

**Class Discussion**

**What is equality of gender and why is it important?**

Historically, which gender has been the more powerful? Why do you think this has been the case?

Are men and women really that different? What similarities do they share?

What gender stereotypes are typical?

Can you think of any characters or real people who have challenged these stereotypes and historical gender roles?

**ASSERTION:**  
**Men are stronger than women**

Agree or disagree?  
Evidence:

Agree or disagree?  
Evidence:

**ASSERTION:**  
**Women need men to look after them**

Agree or disagree?  
Evidence:

Agree or disagree?  
Evidence:

**ASSERTION:**  
**Men and women are equal today**

Agree or disagree?  
Evidence:

Agree or disagree?  
Evidence:

**Key words and Vocabulary**



KEY TERM	DEFINITION	KEY TERM	DEFINITION
paradox		patriarchal	
antithesis		peripeteia	
Biblical allusion		hamartia	
soliloquy		catharsis	
chremamorphism		chorus	
zoomorphism		tragedy	
oxymoron		hubris	
hyperbole		modality	

**Paradox** – A statement that seems to contradict itself but may actually be true. In *Romeo and Juliet*, Romeo says that "violent delights have violent ends," which is a paradox because love, usually seen as gentle, can lead to tragic consequences.

**Antithesis** – A contrast between two things or ideas. In *Romeo and Juliet*, there's an antithesis between love and hate. Romeo and Juliet's love is surrounded by the hate between their families.

**Biblical Allusion** – A reference to a story or teaching from the Bible. In *Romeo and Juliet*, characters sometimes make references to the Bible to explain their feelings or actions, like when Romeo compares Juliet to a holy object and speaks about sin and redemption.

**Soliloquy** – A speech where a character speaks their thoughts aloud, often when they are alone. Romeo's soliloquy before he enters Juliet's tomb is one example, where he talks about his sadness and the fate that awaits him.

**Chremamorphism** – When a character or thing is given human qualities. Though rare in *Romeo and Juliet*, an example would be giving an object like "love" or "fate" human-like qualities, such as when Romeo and Juliet talk about love guiding them or fate controlling their lives.

**Zoomorphism** – When human qualities are given to animals, or when people or things are described as animals. Tybalt is often described using animal imagery (e.g., "fiery" or "lion-like") because of his aggressive nature.

**Oxymoron** – A combination of two contradictory words placed together to show confusion or contradiction. Romeo uses an oxymoron when he describes his feelings as "bitter sweet" to show how love is both joyful and painful at the same time.

**Hyperbole** – An exaggeration used for emphasis. Romeo uses hyperbole when he describes his love for Juliet, saying it's more powerful than anything, even the "moon" or the "sea."

**Patriarchal** – A society or family structure where men have the most power. *Romeo and Juliet* is set in a patriarchal society, where the decisions of men, like Lord Capulet, control the lives of women like Juliet.

**Peripeteia** – A sudden change in a story, usually when things go from good to bad. In *Romeo and Juliet*, the peripeteia happens when Romeo kills Tybalt, which leads to his banishment and sets off the tragic events that follow.

**Hamartia** – A character flaw or mistake that leads to their downfall. Romeo's hamartia is his impulsiveness, especially when he quickly decides to marry Juliet without considering the consequences.

**Catharsis** – The feeling of relief or emotional cleansing that comes after watching a tragedy. After watching *Romeo and Juliet*, the audience feels catharsis because they've experienced the emotions of love and loss and feel a sense of release.

**Chorus** – A group of characters who comment on the events of the story, often speaking directly to the audience. In *Romeo and Juliet*, the chorus appears at the beginning of the play to summarize the story and hint at the tragic outcome.

**Tragedy** – A type of play or story that ends in disaster, usually because of the main character's flaws or fate. *Romeo and Juliet* is a tragedy because it ends with the death of both main characters due to a series of unfortunate events.

**Hubris** – Excessive pride or arrogance that leads to a character's downfall. Romeo's hubris is seen when he defies the risks of being with Juliet despite the dangerous feud between their families.

**Modality** – The way something is expressed or the attitude of the speaker. In *Romeo and Juliet*, the modality of the language often shows the characters' emotions, such as when they speak in a passionate or fearful tone depending on the situation.



# LORD CAPULET

At the beginning of the play [act 1 scene 2] Capulet is presented to be a loving and empathetic father - as he allows two more years to pass before Juliet marries Paris. He recognises her youth and naivety and considers her feelings. This goes against societal conventions as, in the Elizabethan era, it would have been quite regular and fitting for a girl to marry at an age as young as Juliet's, under her father's command. He clearly cares for her a significant amount and is demonstrated to be a reasonable and protective father.

However, as the play progresses, we see a remarkable change. When Juliet refuses to marry Paris in act 3 scene 5, Capulet is infuriated by her disobedience and ungratefulness - he cannot quite comprehend her actions. In the Elizabethan era, the man of the house possessed the most power and authority and women were expected to act subserviently and follow their demands. Juliet's refusal would have been unlikely of the time and Capulet's response to this is in fact, appropriate. This scene is a huge contrast to the first time we see him talk about Juliet regarding the marriage - his mind-set has clearly altered and the affection he bore for her previously, seems to have disappeared.



## CHARACTERISTICS:

- **Domineering** - asserts his authority/power over Juliet and Lady Capulet and gives them demands that he expects to be followed.
- **Protective** - Capulet is presented as a caring father when he allows two more years to pass before Juliet marries Paris. Powerful - he is the head of the Capulet household and an authoritative figure in society's hierarchy.
- **Short-tempered** - becomes very quickly agitated when he learns of Juliet's refusal to the marriage he arranged for her to Paris.
- **Self-conscious** - cares for his reputation and does not allow Tybalt to make a scene at his feast. Worries how others view the Capulet household and conceals anything that may disrupt his persona.

## QUOTES:

- "My child is yet a stranger in the world" 1:2
- "Let two more summers wither in their pride; ere we may think her ripe to be a bride." 1:2
- "go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church, or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither." 3:5
- "Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch!" 3:5
- "hang, beg, starve, die in the streets...I'll ne'ver acknowledge thee" 3:5
- "Despised, distressed, hated, martyr'd, kill'd!" 4:5
- "O child! O child! my soul and not my child!" 4:5

## SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Annotate the extracts
- Plan your response
- Include a topic sentence
- Use adverbs
- Embedded evidence
- Analytical verbs
- Explain your opinion/personal response about why
- Include the writer's intentions
- Identify the methods
- Zoom into words choices and their effect

