

Act 5, Scene 3

- ▶ Romeo and Juliet die, and their families are reconciled
 - ▶ Setting: Churchyard and Capulet family tomb in Verona
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A scene in three parts

This is the last scene in the play. It is very long, so this study guide divides it into three parts:

1. Paris and Romeo at Juliet's tomb
2. Friar Lawrence arrives at the tomb. Juliet's death
3. The arrival of Romeo and Juliet's parents with the Prince

Act 5, Scene 3: Part 1

► Paris and Romeo at Juliet's tomb

What happens?

- **Paris** comes to put flowers on Juliet's grave. His **Page** keeps watch nearby.
- **Romeo** and **Balthasar** arrive with tools to open the grave.
- Romeo gives Balthasar a letter to deliver to Lord Montague in the morning.
- He tells Balthasar that he wants to recover a ring from Juliet's finger.
- Romeo tells Balthasar to go and not to return. But Balthasar is worried and hides nearby.
- Romeo breaks open the tomb.
- Paris recognises Romeo as the man who killed Tybalt. Paris thinks that Juliet died from grief at Tybalt's death. He thinks Romeo has come to damage the Capulet bodies in the tomb.
- Paris tells Romeo to stop and come with him. He will probably take him to the Prince, whose orders Romeo has disobeyed.
- Romeo does not want to fight Paris. He tells him to leave.
- Paris refuses to go and they fight. Paris's Page is worried about the fight and goes to tell the watchmen.
- Paris dies, asking to be laid with Juliet in her tomb.
- Romeo recognises Paris as a relative of Mercutio. He remembers that his servant told him Paris was to marry Juliet.
- Romeo lays Paris in the tomb.
- Romeo drinks the poison and dies.



Activity 23

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Outside the Capulet's tomb in the churchyard]

BALTHASAR	
I will be gone, sir, and not trouble you.	
ROMEO	
So shalt thou show me friendship. Take thou that: Live, and be prosperous: and farewell, good fellow.	
BALTHASAR	
<i>[Aside]</i> For all this same, I'll hide me hereabout: His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt.	5
<i>Retires</i>	
ROMEO	
Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death, Gorged with the dearest morsel of the earth, Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open, And, in despite, I'll cram thee with more food!	
<i>Opens the tomb</i>	
PARIS	
This is that banish'd haughty Montague, That murder'd my love's cousin, with which grief, It is supposed, the fair creature died; And here is come to do some villanous shame To the dead bodies: I will apprehend him.	10
<i>Comes forward</i>	
Stop thy unhallow'd toil, vile Montague! Can vengeance be pursued further than death? Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee: Obey, and go with me; for thou must die.	15
ROMEO	
I must indeed; and therefore came I hither. Good gentle youth, tempt not a desperate man; Fly hence, and leave me: think upon these gone; Let them affright thee. I beseech thee, youth, Put not another sin upon my head, By urging me to fury: O, be gone! By heaven, I love thee better than myself; For I come hither arm'd against myself: Stay not, be gone; live, and hereafter say, A madman's mercy bade thee run away.	20
PARIS	
I do defy thy conjurations, And apprehend thee for a felon here.	25
ROMEO	
Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, boy!	30

Questions

1. Whom does Romeo visit before coming to the Capulets' tomb? Why does he do so? (2)
2. Refer to lines 2 – 3 ("So shalt thou ... farewell, good fellow"). Explain why Romeo pays Balthasar to go away. (2)
3. Refer to lines 4 – 5 ("For all this ... intents I doubt"). Explain what these lines reveal about Balthasar's feelings towards Romeo. (2)
4. Refer to lines 6 – 9 ("Thou detestable maw ... with more food").
 - a) Identify the figure of speech used in line 6 ("Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death"). (1)
 - b) Explain what Romeo means in these lines. (2)
5. What eventually happens to Paris? (1)
6. State briefly who Paris is and what he is doing in the churchyard. (2)
7. Paris calls Romeo a "condemned villain". Why does he call Romeo this? (3)
8. In what other more serious ways would you regard Romeo as "condemned"? (2)
9. Where and when does this incident take place? (2)
10. In line 11 Paris speaks of "my love's cousin". To whom is he referring? (1)
11. Why, according to Paris, did Juliet "die"? (2)
12. When Paris sees Romeo, what does he think Romeo is doing there? (2)
13. Explain why Paris says: "I do apprehend thee / Obey, and go with me ..." (lines 17 – 18). (2)
14. Quote a phrase that proves that Romeo doesn't recognise Paris. (1)
15. Why does Romeo say he is "armed against" himself? (line 26) (2)
16. What is the tragic result of this incident? Base your answer on line 31 ("Wilt thou provoke ... at thee, boy!"). (2)

