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1

Rebelliousness and Family Disloyalty in Romeo and Juliet

1596
Teenagers are often known to disobey their parents and be disloyal to a significant other. The reader of the play Romeo and Juliet sees far worse rebelliousness than many have witnessed first hand. The play Romeo and Juliet is thought to have been written by Shakespeare in 1596 (British Library) and taken place during the Renaissance in Verona, Italy. In the play the reader sees a tragic love story of two young people who come from families that hate each other, rival families. Romeo Montague is a handsome young man who is quick to fall in love... with one's looks. Juliet Capulet is a meager thirteen years old and quickly marries Romeo, after never even having a crush. Romeo and Juliet both die a tragic death because of their impulsive behavior, and recklessness. Romeo and Juliet is a play that shows many forms of disobedience towards family loyalty.

Friar Laurence and the Capulet's Nurse demonstrate disloyalty to family names as well as Romeo and Juliet themselves. Friar Laurence marries Romeo and Juliet not long after having met one another, despite knowing that it could potentially end very poorly for both families. The Friar even goes as far as to say something in order to ensure that the soon-to-be couple thinks that their choice is the right one, saying that he is, in one respect, assisting them because their joining may "turn your households' rancour to pure love." (2.3.90-92). The Friar is fully aware of the fact that the parents of Romeo and Juliet absolutely hate each other and that by marrying them, Romeo and Juliet could be causing a conflict. It may even result badly for Romeo and Juliet's marriage, but the Friar just wants to be the hero and he does not care what happens, as long as it makes him look good. The Nurse is also disloyal to Juliet because she knows that Juliet would be way better off marrying the totally suitable Paris. The Nurse even tells Romeo so, saying, "I anger her sometimes and tell her that Paris is the properer man..." (2.4.195-196). If the Nurse had not let Juliet make such a rash and stupid decision she very likely would have lived a nice long life. The Nurse quite possibly only allowed the marriage because she just wanted Juliet to be happy, so she did not intend to hurt her in the end (2.5.38-45). She should have given it more thought rather than just making sure Juliet was not upset with her. Similar to the disloyalty of the Nurse and Friar Laurence, Romeo is very disloyal and rebellious.

In the play Romeo and Juliet, Romeo Montague betrays his family name, and is disloyal in love. Romeo is very quick to fall, in what he thinks is love. Romeo had been completely in love with a girl named Rosaline and he was miserable because she did not love him back. The second

Romeo saw Juliet he was absolutely awestruck. He said that she was the prettiest girl he had ever seen, literally only hours after wanting to die because he was hung up on a girl who did not love him back. Who he, at the time, thought was the prettiest girl he had ever seen. That did not go unnoticed. Even the Friar, who did not typically judge people, said that love lies in Romeo's eyes and not in his heart, saying, "Is Rosaline, that thou didst love so dear, so soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes." (2.3.66-68). Romeo also ultimately disobeys his family by marrying Juliet. Romeo does not do it to intentionally disobey his family, he is just so blinded by "love" that he thinks being with Juliet is the only way. If Romeo had not been so obsessive over Juliet's looks he would have seen how bad of a choice it would be to marry the only daughter of his only enemy. Romeo was so in "love" with Juliet that he did not even realize that he could not just ignore the last name and everything would turn out perfectly. Romeo declares that he will no longer be "Romeo", not wanting the last name Montague in order to be with his love (2.2.49-51). Romeo would have realized that he could have saved his family a lot of grief if he had not married a Capulet. Romeo and Juliet are very alike in that they both disobey their families.

