

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

# The Balcony Scene – collecting language to show feeling.



Franco Zeffirelli – The Balcony Scene  
Act 2 Scene 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0qao2xINsE>

**The balcony scene in Romeo and Juliet is truly iconic and it where Romeo and Juliet interact for the first time. This is the Franco Zeffirelli version, so a lot older but spoken with true Shakespearean words.**

**Watch the clip and get a feeling for how both Romeo and Juliet are feeling.**

# Star-crossed lovers

Act two

Back in the Capulet house, Juliet ordered her nurse to find out who her sweetheart was.

"Who was that boy? I hope he isn't already married—go and find out!"

So Juliet's nurse snuck out of the house to catch up with the handsome

She returned with shocking

"His name is Romeo. He is the son of Lord Montague!" her nurse exclaimed. "Come now, he's gone. Let's get your room..."

Distraught to that Romeo was her enemy, Juliet follow



Meanwhile, in the Capulets' garden, Benvolio and Mercutio found Romeo still thinking about Juliet.

"Forget about her!" said Mercutio.

"Come on," Benvolio agreed. "Let's go home."

"No," Romeo said. "Leave me."

So Romeo's friends left. Alone in the garden, Romeo could not stop thinking about Juliet. How would he ever be able to see her again?

Just then, Romeo saw a light coming from a balcony.



"Oh, it is my love!" he said. "I wish she knew I was here."

Sheltered by the trees, Romeo stood quietly. He had eyes only for Juliet.

"Oh, Romeo!" Juliet said, as she looked out into the night. "How I wish you were not a Montague. But it's just a name... Names mean nothing!"



Romeo crept toward the Capulet house. He climbed up the vines to Juliet's balcony.

"Sweet Juliet," he whispered once their eyes met. "I would gladly change my name for you!"

Under the cover of night, the pair talked for hours. Neither one of them had ever felt love like this before.

"Marry me, Juliet."

Romeo begged. "We can tell our families afterward."

We can make them see that we no longer need to be enemies!"

"Oh, Romeo—I will!" sighed Juliet, sealing her promise with a kiss. "But you must go," Juliet warned, as the sun began to rise.



Now visit the text...are there any clues in the text for how the two characters are feeling?

Page 13 – 16 in Romeo and Juliet – Tales from Shakespeare.

**SCENE 7**  
(From Act II Scene II)

**Capulet's orchard**

Romeo sneaks into Capulet's orchard to try and see Juliet

[JULIET appears]

ROMEO 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,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief  
That thou her maid art far more fair than she.  
It is my lady, O, it is my love!  
O, that she knew she were!  
See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!  
O, that I were a glove upon that hem,  
That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET Ay me!

ROMEO She speaks:  
O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art  
As glorious to this night, because of thy

JULIET O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?  
Deny thy father and refuse thy name!  
If thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,  
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO [Aside] Shall I hear more, or shall I speak?

JULIET 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,  
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!  
What's in a name? that which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,  
And for that name which is no part of thee  
Take all myself.

Now visit the abridged text...what specific words and phrases has Shakespeare used to show both Romeo and Juliet's feelings?

ROMEO I take thee at thy word:  
Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized;  
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

JULIET What man art thou that thus bescreen'd in night  
So stumblest on my counsel?

ROMEO By a name I know not how to tell thee who I am:  
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,  
Because it is an enemy to thee;  
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

JULIET My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words  
Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound:  
Art thou not Romeo and a Montague?

ROMEO Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

JULIET Dost thou love me? O gentle Romeo,  
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully.

ROMEO Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear  
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops...

JULIET O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her circled orb,  
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

ROMEO What shall I swear by?

JULIET Do not swear at all;  
Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self,  
Which is the god of my idolatry,  
And I'll believe thee.

ROMEO If my heart's dear love...

JULIET Well, do not swear: although I joy in thee,  
I have no joy of this contract to-night:  
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;  
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be  
Ere one can say 'It lightens.' Sweet, good night!  
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,  
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.  
Good night, good night! as sweet repose and rest

Come to thy heart as that within my breast!

ROMEO O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

JULIET What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?

ROMEO The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

JULIET I gave thee mine before thou didst request it:  
And yet I would it were to give again.

ROMEO Wouldst thou withdraw it? for what purpose, love?

JULIET But to be frank, and give it thee again.  
If that thy bent of love be honourable,  
Thy purpose marriage, send me word to-morrow,  
By one that I'll procure to come to thee,  
Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite;  
And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay  
And follow thee my lord throughout the world.  
At what o'clock to-morrow  
Shall I send to thee?

ROMEO At the hour of nine.

JULIET I will not fail: 'tis twenty years till then.

ROMEO Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast!  
Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest!  
Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell,  
His help to crave, and my dear hap to tell.

[Exeunt]

Page 19 -21 in  
Romeo and  
Juliet –  
Abridged  
version



Based on what you have watched and read, can you complete the table below?

To recount the day's events and thoughts/feelings in response			
Having watched the film and read the extracts, can you collect as much language and complete the table below?			
Events in Order	Cohesive device to link paragraphs	Thoughts and feelings Of Juliet	Shakespearean words/phrases to embed
Introductory line – summarise day/eve	I must share the events that today has brought...	Overwhelmed	O what a day! O what a blessed night!
Juliet appears at her balcony, unaware that Romeo is in the Capulet orchard below. Romeo is in awe.	This very eve...	Longing	
Juliet speaks of her torment that Romeo is a Montague.	O, what a quandary in which I now find myself!	Torn In a quandary	'deny thy father and refuse thy name; 'O, be some other name!'
Romeo makes his presence known. Juliet questions how he managed to be in the orchard.	Whilst engaged in mine soliloquy ...	surprised disbelief	'How came thou hither?' 'kinsmen find thee here'
Juliet asks Romeo to declare his love and arrange their marriage.	After establishing out mutual love for one another,...	Excited Smitten	

This table is from the perspective of Juliet. Over the next few days, you will be writing a diary entry for this particular scene so it is really important that you spend time analysing the language and emotion in this scene.

I have started you off with some cohesive devices and Shakespearean language.