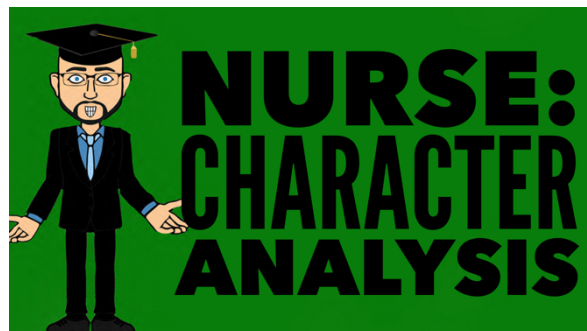


Nurse: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video. Search for: 'Mr Bruff Character Analysis: Nurse'.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What is blank verse?
- 2) What is prose?
- 3) Which types of character usually speak in blank verse?
- 4) What is surprising about Nurse's use of blank verse in Act 1 Scene 3?
- 5) What does this suggest about her character?
- 6) How is Nurse a nurturing character in the play? Give three examples.
- 7) What is a malapropism?
- 8) How is Nurse a comic character in the play? Give two examples.
- 9) Write down key quotations for:
 - a) The significance of Nurse's character
 - b) Nurse's nurturing behaviour
 - c) Nurse's comic behaviour

EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

- a) What is the significance of Nurse's absence on-stage in the play's final scene?
- b) How does the relationship between Juliet and Nurse change as the play progresses?

EXAM QUESTION (based on the extract on the next page):

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 5 of 'Romeo and Juliet' and then answer the question.

At this point in the play Nurse has returned from meeting with Romeo, where Juliet eagerly awaits news of his intentions.

Starting with this moment, explore how Shakespeare presents relationships in 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents relationships in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents relationships in the play as a whole.

Nurse

Well, you have made a simple choice; you know not how to choose a man. Romeo? No, not he. Though his face be better than any man's, yet his leg excels all men's; and for a hand, and a foot, and a body, though they be not to be talked on, yet they are past compare. He is not the flower of courtesy, but I'll warrant him as gentle as a lamb. Go thy ways, wench; serve God. What, have you dined at home?

JULIET

No, no. But all this did I know before.

What says he of our marriage, what of that?

Nurse

Lord, how my head aches! What a head have I!

It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.

My back o' t' other side; ah, my back, my back!

Beshrew your heart for sending me about

To catch my death with jaunting up and down!

JULIET

I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well.

Sweet, sweet, sweet Nurse, tell me, what says my love?

Nurse

Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a

courteous, and a kind, and a handsome, and, I

warrant, a virtuous,--Where is your mother?

JULIET

Where is my mother! why, she is within.

Where should she be? How oddly thou repliest:

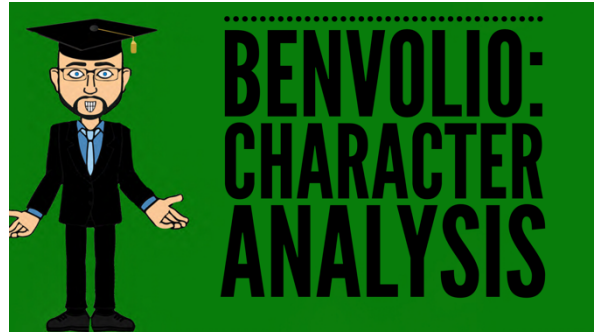
'Your love says, like an honest gentleman,

"Where is your mother?"'

Benvolio: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

Search for: 'Mr Bruff Character Analysis: Benvolio'.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What is the first thing Benvolio says in the play?
- 2) How is this a Biblical reference?
- 3) What is blank verse?
- 4) What is suggested by Benvolio's use of blank verse?
- 5) How can Benvolio be seen as a peacekeeper?
- 6) How is Benvolio used for plot development?
- 7) What is a chorus?
- 8) How does Benvolio function as a chorus-like figure?

Extension questions:

- a) How does Benvolio fit into the theme of fate within the play?
- b) Which character can be seen as the complete opposite of Benvolio? Explain your answer.

EXAM QUESTION (based on the extract on the next page):

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 1 of 'Romeo and Juliet' and then answer the question.

At this point in the play, Benvolio attempts to stop the fighting between the Capulet and Montague servants.

Starting with this moment, explore how Shakespeare presents Benvolio as a peacekeeper in 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Benvolio as a peacekeeper in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Benvolio as a peacekeeper in the play as a whole.

GREGORY

Do you quarrel, sir?

ABRAHAM

Quarrel, sir! No, sir.

