

Monday 22nd February

Anticipation vs Reality-Act 4, Scene 3-5

Summary: Act 4, scene 3

In her bedchamber, Juliet asks the Nurse to let her spend the night by herself, and repeats the request to Lady Capulet when she arrives. Alone, clutching the vial given to her by Friar Lawrence, she wonders what will happen when she drinks it. If the friar is untrustworthy and seeks merely to hide his role in her marriage to Romeo, she might die; or, if Romeo is late for some reason, she might awaken in the tomb and go mad with fear. She has a vision in which she sees Tybalt's ghost searching for Romeo. She begs Tybalt's ghost to quit its search for Romeo, and toasting to Romeo, drinks the contents of the vial.

- **Summary: Act 4, scenes 4-5**
- Early the next morning, the Capulet house is aflutter with preparations for the wedding. Capulet sends the Nurse to go wake Juliet. She finds Juliet dead and begins to wail, soon joined by both Lady Capulet and Capulet. Paris arrives with Friar Lawrence and a group of musicians for the wedding. When he learns what has happened, Paris joins in the lamentations. The friar reminds them all that Juliet has gone to a better place, and urges them to make ready for her funeral. Sorrowfully, they comply, and exit.
- Left behind, the musicians begin to pack up, their task cut short. Peter, the Capulet servant, enters and asks the musicians to play a happy tune to ease his sorrowful heart. The musicians refuse, arguing that to play such music would be inappropriate. Angered, Peter insults the musicians, who respond in kind. After singing a final insult at the musicians, Peter leaves. The musicians decide to wait for the mourners to return so that they might get to eat the lunch that will be served.

SCENE 16
(From Act IV Scenes III to V)

Hall in Capulet's house

Juliet carries out the plan she has made with Friar Laurence

CAPULET How now, my headstrong! where have you been gadding?

JULIET Where I have learn'd me to repent the sin
Of disobedient opposition
and am enjoin'd by holy Laurence to beg your pardon.
Henceforward I am ever ruled by you.

CAPULET Send for the county; go tell him of this:
I'll have this knot knit up to-morrow morning.

[Exit Capulet]

JULIET Farewell! God knows when we shall meet again.
Come, vial. What if this mixture do not work at all?
Shall I be married then to-morrow morning?
No, no: this shall forbid it: lie thou there.
What if it be a poison, which the friar
Subtly hath minister'd to have me dead,
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd,
Because he married me before to Romeo?
Or, if I live, is it not very like,
if I wake, shall I not be distraught,
Environed with all these hideous fears?
And madly play with my forefather's joints?
And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his shroud?
And, in this rage, with some great kinsman's bone,
As with a club, dash out my desperate brains?
Romeo, I come! this do I drink to thee.

[Enter Nurse]

NURSE Mistress! what, mistress! Juliet! fast, I warrant her,
Why, lamb! why, lady! fie, you slug-a-bed!
Marry, and amen, how sound is she asleep!
I must needs wake her. Madam, madam, madam!
Ay, let the county take you in your bed;
He'll fright you up, i' faith. Will it not be?
Lady! lady! lady! Alas, alas! Help, help! my lady's dead!

O, well-a-day, that ever I was born!
Some aqua vitae, ho! My lord!

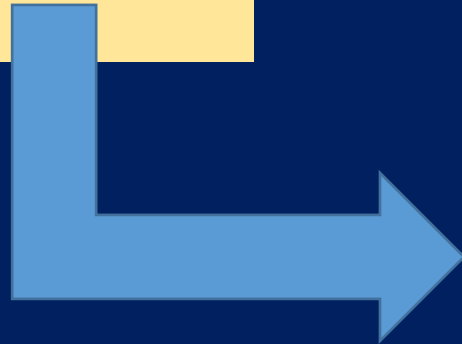
CAPULET Despised, distressed, hated, martyr'd, kill'd!
Uncomfortable time, why camest thou now
To murder, murder our solemnity?
O child! O child! my soul, and not my child!
Dead art thou! Alack! my child is dead;
And with my child my joys are buried.

[Exeunt]



Task:

Using the summary and the abridged version of these scenes, you are going to fill in this table, noting the feelings from different characters. In the first column you will write about their 'anticipations' for the wedding day, how they would have been feeling before they discover Juliet's "death". In the second column, you will be writing about their feelings, after believing that Juliet is dead.



Act 4, Scene 5

Make notes on how each character is feeling about firstly the anticipation of the day ahead; and then secondly, the reality that confronts them. Lift words and phrases from their speech to help you.

Nurse

Anticipation

The dear child whom I nursed from a babe is to be married today! What joy!

Reality

Alas! Alas! Help, help! My lady's dead!
O lamentable day!
O heavy day!
Never was seen so black a day as this.

Lady Capulet

Anticipation

Reality

My child! My only life!

Capulet

Anticipation

Reality

Paris

Anticipation

Reality

Friar Lawrence

Anticipation

Reality