

WEEK 4: DISCUSSION TEXT

CONTEXT: ACT 4

At the start of Act 4, we find Friar Laurence talking to Paris about Paris' upcoming marriage to Juliet. Juliet soon arrives and Paris talks to her as if they are already married.

Paris: **Happily met, my lady and my wife.**

Juliet: **That may be, sir, when I may be a wife.**

Friar Laurence encourages Paris to leave, pretending that he is going to hear Juliet's confession and so they need privacy.

Once Paris has left, we see that Juliet is very upset.

Juliet: **O, shut the door! And when thou hast done so,
Come weep with me, past hope, past cure, past help.**

She shows Father Laurence that she has a knife and says she would prefer to kill herself than marry Paris. But Father Laurence has a plan.

Friar Laurence: **Hold, then. Go home, be merry. Give consent
To marry Paris. Wednesday is tomorrow.
Tomorrow night look that thou lie alone.
Let not the Nurse lie with thee in thy chamber.
(shows her a vial)**

He tells Juliet that she must pretend to her family that she will marry Paris. However, on the night before the wedding, she must take a special sleeping potion that will make her seem like she is dead. After she has been placed in the Capulet tomb, Romeo will come and find her and they will escape to live together in Mantua, free to be married together. Juliet agrees to the plan.

Juliet: **Give me, give me! O, tell not me of fear!**

When she returns home, Juliet finds her parents are preparing for her wedding to Paris. Following the first part of Friar Laurence's plan, she tells her parents that she is sorry for disobeying them and agrees to marry Paris.

Lord Capulet: **How now, my headstrong? Where have you been gadding?**

Juliet: **Where I have learned me to repent the sin**

**Of disobedient opposition
To you and your behests, and am enjoined
By holy Laurence to fall prostrate here
To beg your pardon. (*falls to her knees*)
Pardon, I beseech you!
Henceforward I am ever ruled by you.**

Lord Capulet is delighted and decides to bring the marriage forward by a day. It will now be held on Wednesday rather than Thursday. Juliet asks the Nurse to come with her to her room and help her pick something to wear for the wedding.

Once Juliet has been left alone in her room, she drinks the sleeping potion from the vial she has been given by Father Laurence.

The next morning, the Nurse goes to wake Juliet up and finds that she is 'dead'.

Nurse: **She's dead, deceased, she's dead. Alack the day!**

When Friar Laurence arrives for the wedding and is told the sad news, he suggests that the family starts to make preparations for Juliet's funeral.

Father Laurence: **Every one prepare
To follow this fair corpse unto her grave.**

LESSON 1

U: TO INVESTIGATE JULIET'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HER PARENTS THROUGHOUT THE PLAY.

National Curriculum Links

Reading

Pupils should develop positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they read by:

- listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
- increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books

Pupils should understand what they have read by:

- checking that the book makes sense to them, discussing their understanding and exploring the meaning of words in context
- drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence

STARTER

Discuss with the children what the word **obedience** means. Are they always obedient to their parents/carers?

MAIN TEACHING:

Ask the children to think about Juliet's relationship with her parents in the play so far. Is she an obedient child? Encourage them to give reasons for their answers.

Explain to the children that they are going to be looking at quotations from different parts of the play and think about the way that Juliet is acting in each one.

They should consider the following questions:

- What is she doing or saying?

- Is she being obedient to her parents?
- On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the least and 10 being the most), how obedient is she being?

Put the children into mixed ability groups of 3 before handing out the quotations below.

1) Act 1 Scene 3

Lady Capulet: Can you like of Paris?

Juliet: I'll look to like if looking liking move.

What is she saying to her mother?

Obedience Score:

2) Act 2 Scene 2

Juliet: O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name.

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

What is she saying about Romeo?

Obedience Score:

3) Act 2 Scene 5

Juliet: What says my love? Come, what says Romeo?

Nurse: Have you got leave to go to shrift today?

Juliet: I have

Nurse: Then hie you hence to Friar Laurence's cell

There stays a husband to make you a wife.

What is Juliet going to do?

Obedience Score:

4) Acts 3 Scene 5

Juliet: I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam
I will not marry yet. And when I do, I swear
It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate
Rather than Paris!

What is she saying to her father?

Obedience Score:

Children should think about what Juliet is saying or doing using their inference skills, with support from adults.

Take feedback from the class.

- In which scene is Juliet the most obedient?
- In which scene is she the least obedient?
- Why do you think she becomes less obedient?

PLENARY

Tell the children that this week, they are going to be debating the issue of whether Juliet should obey her parents and marry Paris. Tomorrow the class will take part in a debate to explore both sides of the argument.