SAMPSON

But if you do, sir, I am for you: I serve as good a man as you.

ABRAHAM

No better.

SAMPSON

Well, sir.

Enter Benvolio on one side, Tybalt on the other.

GREGORY

[aside to Sampson, on seeing Tybalt:] Say 'better:' here comes one of my master's kinsmen.

SAMPSON

[to Abraham] Yes, better, sir.

ABRAHAM

You lie.

SAMPSON

Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow.

[They fight]

Enter BENVOLIO

BENVOLIO

[drawing:] Part, fools!

Put up your swords; you know not what you do.

Beats down their swords

TYBALT

What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds?

Turn thee, Benvolio; look upon thy death.

BENVOLIO

I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword,

Or manage it to part these men with me.

TYBALT

What, drawn, and talk of peace? I hate the word,

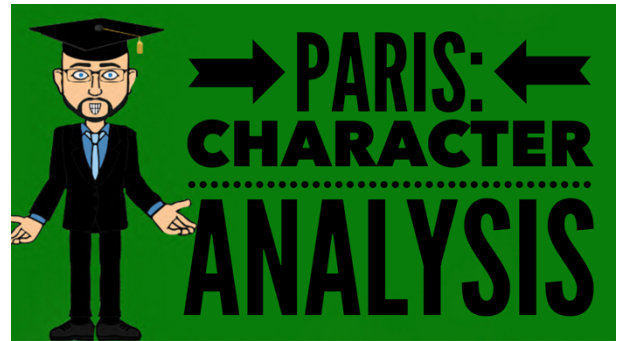
As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee:

Have at thee, coward!

They fight

Paris: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video. Search for: 'Mr Bruff Character Analysis: Paris'



Questions:

- 1) How does Shakespeare present Paris in Act 1 Scene 2?
- 2) How does Shakespeare present Paris as being similar to Romeo? Give three examples.
- 3) What is an antagonist?
- 4) How does Paris fill the role of antagonist in Act 5 Scene 3?
- 5) Why does Shakespeare suddenly promote Paris to the role of antagonist at this point in the play?

Extension questions:

- a) How does the character of Paris remind the audience of the key theme of fate?
- b) How are Romeo and Paris different?

EXAM QUESTION (based on the extract on the next page):

Read the following extract from Act 5 Scene 3 of 'Romeo and Juliet' and then answer the question.

At this point in the play, Romeo meets Paris in the Capulet tomb.

Starting with this moment, explore how Shakespeare presents Paris in 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Paris in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents Paris in the play as a whole.

PARIS

[Aside] This is that banishd haughty Montague
That murdered my love's cousin - with which grief,
It is supposed the fair creature died -
And here is come to do some villainous shame
To the dead bodies: I will apprehend him.

[Comes forward]

Stop thy unhallowed 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.

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 armed against myself.
Stay not, be gone, live, and hereafter say,
A madman's mercy bid thee run away.

PARIS

I do defy thy conjuration,
And apprehend thee for a felon here.

ROMEO

Wilt thou provoke me? then have at thee, boy!

[They fight]

PAGE

O Lord, they fight! I will go call the watch.

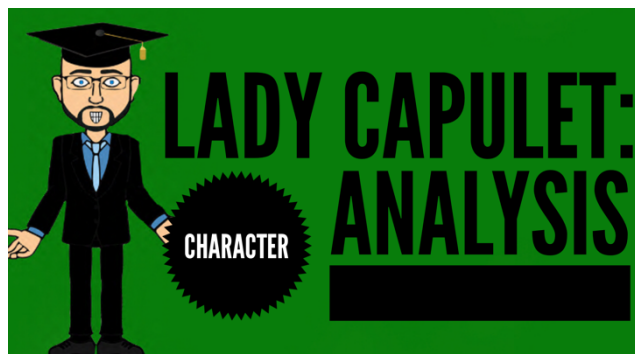
[Exit]

PARIS

O, I am slain! *[He falls]* If thou be merciful,
Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet.

Lady Capulet: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video. Search for: 'Mr Bruff Character Analysis: Lady Capulet'



Questions:

1. How were women treated in Elizabethan times?
2. Give three examples from the text that demonstrate attitudes to women in Elizabethan England.
3. What did Coyle and Peck say about Lady Capulet?
4. How does Capulet respond to Lady Capulet's comment 'No, not till Thursday; there is time enough' in Act 4 Scene 2?
5. How can Shakespeare be seen as proto-feminist?
6. How does Shakespeare's use of structure present Lady Capulet as subverting feminine stereotypes?

