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Ms. Smith

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## Who is to Blame?

Love makes people crazy, does it not? The play, *Romeo and Juliet*, written by William Shakespeare is a tragic love story of two young people falling in love. Their love is forbidden and causes conflicts which result in both of their deaths. The Capulets, Romeo and Friar Lawrence are all responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.

Lord and Lady Capulet are to blame for Juliet's death because they forced her into a marriage she did not want to be in. Juliet stated, "He shall not make me a joyful bride." (3.5.118), which showed how much she did not want to marry Paris. Since Juliet did not want to marry Paris, she was threatened with banishment by Lord Capulet. Lord Capulet made it quite obvious by stating, "For bt my soul, I'll never acknowledge thee." (3.5.195), that he is unhappy with Juliet not wanting to marry Paris. This upset Juliet and was the reason she ran to Friar Lawrence for help. The Capulets were not the only people to blame for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.

Romeo's rash actions from the beginning to the end of the play lead to the disastrous consequences of Romeo and Juliet's death. Romeo wanted to avenge the death of his friend, Mercutio, which resulted in getting himself banished from Verona. The Prince announced, "and for that offence, immediately we do exile him hence." (3.1.185). This inconvenienced both Romeo and Juliet because they thought they would never see each other again. It was Romeo's fault for drinking the poison when he saw Juliet dead when really, she was not. Then Juliet woke up and saw Romeo dead which caused her to kill herself. There is one last person to blame for the death of Romeo and Juliet.

Friar Lawrence is the main person to blame for the death of Romeo and Juliet. Friar Lawrence wanted to end the family feud so he married Romeo and Juliet in secret. The wedding was confirmed

when Friar Lawrence said, "you shall not stay alone, till Holy Church incorporate two in one." (2.6.36-37). He was the one who gave Juliet the fake death potion so she could escape marrying Paris. This only resulted in Romeo thinking Juliet is actually dead and killing himself, followed by Juliet stabbing herself at the sight of dead Romeo. All in all, the main person to point fingers at for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet is Friar Lawrence for setting everything up. ✓

Lawrence

In conclusion, The Capulets, Romeo and Friar Lawrence are all responsible for Romeo and Juliet's death. The Capulets pushing Juliet into marriage, Romeo getting himself banished and Friar Lawrence giving Juliet the fake death potion are all factors that contribute to the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. The story of *Romeo and Juliet* should teach everyone love is a violent, overpowering force and supersedes all other values, loyalties and emotions. Love is blinding and can make people do questionable things. > excellent connection