

Juliet as a Tragic Character - Cheatsheet

3 Key Facts

1. Juliet is a tragic character when Lord Capulet tells her that she must marry Paris. She can see no way out of the marriage, even though she is already married.
2. Juliet is a tragic character when she is preparing to take the sleeping potion and questioning the Friar's motives.
3. The tragedy of the play peaks when Juliet wakes up and calls for Romeo. She does not yet know he has killed himself.

Key Quotations

"I long to die"	Juliet says this to Friar Laurence in Act 4. Lord Capulet has told Juliet that she must marry Paris.
"What if it be a poison, which the friar subtly had minister'd to have me dead, lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd"	Juliet worries that Friar Laurence may not be being honest with her and may, in fact, be trying to kill her. She thinks he could be doing this so he doesn't get into trouble for marrying her and Romeo.
"Where is my Romeo?"	The audience knows that Romeo has killed himself because he thinks Juliet is dead. The audience remembers that Juliet and the Friar had created this plan to fake her death so that Romeo and Juliet could be together.

The Most Important Questions

Which two characters do NOT help Juliet when Lord Capulet tells her she must marry Paris?	Both Lady Capulet and the Nurse refuse to help Juliet.
What technique does Shakespeare use to create tension when Juliet wakes up in the tomb?	Shakespeare uses dramatic irony. Juliet calls for Romeo, but the audience knows Romeo has killed himself, thinking that Juliet is dead.
What does Juliet use to kill herself?	Romeo's dagger.



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