Extension questions:

- a) Jess Dorynne wrote that she saw Lady Capulet as 'the strongest character in the play'. How far do you agree with this statement?
- b) Why is Lady Capulet the only live female character on-stage at the close of the play?

EXAM QUESTION (based on the extract on the next page):

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 3 of 'Romeo and Juliet' and then answer the question.

At this point in the play, Lady Capulet broaches the prospect of Juliet marrying Paris.

Starting with this moment, explore how Shakespeare presents parent-child relationships in 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents parent-child relationships in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents relationships in the play as a whole.

LADY CAPULET

Marry, that 'marry' is the very theme
I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet,
How stands your disposition to be married?

JULIET

It is an honour that I dream not of.

Nurse

An honour! Were not I thine only nurse,
I would say thou hadst sucked wisdom from thy teat.

LADY CAPULET

Well, think of marriage now: younger than you
Here in Verona, ladies of esteem,
Are made already mothers, by my count.
I was your mother much upon these years
That you are now a maid. Thus then in brief:
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

Nurse

A man, young lady! Lady, such a man
As all the world--Why, he's a man of wax.

LADY CAPULET

Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

Nurse

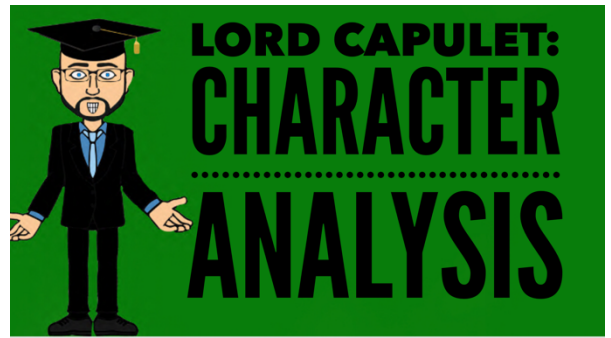
Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very flower.

LADY CAPULET

What say you: can you love the gentleman?
This night you shall behold him at our feast:
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,
And find delight writ there with beauty's pen;
Examine every married lineament,
And see how one another lends content;
And what obscured in this fair volume lies,
Find written in the margent of his eyes.
This precious book of love, this unbound lover,
To beautify him, only lacks a cover.
The fish lives in the sea; and 'tis much pride
For fair without the fair within to hide.
That book in many's eyes doth share the glory,
That in gold clasps locks in the golden story.
So shall you share all that he doth possess,
By having him, making yourself no less.

Lord Capulet: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video. Search for: 'Mr Bruff Character Analysis: Lord Capulet'



QUESTIONS:

1. How does Shakespeare present Lord Capulet in Act 1 Scene 1?
2. In Act 1 Scene 2, what does it mean when Capulet tells Paris 'My will to her consent is but a part'?
3. How does Capulet react when he learns that Romeo is at the feast in Act 1 Scene 5?
4. What is meant by the term 'patriarchy'?
5. What does Lord Capulet mean when he tells Juliet 'I will drag thee on a hurdle thither'?

EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

- a) How does Shakespeare present Lord Capulet as a character who changes throughout the play?
- b) What might Shakespeare be saying about patriarchy through the presentation of Lord Capulet?

Read the following extract from Act 3 Scene 5 of 'Romeo and Juliet' and then answer the question.

At this point in the play, Juliet has refused her parents' direction to marry Paris.

Starting with this moment, explore how Shakespeare presents adult-child relationships in 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents adult-child relationships in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents relationships in the play as a whole.

CAPULET

Soft, take me with you, take me with you, wife.
How, will she none? Doth she not give us thanks?
Is she not proud? Doth she not count her blest,
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought
So worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom?

JULIET

Not proud you have; but thankful, that you have.
Proud can I never be of what I hate,
But thankful even for hate that is meant love.

CAPULET

'How, how, how, how? Chop-logic! What is this?
'Proud,' and 'I thank you,' and 'I thank you not',
And yet 'not proud,' mistress minion you?
Thank me no thankings nor proud me no prouds,
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.
Out, you green-sickness carrion! Out, you baggage!
You tallow-face!

LADY CAPULET

Fie, fie; what, are you mad?

JULIET

[kneeling] Good father, I beseech you on my knees,
Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

CAPULET

Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!
I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,
Or never after look me in the face.
Speak not, reply not, do not answer me!
My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest
That God had lent us but this only child;
But now I see this one is one too much,
And that we have a curse in having her.
Out on her, hilding!