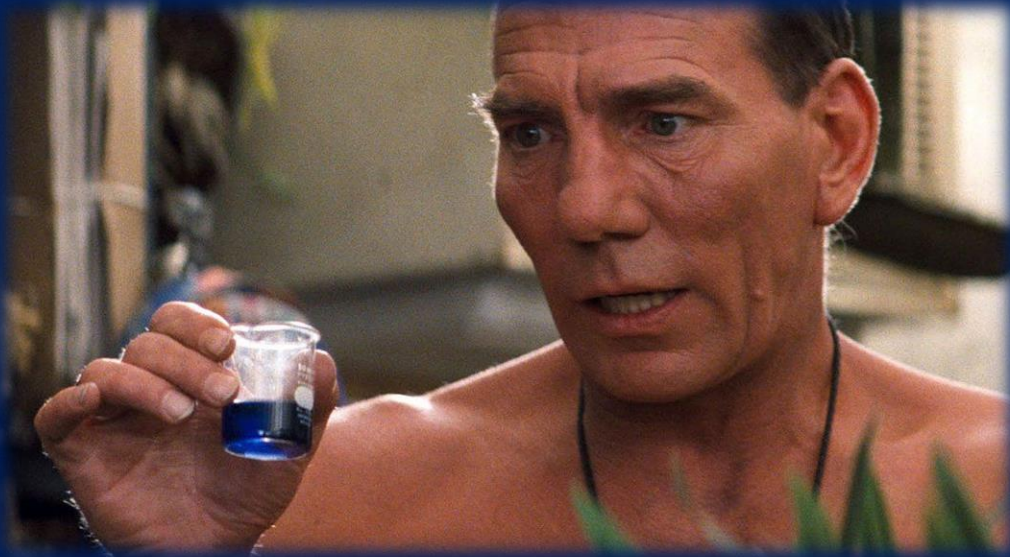


Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Act 4 Scene 1 – Friar Lawrence's Plan



In Act 4 Scene 1 – Juliet meets with Friar Lawrence and together, they create a plan to stop Juliet marrying Paris.

Juliet is desperate and incredibly upset that Romeo is banished and that she is set to marry Paris come Thursday.

So much so that she is prepared to die...



Juliet is desperate for a resolution or she is desperate to die.

She prays that Friar Lawrence can provide her with a remedy.

**SCENE 15**  
**(From Act IV Scene 1)**

**Friar Laurence's cell**

**Juliet meets with Friar Laurence in the hope of finding a way not to marry Paris**

JULIET            O shut the door! and when thou hast done so,  
Come weep with me; past hope, past cure, past help!

FR LAURENCE    Ah, Juliet, I already know thy grief;  
It strains me past the compass of my wits:  
I hear thou must, on Thursday next be married to this county.

JULIET            Tell me not, friar, that thou hear'st of this,  
Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it:  
If, in thy wisdom, thou canst give no help,  
Do thou but call my resolution wise,  
And with this knife I'll help it presently.  
Be not so long to speak; I long to die,  
If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

FR LAURENCE    Hold, daughter: I do spy a kind of hope,  
If, rather than to marry County Paris,  
Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,  
Then is it likely thou wilt undertake  
A thing like death to chide away this shame,  
And, if thou darest, I'll give thee remedy.

JULIET            O, shut me nightly in a charnel-house,  
O'er-cover'd quite with dead men's rattling bones,  
With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls;  
And I will do it without fear or doubt,  
To live an unstain'd wife to my sweet love.

FR LAURENCE    Hold, then; go home, be merry, give consent  
To marry Paris: To-morrow night  
Take thou this vial, being then in bed,  
And this distilled liquor drink thou off;  
When presently through all thy veins shall run  
A cold and drowsy humour, for no pulse  
Shall keep his native progress, but surcease:  
No warmth, no breath, shall testify thou livest;  
Each part, deprived of supple government,

Shall, stiff and stark and cold, appear like death:  
And in this borrow'd likeness of shrunk death  
Thou shalt continue two and forty hours,  
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.  
Now, when the bridegroom in the morning comes  
To rouse thee from thy bed, there art thou dead:  
Then, as the manner of our country is,  
Thou shalt be borne to that same ancient vault  
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.  
In the meantime, against thou shalt awake,  
Shall Romeo by my letters know our drift,  
And hither shall he come: and he and I  
Will watch thy waking, and that very night  
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua.

JULIET            Give me, give me! O, tell not me of fear!

FR LAURENCE    Hold; get you gone, be strong and prosperous  
In this resolve: I'll send a friar with speed  
To Mantua, with my letters to thy lord.

JULIET            Love give me strength! Farewell, dear father!

[Exeunt]

Translation of Friar Lawrence's plan.

'Hold on, daughter, I see some hope. But we must act boldly because the situation is so desperate. If you've made up your mind to kill yourself instead of marrying Count Paris, then you'll probably be willing to try something like death to solve this shameful problem. You can wrestle with death to escape from shame. And if you dare to do it, I'll give you the solution.'





‘Hold on, then. Go home, be cheerful, and tell them you agree to marry Paris. Tomorrow is Wednesday. Tomorrow night make sure that you are alone. Don’t let the Nurse stay with you in your bedroom.

When you’re in bed, take this vial, mix its contents with liquor, and drink. Then a cold, sleep-inducing drug will run through your veins, and your pulse will stop. Your flesh will be cold, and you’ll stop breathing. The red in your lips and your cheeks will turn pale, and your eyes will shut. It will seem like you’re dead. You won’t be able to move, and your body will be stiff like a corpse. You’ll remain in this deathlike state for forty-two hours, and then you’ll wake up as if from a pleasant sleep. Now, when the bridegroom comes to get you out of bed on Thursday morning, you’ll seem dead. Then, as tradition demands, you’ll be dressed up in your best clothes, put in an open coffin, and carried to the Capulet family tomb. Meanwhile, I’ll send Romeo word of our plan. He’ll come here, and we’ll keep a watch for when you wake up. That night, Romeo will take you away to Mantua. This plan will free you from the shameful situation that troubles you now as long as you don’t change your mind, or become scared like a silly woman and ruin your brave effort.’

## FRIAR LAWRENCE’S PLAN FOR JULIET TO BE WITH ROMEO





Should Juliet take the potion from Friar Lawrence?

Yes

No

Point 1

Juliet should take the potion as it means that she will be with Romeo. She has constantly declared her love for him and it is clear that she does not want to marry Paris. Since Romeo and Juliet have met they have been besotted with each other.

Juliet should not take the potion, she does not know what is in it and the effect that it will have on her body. Juliet is not a physician and neither is Friar Lawrence. They do not know what will happen when Juliet takes the poition, they can only speculate.

Point 2

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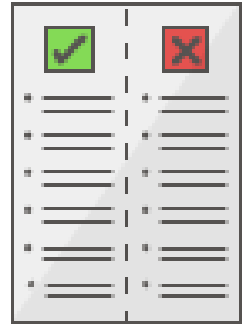
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Point 3

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Should Juliet take the  
potion that is being  
given to her by Friar  
Lawrence?



Blank Debate  
Template

For each argument, for and against, you need to use evidence from the text to support your reason.

Make sure that the points are 3 separate points. Think a 3 mark question on the reading paper, 3 separate ideas!