". This tells us that he

How does Tybalt try to provoke Romeo into fighting and how does Romeo react?

Tybalt tries to start a fight with Romeo by saying ".....". This is a great insult to Romeo who is of noble birth. Romeo tries to

Then Tybalt orders Romeo to take out his sword and fight. Tybalt wants to fight Romeo because.....

What do Tybalt and Mercutio say to each other that causes them to fight? Write the word or lines in the box below.

.....
.....
.....

Write a few sentences describing Mercutio's death.

.....
.....
.....
.....

When Romeo sees that his friend is dying his mood changes. He becomes

this is shown when he says "....."

....."

Then, he

Romeo kills Tybalt because

.....

What are the consequences of the killings?

As a result of the deaths of Mercutio and Tybalt, the Prince

.....

He says, "....."

These consequences are terrible for Romeo because it means that.....

Who do you think is most to blame for the killings? Write your own ideas in the box below.

A large rectangular box with a solid black border, containing 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing.

The following characters are all present in Act 3 Scene 1. The sentences below describe their attitude to violence and killing. Write each name beside a statement that suits them best.

Tybalt, Benvolio, Romeo, Lady Capulet, Mercutio, The Prince.

He knows that when the weather is very hot, people lose their tempers quickly. He would like to get off the streets so that he can avoid any trouble. _____

He is responsible for keeping the peace in the city and his sentence on Romeo is severe. This is because he wants to stop the feud permanently.

She wants Romeo to be executed for having killed Capulet.

He refuses to leave the streets so that he can avoid the Capulets. He makes fun of Tybalt and is willing to fight him if provoked.

He wants to avoid fighting Tybalt and is extremely patient while Tybalt insults him. However his passions take over when his friend is killed.

He has a short temper and is clearly looking for a fight. _____

Violence and conflict are central to *Romeo and Juliet*. Discuss this theme with reference to at least three scenes in the play.

Introduction:

Begin by saying:

Romeo and Juliet is a tragic play, which is about

Although it is a play about love, there are many scenes that contain violence and conflict.

The play opens with a and ends with

The violence in the play happens because of an between two families, which leads to the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet. In this essay I will discuss..

Historical background:

Romeo and Juliet was written by William Shakespeare and first performed in

..... It is set in the century. When Shakespeare wrote the play, ruled England. She loved the theatre. People in the 16th century were fond of any sort of entertainment. They liked watching

It was important for Shakespeare to make his plays as exciting as possible, because

An audience in the 16th century would have liked *Romeo and Juliet* because

First violent scene: See notes:

Discuss in detail Act 1 Scene 1 which is the opening fight scene.

Use quotations.

Say why you think this scene is important - refer to the prince's warning. (This scene is important because.....)

Second violent scene: See notes:

Discuss in detail Act 3 Scene 1 which is the scene in which Mercutio and Tybalt are killed.

Use quotations.

Say why you think this scene is important - refer to the consequences of the killings. (This scene is important because.....)

Third violent scene: See notes:

Discuss in detail Act 3 scene 5 which is the scene in which Juliet refuses to marry Paris.

Use quotations.

Say why you think this scene is important. (This scene is important because.....)

Write a paragraph explaining how you direct Act 3 Scene 5.

If I had to direct Act 3 Scene 5, I would.....

Ideas:

- I would use a modern setting. The stage would look like a modern flat with modern furniture. The audience would be able to see tall high-rise buildings through the window OR
- I would use a traditional setting. The stage would be a room in a very grand house with golden chandeliers and velvet curtains.
- When Lord Capulet says "my fingers itch", he would then strike her across the face and she would fall to the floor crying OR
- Lord Capulet would not hit Juliet, but he would shot loudly at her. Juliet would stand up to him and she would shout back at him. I would do this to show how strong she is in this scene.

Fourth violent scene: See notes:

Describe Act 5 Scene 3 in detail using quotations. This is the scene when Romeo and Juliet die.

Say why you think this scene is violent.

Why is this scene important?

Write a paragraph saying how you would direct Act 5 Scene 3.

If I had to direct Act 5 Scene 3 for the stage, I would

Ideas:

- I would leave out the killing of Paris so that the audience could concentrate on how Romeo and Juliet show their grief.
- The stage would in a pretty church with flowers everywhere to create a peaceful and religious atmosphere OR,
- The stage would be a dark and dusty tomb with dead bodies all around. This would give it a spooky and gloomy atmosphere.
- I would show how upset Juliet was by having her scream at the top of her voice when she sees Romeo dead. The audience would think she was going mad with grief.

Conclusion:

Do you think this is a violent play? Give reasons.

What do you remember most from reading or watching it? The hatred or the love. Is it a bit of both?

Which is your favourite scene? Give reasons.

❖ **You only need to write about three scenes !**