



12.1.1 Study: What Is Tragedy?

English I: Introduction to Literature and Composition Literacy Advantage (S1255175)

Study Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Complete this study sheet as you work through the study. You will be able to use it to help study for your quiz.

Characteristics defined by Aristotle

- Universal theme
- complete story
- Create feelings of pity and fear
- Purge of emotions

Catharsis
A release of emotional tension

Tragedy
A story with a series of serious actions in which the main character meets a disastrous fate.

Comic foil
A character that contrasts ^{opposite} another character. Helps the audience recognize the qualities of the other character (often the tragic hero).

Tragic hero characteristics

- noble birth
- Responsible for own fate
- Falls from great height
- Is doomed to make a serious error in judgement
- Realizes terrible mistake
- Faces mistake honorably
- Meets a tragic end

Changes of Elizabethan era

- Didn't always have a tragic hero that fit all the Greek characteristics
- Humor to lighten the mood

Hamartia
Miscalculation; error in judgement; this mistake costs hero his or her happiness

GIST

— The gist of something is the central idea. In one or two sentences, tell the gist of this study.

Act I Scene 1

Prologue

Samson & Gregory scene:

1) Get the attention of the audience

fight
dirty words
interest the
reader

Comic characters

Sarcasm & puns

baudy humor

brawl

2) Type of attitude toward women that tends to be ugly & mean spirited.

Meeting: Dramatic Foils



Benvolio & Tybalt

cousin of
Romeo

cousin
of Juliet

- tries
to stop
the fight

peacemaker

- wants
to fight

hater of peace

Punishment line - 89

If ever you ... - The Prince says this

Meeting Romeo

Sad

walks around alone

closes shades in his room

["artificial night"]

Talks in oxymorons ex-^{opposites} loving hate, cold fire, sick-health

~~the~~ Rosaline not loving him back causes

mixed & confused emotions. -

Rosaline won't be hit by cupid's arrow. Wants to be a virgin & nun.

Identify:

Prologue - introduction

chorus - Said by an actor

Star-crossed lovers - Romeo & Juliet's love is written in the stars and something bad will happen

dramatic irony - when the audience knows what will happen and the characters don't.

style of prologue - poem - sonnet 14 line poem
8 last 2 lines are a couplet.

dramatic foil - when 2 characters are opposite each other and bring out the traits in other ppl. Ex - Benvolio and Tybalt - have to have some similarities - similar in age...etc.

Ancient Grudge - that even servants fight in it too. [Sampson & Gregory] - servants who fight too.

Meet Romeo

Sad, depressed

why? - Loves Rosaline who does not return his love.
"Diane's wit"

Conclusion

moon = cold
Diana = goddess of moon. Goddess of chaste. Goddess of virginity.
her (brother is god of the sun).

Juliet = Sun-hot

Rosaline won't allow herself to be seduced - she will not give Romeo her virginity b/c she feels that's all Romeo wants and she knows that's not true love.

Romeo says she won't sleep with me and what a waste of a beautiful girl

Tybolt says I will not tolerate his presence.
& Capulet says get away. - ENOUGH!

Juliet is the shrine
He is the pilgrim

Romeo "Let lips do what hands do"
Kisses Juliet twice.

Juliet Finds out Romeo is a Montague and
Romeo Finds out Juliet is a Capulet.

4) Benvolio & Tybalt
Mercutio & Romeo } foils for
each other

gets excited

Romeo to
Mercutio:

Peace Mercutio! Peace - thou talk of nothing.

Mercutio:

That's my point - dreams mean nothing. Forget
about your dream & stop being upset.

Romeo

Foreshadowing

I have a feeling that tonight at this party,
Something bad will happen - an untimely death. - ^{too young} to die.

^{Lord} Capulet wants all the ladies to dance.

Soliloquy - monologue - speech said alone
on stage. - reveals feelings of the character.

Romeo - Compares Juliet to a torch ^{brighter} than the fire
of the torch

Rich jewel, exotic

& she is a dove & everyone else around her is a crow.

Test: Act I Prologue; Terms on Tragedy:

Literary terms

Review) "brawling love" > Oxymoron
"cold fire"

2) She has Diane's wit

She will not be hit by Cupid's arrow

Allusion
(a reference
to something
biblical or
mythological)

Act I scene 5

^{Lord} Capulet wants everyone to dance - good host

Tybalt hears Romeo say this about Juliet. - ready to kill

Tybalt tells ^{Lord} Capulet there is a Montague and
he answers calm down, leave him alone - don't pay attention to

because he does not want to start a scene

in his house b/c Prince said the first person
to start a fight will be killed.