[31]

Answers to Activity 23

1. Romeo visits a poor apothecary✓ in Mantua to buy poison.✓ (2)
2. He is afraid Balthasar will try and stop him from killing himself.✓✓ (2)
3. Balthasar cares a lot about Romeo and sees Romeo looks reckless.✓ He is suspicious of Romeo's plans.✓ (2)
- 4 a) Personification✓ (1)
- b) Romeo sees the tomb as a monster with a huge appetite, hungry for more bodies to devour.✓✓ (2)
5. Paris doesn't want to leave Romeo alone and Romeo kills him.✓ (1)
6. Paris was supposed to get married to Juliet on the Wednesday she was found "dead". He is also a relative of Prince Escalus. He went to the churchyard to cry over Juliet's dead body and to put down flowers and perfumed water.✓✓ (2)
7. "Condemned villain" means convicted criminal.✓ Prince Escalus had already found Romeo guilty of murdering Tybalt and banished him to Mantua.✓ Paris holds Romeo responsible for Juliet's death too, as he believes she died of grief over Tybalt's death.✓ (3)
8. Romeo is a victim of fate – fate treats him badly.✓ In the end he'll have to pay with his life.✓ (2)
9. The incident takes place at the Capulet tomb✓ when Romeo has just arrived from Mantua to drink poison next to Juliet's "dead" body.✓ (2)
10. Tybalt✓ (1)
11. Paris thinks Juliet dies of grief over her cousin, Tybalt.✓✓ (2)
12. He thinks Romeo wants to avenge the death of Mercutio by harming the Capulet bodies in the tomb.✓✓ (2)
13. He wants to arrest Romeo and give him over to the authorities.✓✓ (2)
14. "Good gentle youth" (line 20)✓
OR
"I beseech thee, youth" (line 22).✓ (1)
15. He is armed with poison to commit suicide and has a dagger.✓✓ (2)
16. Paris doesn't want to leave Romeo alone and calls him a criminal. Romeo kills Paris.✓✓ (3)

[31]

Act 5, Scene 3: Part 2

- ▶ Friar Lawrence arrives at the tomb
 - ▶ Juliets' death
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What happens?

- **Friar Lawrence** meets **Balthasar** who tells him that Romeo is at the tomb. The Friar carries a lantern, crowbar and a spade to the tomb.
- Friar Lawrence sees the blood from the fight at the entrance to the tomb, then sees the dead bodies of **Romeo** and **Paris**.
- **Juliet** awakens. She sees the Friar and asks where Romeo is.
- Friar Lawrence hears the **watchmen** coming. He tells Juliet to come with him. He says both Romeo and Paris are dead. He will take her to a convent.
- Juliet tells Friar Lawrence to leave. She will stay.
- Juliet tries to find some of the poison in Romeo's cup and on his lips but there is none.
- She hears the watchmen arriving, and quickly kills herself with Romeo's dagger.



Activity 24

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Friar Lawrence has come to the Capulet's tomb to rescue Juliet.]

FRIAR LAWRENCE

Romeo!

Advances

Alack, alack, what blood is this, which stains

The stony entrance of this sepulchre?

What mean these masterless and gory swords

To lie discolour'd by this place of peace? 5

Enters the tomb

Romeo! O, pale! Who else? What, Paris too?

And steep'd in blood? Ah, what an unkind hour

Is guilty of this lamentable chance!

The lady stirs.

JULIET wakes

JULIET

O comfortable friar! where is my lord? 10

I do remember well where I should be,

And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

Noise within

FRIAR LAWRENCE

I hear some noise. Lady, come from that nest

Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep:

A greater power than we can contradict 15

Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.

Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;

And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee

Among a sisterhood of holy nuns:

Stay not to question, for the watch is coming; 20

Come, go, good Juliet, I dare no longer stay.



Questions

1. Refer to lines 6 – 7 (“What, Paris, too ... steeped in blood?”).
 - a) Why does Juliet’s father want her to marry Paris? (2)
 - b) Discuss the events that lead to the death of Paris. (2)
2. Refer to lines 13 - 21 (“I hear some ... no longer stay.”).
Discuss Friar Lawrence’s fears at this point in the play. (3)
3. Refer to lines 15 – 16 (“A greater power ... thwarted our intents.”).
 - a) Explain what Friar Lawrence means by, “A greater power”. (2)
 - b) Do you agree that it is “a greater power” that has altered their plans? Give reasons for your answer. (3)
4. Refer to lines 16 – 20 (“Come, come away ... watch is coming.”). In your view, are Friar Lawrence’s suggestions in these lines wise? Why? (2)

[14]

Answers to Activity 24

- 1
 - a) Paris is very wealthy and related to the Prince.✓ Capulet believes marriage to Paris will stop Juliet from grieving over Tybalt’s death.✓ (2)
 - b) When Paris finds Romeo at the Capulet’s tomb, Paris tries to arrest him.✓ They fight and Romeo kills Paris.✓ (2)
 2. The Friar is afraid that he will be in serious trouble with both families and the Prince when his role in Romeo’s death is uncovered.✓ He will find it difficult to explain why Juliet is still alive, and how the potion was used to prevent Juliet’s marriage to Paris.✓ He is afraid of what Juliet might do if she remains in the tomb where Romeo’s body now lies.✓ (3)
 - 3
 - a) He means that fate, destiny or God has played a role in the letter not reaching Romeo in time.✓✓ (2)
 - b) Yes. The reason the letter does not reach Romeo in time is because of the plague. None of the characters could have controlled this.✓ It is therefore destiny or God that prevents the letter from reaching Romeo in time, and results in the tragic deaths.✓✓

OR

No. It is Romeo’s hasty decision to commit suicide,✓ so one cannot blame anyone else or any other force.✓✓ (3)
 4. Yes. He does not want their plot to be exposed as it could endanger both Juliet and himself.✓✓
- OR
- No. He has just informed Juliet that Romeo is dead and should not expect her to leave immediately.✓✓ (2)

[14]

Act 5, Scene 3: Part 3

- ▶ The arrival of Romeo's father and Juliet's parents with the Prince
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What happens?

- Paris's **Page** arrives with the **watchmen**. They see the blood on the ground and search the churchyard.
- They find the bodies of **Paris, Romeo** and **Juliet**.
- Watchmen go to tell the Prince, Capulets and Montagues.
- Some watchmen find **Balthasar** in the churchyard. Another watchman has found **Friar Lawrence**. They are both suspects, as they have tools with which to open a tomb, and are told to wait for the Prince.
- The **Prince** arrives, followed by **Lord** and **Lady Capulet**.
- Juliet's parents ask what has happened. Lady Capulet has heard people running in the streets towards the churchyard, some crying "Romeo", others "Juliet".
- **Lord Montague** arrives. He says that his wife died that night because of grief over her son's exile.
- The Prince orders the tomb to be closed until he finds out what happened. He asks three people to tell their story:
 1. Friar Lawrence;
 2. Balthasar; and
 3. Paris's Page.
- 1. Friar Lawrence** admits to being partly responsible for the deaths. The truth is finally told. The Friar explains that:
 - He married Romeo and Juliet in secret and, on the same day, Romeo killed Tybalt and was banished.
 - Juliet grieved for Romeo, not Tybalt. She was told to marry Paris and so went to the Friar for help. She threatened to kill herself if he could not help.
 - He gave Juliet a sleeping potion, but Romeo did not get his letter explaining the plan.
 - He came to the churchyard to rescue Juliet from the tomb and take her to his cell. But when he arrived he saw Paris and Romeo dead. Juliet woke and he tried to comfort her. He heard a noise and in fear left the tomb; Juliet would not go with him.
 - The Friar says the nurse can confirm that the marriage took place. If he is found to be at fault he is prepared to be punished for it.
- 2. Balthasar** tells his story:
 - He told Romeo that Juliet was dead. Romeo hurried to the tomb and told Balthasar to leave him there.
 - Balthasar gave the Prince the letter Romeo had written to his father. He had told Balthasar to give it to Lord Montague.

