

Act 2 Literary Analysis

1. A. Where do Romeo and Juliet first mutually declare their love?
Romeo and Juliet declare their love mutually at the beginning of A2S2.
B. What roles do darkness and light play in the scene? Support your answer with details from the text.
"But soft! What light through yonder window breaks! It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!. Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon... " Romeo refers to Juliet as his sun or his light. Romeo, being outside, is surrounded by darkness or the moon. The light and darkness represent both Romeo and Juliet.
2. A. What weakness in Romeo does the Friar point out before agreeing to help?
That Romeo gave up very quickly on Rosaline and that Romeo may actually be loving Juliet because of Juliet's looks. It can be summed up with this passage, "Holy Saint Francis! What a change is here! Is Rosaline, that thou didst love so dear, so soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes."
B. How do the Friar's motives differ from the couple's motives? Explain your answer based on details from the text.
Friar is happy to assist because he wants to form an alliance between the two families. "But come, young waverer, come go with me. In one respect I'll thy assistant be; for this alliance may so happy prove to turn your household's rancor to pure love."
3. A. For whom does Juliet wait in A2S5?
Juliet is waiting for the Nurse who went out to meet Romeo.
B. What are her feelings as she waits? Explain your answer.
Juliet seems to be anxious and impatient. She's anxious to hear what Romeo said to the Nurse, and even thinks that maybe the Nurse couldn't meet Romeo. When the Nurse finally comes, she is impatient to hear what Romeo said and badgers the Nurse
4. A. How many sentences are in lines 1-8 of A2S5?
6 sentences
B. Write a summary of these lines.
Juliet sends the nurse at 9 and tells her to return in 30 minutes. 30 minutes has passed and she still hasn't returned. Maybe Romeo can't be reached, or maybe something's wrong with the Nurse.
5. Using a chart like the one shown, rewrite the following two lines and indicate the pattern of accented (bolded) and unaccented syllables (unbolded) in each line. Then identify the key words stressed in each line, and explain what meaning is conveyed.
A. Romeo: Can I go forward when my heart is here?

Blank Verse Pattern
Can I forward when my heart is here?
Key Words
I, forward, heart, here
Significance

Romeo will not go on without his heart, and since Juliet is in his heart, he won't go on without Juliet

B. Juliet: By my true love is grown to such excess.

Blank Verse Pattern
By my true love is grown to such excess
Key Words
Love, grown, excess
Significance
Juliet has a lot of true and genuine love

6. A. Identify the aristocratic and common characters in Act 2 based on whether they speak in blank verse.

Benvolio, Mercutio, Friar are the aristocratic characters

There are no common characters who speak in blank verse

B. Why might Shakespeare have chosen blank verse for the dialogue spoken by aristocrats?

Support your answer with textual evidence.

Shakespeare probably wants aristocrats to speak in blank verse because they are higher ranked when compared to the commoners, it forces a sense of authority.

7. Based on conclusions you draw about the text, why do you think the love scene in Capulet's garden is one of the most famous dramatic scenes in all literature? Explain and support your answer with details from the scene.

I think it might be one of the most famous dramatic scenes in all literature because it portrays love in a very descriptive manner. The setting made the scene even more iconic - it's your typical romance scene. "[Enter **Juliet** at a window] But soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It is the East, and Juliet is the sun..." This depicts the love in a lot of iconic romance movies.