

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare

How does the scene turn names from labels into obstacles the characters try to reason around?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Act II, Scene ii - balcony scene

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?
END	Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow / That I shall say "Good night" till it be morrow.
PASSAGE ID	sec-romeo-ii-ii-01

THE MOVE

Trace how a repeated idea changes from social fact to an argument about identity

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Romeo and Juliet cannot ignore that their family names have consequences, but they repeatedly test whether a name truly defines the person who bears it. Juliet's questions and Romeo's willingness to be "new baptized" turn naming into the scene's central conflict between inherited identity and chosen relationship.

MARK

Underline every important use of name, Romeo, Montague, or Capulet. Circle Juliet's questions about what a name means. Box Romeo's responses offering to discard or replace his name.

NOTICE

- Why is Romeo's name dangerous before either lover debates its meaning?
- What distinction does Juliet make between a person and a name?

- Does their reasoning remove the real-world danger created by the families?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the scene turn names from labels into obstacles the characters try to reason around? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The scene treats names as both arbitrary labels and real social obstacles. Juliet argues that Romeo would remain himself under another name, while Romeo offers to abandon his inherited identity; yet the danger from their families shows that labels can have consequences even when the lovers reject their meaning.

EVIDENCE

Use Juliet's reasoning about names and one response from Romeo.

WATCH FOR

Do not conclude that the scene proves names do not matter. The tension is that the lovers question their meaning while still facing their social power.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE • GRADE 9 • LESSON 297

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WORK	The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Act II, Scene ii - balcony scene
PASSAGE ID	sec-romeo-ii-ii-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

But soft, what light through yonder window breaks?

END

Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow / That I shall say "Good night" till it be morrow.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK Underline every important use of name, Romeo, Montague, or Capulet. Circle Juliet's questions about what a name means. Box Romeo's responses offering to discard or replace his name.
2. NOTICE Why is Romeo's name dangerous before either lover debates its meaning? What distinction does Juliet make between a person and a name? Does their reasoning remove the real-world danger created by the families?
3. THINK Answer provisionally: How does the scene turn names from labels into obstacles the characters try to reason around?
4. WRITE Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. CLOSE Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.