3. The **Page** explains why Paris had come to the tomb:

- The Page says Paris had come to put flowers on Juliet's grave. Paris told him to keep watch nearby.
- Paris drew his sword against Romeo and the Page ran away to get help.
- The Prince reads Romeo's letter. It shows that what Friar Lawrence has said is true. Romeo had also written about getting the poison from the apothecary and his intention to die in the tomb with Juliet.
- The Prince then speaks to Lord Capulet and Lord Montague, and blames their feud for all the trouble. He also blames himself for not being firmer with them.
- Capulet and Montague shake hands, both in grief for their loss.
- The Prince speaks of the sad peace that has come that morning.



Activity 25

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[The scene at the tomb following the deaths of Paris, Romeo and Juliet.]

SECOND WATCHMAN

Here's Romeo's man; we found him in the churchyard.

FIRST WATCHMAN

Hold him in safety, till the prince come hither.

Re-enter others of the Watch, with FRIAR LAWRENCE

THIRD WATCHMAN

Here is a friar, that trembles, sighs and weeps:
We took this mattock and this spade from him,
As he was coming from this churchyard side.

5

FIRST WATCHMAN

A great suspicion: stay the friar too.

Enter the PRINCE and Attendants

PRINCE

What misadventure is so early up,
That calls our person from our morning's rest?
Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and others

CAPULET

What should it be, that they so shriek abroad?

LADY CAPULET

The people in the street cry Romeo,
Some Juliet, and some Paris; and all run,
With open outcry toward our monument.

10

PRINCE

What fear is this which startles in our ears?

FIRST WATCHMAN

Sovereign, here lies the County Paris slain;
And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before,
Warm and new kill'd.

15

PRINCE

Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes.

FIRST WATCHMAN

Here is a friar, and slaughter'd Romeo's man;
With instruments upon them, fit to open
These dead men's tombs.

20

CAPULET

O heavens! O wife, look how our daughter bleeds!
This dagger hath mista'en— for, lo, his house
Is empty on the back of Montague,—
And it mis-sheathed in my daughter's bosom!

LADY CAPULET

O me! this sight of death is as a bell,
That warns my old age to a sepulchre.

25

Questions

1. Refer to line 1 (“Here’s Romeo’s man”).
 - a) Who is Romeo’s man? (1)
 - b) How has he disobeyed Romeo’s orders? (2)
 - c) Give the reason for his disobedience. (1)
 2. Refer to line 3 (“... a friar that trembles, sighs and weeps”).
 - a) Explain why Friar Lawrence is in this state. Give TWO reasons. (2)
 - b) Explain how the Friar’s behaviour earlier in the play is different from his behaviour here. State TWO points. (2)
 - c) Do you feel sorry for Friar Lawrence? Discuss your view. (3)
 3. Is the following statement TRUE or FALSE? Give a reason for your answer.
Lines 14 – 15 mean that Juliet died before Paris and Romeo. (2)
 4. Write down ONE word to describe the mood in the tomb at this stage. (1)
- [14]**

Answers to Activity 25

- 1 a) Balthasar✓ (1)
 - b) Romeo asked him to leave, and even paid him to go.✓✓ (2)
 - c) He was worried about Romeo and suspicious of his intentions.✓ (1)
 - 2 a) He knows he will be in trouble.✓ He can even be arrested for helping Romeo and Juliet to betray everybody.✓ (2)
 - b) Earlier Friar Lawrence was always in control and had a plan.✓ Now he is nervous and has no plan.✓ (2)
 - c) Yes, I feel sorry for him.✓ He only wanted to help the young lovers and eventually end the feud.✓✓
 OR
 No, I don’t feel sorry for him.✓ His plans constantly fail and the fact that he kept them secret from the parents’ of the lovers means that he lied to them.✓ He should have been honest with them.✓ (3)
 3. False. Juliet is still warm and this proves she died recently.✓✓ (2)
 4. Confused✓
OR
Grieving✓ (1)
- [14]**