

## Romeo: In Love?

### Part 1: Class Discussion

Instructions: Close-read the following speech that Romeo gives about his experience of "being in love" with Rosaline. As you read, underline "positive" words and bold "negative" words that Romeo uses to describe his experience of being in love. Also, highlight or take note of words that stand out to you

| Romeo's Speech  | Notes   |
|---|---|
| Here's much to do with <b>hate</b> , but more with <u>love</u> .<br>Why, then, O <b>brawling love!</b> O <b>loving hate!</b><br>O any thing, of nothing first create!<br>O <b>heavy</b> lightness! <b>serious</b> vanity!<br>Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!<br>Feather of <b>lead</b> , bright <b>smoke</b> , cold <b>fire</b> , sick<br><b>health!</b><br>Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!<br>This love feel I, that feel no love in this.<br>Dost thou not laugh? | Brawl: to fight<br>O any thing, of nothing first create: love that comes from nothing<br>Vanity: foolishness<br>Well-seeming forms: attractive shapes<br>Still-waking: always wakeful<br>Dost: does |

1. What word choices stand out in how Romeo describes his experience of "being in love?" Why do you think he describes his experience of love in those terms?

| Words that stand out                                  | What words show us about Romeo's experience in love   |
|---|---|
| Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health | This shows us that maybe Romeo's love with Rosaline is impossible, as the phrases he mentions such as "feather of lead", "bright smoke", "cold fire", and "sick health". All of the phrases are impossible, because feathers are light, lead is heavy, smoke cannot be bright, fire is hot, and health and sick are polar opposites |

2. Are the words mostly positive, negative, or both? What does this tell us about Romeo's emotional state of mind or his experience of "being in love" with Rosaline?

Most of his words here are negative. Romeo is probably feeling frustrated about Rosaline having no feelings for him.

Part 2: Group Discussion

Instructions: Close-read the following speech that that Romeo gives about his experience of "being in love" with Rosaline. As you read, underline "positive" words and bold "negative" words that Romeo uses to describe his experience of being in love. Also, highlight or take note of words that stand out to you. With your group, discuss Questions 1-4

| Romeo's Speech   | Notes   |
|--|---|
| Love is a smoke <u>raised</u> with the <b>fume</b> of sighs;<br>Being <b>purged</b> , a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes;<br>Being vex'd a sea nourish'd with lovers' <b>tears</b> :<br>What is it else? a <b>madness</b> most discreet,<br>A <b>choking</b> gall and a <b>preserving</b> sweet. | Fume: gas, smoke, or vapor<br>Purged: cleansed of impurities<br>Vex'd: angered<br>Nourish'd: fed and cared for<br>Discreet: careful and wise<br>Gall: contents of the gallbladder; bitterness<br>Sweet: candy |

1. What word choices stand out in how Romeo describes his experience of "being in love?" Why do you think he describes his experience of love in those terms?

| Words that stand out   | What words show us about Romeo's experience with love   |
|------------------------|---|
| Purged, tears, choking | These words are probably represent Romeo's frustration towards Rosaline, especially with the word "madness" |

2. Are the words mostly positive, negative, or both? What does this tell us about Romeo's emotional state of mind or his experience of "being in love" with Rosaline?

Most of his words here are negative. The line here is similar to the previous passage - it shows Romeo's frustration on why Rosaline can't like him. Romeo probably feels like this love is one-sided.

Summing it up

1. From these passages, what do you think is Romeo's overall experience of "being in love?" Romeo realizes that his feelings to Rosaline are one-sided, and because of this he's feeling frustrated. In the first passage, he mentions some impossible things, such as a feather of lead. Romeo realizes that his love for Rosaline is impossible.
2. In what ways does Romeo's description of "being in love" match up (or not match up) with your personal understanding or experience with love?

I think it's understandable for him to be frustrated with himself that Rosaline doesn't like him. Because of this he feels like his love is one-sided. I think it's perfectly understandable.

Prompt: Do you think Romeo is really "in love" with Rosaline? Why or why not?

Support your answer by:

1. Using quotes from Romeo's speeches to show Romeo's experience of "being in love"
2. Describing ways Romeo's speeches about "being in love" match up (or does)

Romeo's experience of "being in love" is quite one-sided, this causes Romeo to feel frustrated and angry. In the second passage, Romeo mentions words such as "purged", "tears", and "choking", all which have a negative connotation and show his anger and frustration towards this love. He describes this love as "a madness most discreet". In the first passage, he says "Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!" Romeo realizes that his love for Rosaline is impossible, as feathers of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, and sick health are all impossible. Romeo feels frustrated and angry about this one-sided love with Rosaline.