Prince Escalus

* Decree: death penalty for next man who starts a fight.

Dramatic Foils - when one character enhances characteristics of another.

Benvolio vs. Tybalt

↓
Tries to stop the fight

Instigation (peace)
"I hate the word as I hate all hell all Montagues and thee."

Paris

Man of wax and a flower
so perfect - like a wax statue.

Romeo
to Mercutio - Nimble soles → pun
Soul of lead

Mercutio - If love rough with you, be rough with love

Mercutio - Mercury god of Speed (Roman)
aka Hermes (Greek)

Messenger god
Mercurial - changeable

Traits

Moody - quick with jokes (puns)

Quick tempered

Queen Mab = Fairy's midwife

Speech - gets carried away

fairy midwife story - wild, very creative

Visits people's dreams and makes them dream about their ^{greatest} desires

tells Romeo
a story

Queen Mab

After Romeo tells Benvolio that he is sad b/c Rosaline does not love him.

About Love

Advice #1 from Benvolio

- Forget about Rosaline and go "give ^{freedom} liberty unto thine eyes and examine other beauties".
Trying to convince him there are other women that you can love
- Romeo answers you cannot truly forget someone if you love them. - You cannot teach me to forget her.

Act 1 Scene 2

County Paris = a nobleman who wants to marry Juliet.

Juliet

Not yet 14 = 13 yrs. old
only daughter - all other kids died.

Act 1, scene 3

Meet Lady Capulet formal with Juliet
Nurse - very informal
Loves to talk
Knows Juliet's age and mom doesn't know.

ROMEO AND JULIET EXAM ON ACT I: STUDY GUIDE

1. What is tragedy? (study handout)
 - a. Characteristics of Greek tragedy.
 - b. Greek vs. Elizabethan tragedy
 - c. tragic hero –characteristics

2. Terms: Study the definitions and examples from each from the play
 - a. Hamartia
 - b. Catharsis
 - c. Comic foil
 - d. Dramatic irony
 - e. Allusion
 - f. Oxymoron
 - g. Personification
 - h. Metaphor
 - i. Simile
 - j. Foreshadowing
 - k. Soliloquy

3. The Play
 - a. Prologue: Purpose; information; quotes; staging
 - b. Act I, scenes 1-5: plot; characters, conflicts, quotes, language (see terms)
Plot: What happens in the play?
Characters: Identify (who's who); traits and conflicts e.g. Benvolio vs. Tybalt; Nurse vs. Lady Capulet
 - c. Quotations: Identify the speaker and subject of various quotes. Study the quotes for each scene that was highlighted in class. Examples:
*"I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword,
Or manage it to part these men with me." (who said it and to whom?)*

*"This precious book of love, this unbound lover,
To beautify him, only lacks a cover:"*

STRATEGIES FOR STUDYING:

1. Study and know the definitions of the terms listed above and examples from the play.
2. Re-read your notes to review important themes and ideas discussed in class.
3. Review the plot of Act I scene by scene.
4. Skim or re-read Prologue and Act I looking for quotes that were highlighted in class. Concentrate on those passages discussed in class that reveal character and conflict.
5. Get a good night's sleep and bring a pencil to class.

NAME _____
DATE _____

CLASS _____

Key Terms: Introduction to Drama and Tragedy

acting:

The ability to represent a character on a stage or set.

casting :

Choosing and assigning parts to actors in a play or movie.

catharsis:

A release of emotional tension.

comic foil:

A humorous character who, by contrast, helps the audience recognize the qualities of another character (often the comic hero).

direction:

The director's role to make sure the production, script, and acting all work together to create the desired effect.

hamartia:

The tragic flaw of a tragic hero that leads to his or her own destruction.

production:

The props, sets, costumes, lighting, and special effects.

script:

The written text of a play or movie. It includes directions for the producer, actors, and director, and the lines of the actors.

tragedy:

In literature, a story in which the main character or characters suffer bad luck, pain, or loss.

Poetic Elements in Romeo and Juliet

It's clear from the start of *Romeo and Juliet* that the Montagues and the Capulets are enemies. But why? It's because of something that happened before the play began.