Juliet Capulet rebels against her family numerous times throughout the play. Juliet's parents try to set her up to be married to the perfectly suitable Paris. Although Romeo had already been exiled, never to be seen again, Juliet still did not want to go along with the plan, not even to humor her parents. Juliet has a small speech where she likens marrying Paris to death, even worse than death (4.1.50-68). Juliet visits Friar Laurence seeking help, otherwise she would kill herself. The Friar gives a potion to Juliet so she could appear dead, but was really in a very deep sleep, and would be moved to the family tomb, where Romeo would come take her away to live happily ever after in Mantua. Juliet really does intentionally disobey her parents to be with her love in this instance. Of course this plan ultimately did not work out, seeing as how it is the whole reason both Romeo and Juliet die. If Juliet had just gone along with the plans, just to please her family, she could still have eventually been with her Romeo. The reader also briefly sees Juliet act disloyally to her family when she does not even shed a tear for her cousin Tybalt, who was slain by Romeo, ultimately resulting in Romeo being exiled. Juliet decided that she did not need to be sad for Tybalt, but rather for Romeo who had been banished, because her love for Romeo was far greater than her love for Tybalt. Once Juliet finds out that Romeo is still in Verona, she goes ahead and consummates her marriage with Romeo, who had just murdered her cousin! Juliet betrays her family by loving a man who committed a crime onto her

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in essays

family, without even caring for the lost relative, not even appearing to for others' sake. Juliet Capulet portrayed the most disloyal and rebellious traits in the play Romeo and Juliet. ✓

In conclusion, the reader of the play Romeo and Juliet sees many forms of family disloyalty and disobedience. The reader sees how the Nurse and Friar Laurence act disloyally to the families as well as Romeo and Juliet by allowing their secret marriage. The reader also sees how Romeo rebels by marrying Juliet and acts disloyally by instantly falling in love with Juliet's looks. Finally, one sees how Juliet acts disloyally and disobedient to her family throughout the play by evading marriage plans, marrying into her rival family and by loving someone who killed her family member. Can one ever really experience true love or does one simply convince themselves it is true love for the thrill or experience? It seems that Romeo and Juliet will never know whether it was true love, because they acted impulsively due to the fact that they thought that they loved each other enough to die. ✓

Works Cited

Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. New York: Thomas Creede. ~~1596~~. Print.

British Library. The British Library Board. n.d. Web. 5 December 2016. ✓

Formal Outline

- I. Thesis statement - Romeo and Juliet is a play in ^{that} ~~which~~ shows ~~we~~ see many forms of disobedience towards family loyalty.
- II. Topic sentence - FRIAR LAWRENCE AND THE CAPULETS NURSE DEMONSTRATE DISLOYALTY TO FAMILY NAMES AS WELL AS ROMEO AND JULIET THEMSELVES
- a. FRIAR IS REBELLIOUS MARRYING TWO RIVAL FAMILIES, KNOWING HOW FRIAR L "In one respect I'll thy assistant be; for this alliance may so happy prove, to turn your households' rancour to pure love." (2.3.90-92)
 - i. For this alliance may so happy prove, to turn your households' rancour to pure love. (2.3.90-92)
 - b. NURSE IS DISLOYAL TO JULIET FOR LETTING HER MARRY ROMEO DESPITE KNOWING SHE WAS BETTER OFF WITH PARIS.
 - i. Nurse: "I anger her sometimes and tell her that Paris is the properer man..." (2.4.195-196)

*Transition sentence - SIMILAR TO THE DISLOYALTY OF THE NURSE AND FRIAR LAWRENCE, ROMEO IS VERY DISLOYAL.

- III. Topic sentence - IN THE PLAY, ROMEO AND JULIET, ROMEO MONTAGUE BETRAYS HIS FAMILY NAME, AND IS DISLOYAL ~~to~~ LOVE.
- a. MARRIES JULIET (FAMILY, HIMSELF)
 - i.
 - b. FALLS IN LOVE WITH LOOKS IMMEDIATELY
 - i. FRIAR L SAYS: "IS ROSALINE, that thou didst love so dear, so soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes", (2.3.66-68)

*Transition sentence - ROMEO AND JULIET ARE VERY ALIKE IN THAT THEY BOTH DISOBEY THEIR FAMILIES

- IV. Topic sentence - JULIET CAPULET REBELS AGAINST HER FAMILY NUMEROUS TIMES THROUGHOUT THE PLAY.
- a. ROMEO KILLS TYBALT BUT JULIET DOESN'T CARE
 - i.

- b. EVADES FAMILY'S MARRIAGE PLANS
 - i. JULIET: "Be not so long to speak; I long to die if what thou speak'st speak not of remedy." (Paraphrase 4.1.50-68) 4.1.66-67

*Transition sentence -