This is called the antecedent action

☒ **antecedent action:** Events that take place before a story starts.. *Antecedent action* describes events that happened before the story started.

The audience never learns the reason of the "ancient grudge." Because of this, the fighting seems pointless. Why can't the two families just forgive and forget? This adds to the drama's sense of tragedy.



tragedy: In literature, a story in which the main character or characters suffer bad luck, pain, or loss.

Shakespeare does something else to increase the sense of tragedy . He tells you how the play ends! In the prologue, Shakespeare actually tells the audience what kind of an ending to expect: The two young lovers will kill themselves.

Why would Shakespeare give it away? Didn't he know that everyone hates a spoiler? Actually, he tells the audience the ending to create dramatic irony

dramatic irony:

When there's a difference between what a character thinks is true and what an audience knows to be true.

Example: A reality show in which the audience knows the contestants are winning money for a charity, but the contestants think they're winning money for themselves..

Because the audience knows what will happen in the end, they feel the sorrow and tragedy of the drama even more strongly. Shakespeare was a master storyteller. He had a purpose for everything he did.

Shakespeare also uses a literary tool called a motif

☒ **motif:** A repeated idea.. A *motif* is a repeated idea. Shakespeare uses motifs to strengthen the audience's feelings about a character:

Blank Verse in *Romeo and Juliet*

Shakespeare often used blank verse in his plays. In his plays, *Blank verse* is a type of poetry in which stanzas are written in iambic pentameter

☒ **blank verse:** Verse written in iambic pentameter, but without rhyme.

stanzas: The lines grouped together in a poem. A stanza is to a poem what a paragraph is to a text.



iambic pentameter: An iamb is two syllables, with the accent on the second syllable. Five iambs in a row is called *iambic pentameter*.

Example: da dum, da dum, da dum, da dum, da dum..

There are several reasons that Shakespeare would have used blank verse. ☒

Why Use Blank Verse?

1. **Culture:** Iambic pentameter was very popular in Shakespeare's day. Blank verse would have pleased the audience.
2. **Sound:** Iambic meter works well for a drama because it sounds like the rhythm of natural human speech.
3. **Rhythm:** Adding meter to literature is like adding a beat to a song; it makes it sound better. ☒

meter: The rhythm in a poem, usually made by the number of syllables in a line and how those syllables are accented.

Blank verse doesn't have a *rhyme* scheme. However, sometimes Shakespeare uses a *couplet* for emphasis or to encourage the audience to make connections between words or ideas. ☒

rhyme scheme: The pattern of rhymes in a poem.

Example: *abba, bcbc..*

couplet: A group of two lines that rhyme.

* Dramatic Irony

Prologue

Romeo & Juliet Prologue - Introduction {enter} Chorus

1. Two households, both alike in dignity
2. (In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),
3. From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
4. Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
5. From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
6. A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
7. Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
8. Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
9. The fearful passage of their death-marked love
10. And the continuance of their parents' rage,
11. Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
12. Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
13. The which, if you with patient ears attend,
14. What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

Directions:

Circle all the words that have to do with **love** and underline those with **hate**.

Now, **circle** every example of the word "**two**" in the prologue. Why is this word—the very first word of the play—so important here?

Questions

Are there more words about love or fighting? Why do they think that is?

2. Why this emphasis on violence? How does the prologue change your expectations of the play?

3. WHAT 3 LINES SUGGEST THE **THEME OF FATE** IN THE STORY OF ROMEO AND JULIET?

4. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM **STAR-CROSSED LOVERS**?

5. What might have begun the feud ("ancient grudge")? What might have made the families such bitter enemies? Shakespeare never actually answers this question in the play.

Vocabulary - Prologue

Chorus: a character who addresses the audience, introducing and commenting on the action. Here this commentary in the form of a sonnet. *

Alike in dignity: equal in high status

From forth. . .foes: conceived by deadly enemies

Star-crossed: ill-fated

Misadventured piteous overthrows: unlucky tragic accidents

Fearful passage: tragic unfolding

Traffic: performance

Miss/mend: fail/improve

- Said by an actor-chorus

- Information

1. "Two households" = 2 families

"alike in dignity" = same status

2. Setting = Verona [Italy]

3. "ancient grudge" = old feud

"new mutiny" = new fighting

4. "civil blood makes civil hands unclean"

5. "Fatal bins" children