

Romeo and Juliet

Journal Requirements

You are embarking on a rare and wondrous journey--the study of Shakespeare. No other writer in the English language has composed such enduring works of literature. In fact, you should give thanks before going to bed each night that you have been fortunate enough to study his work (and of course, study it at the feet of such a great and wonderful teacher!).

But, Shakespeare can be intimidating at first. To help you get beyond his language and style, and to show the effort you have spent on the material, you are asked to do keep a Shakespeare Journal while you read Romeo and Juliet.

Your Shakespeare Journal may be a separate notebook or sheets of paper stapled together, either written or word-processed.

The *first part* of your Shakespeare Journal will be the **Summaries** section. This section will be divided into Acts and Scenes, just like the play. For each scene you will write a one-paragraph (1¶=3 sentences minimum) summary of what takes place in that scene. This does not have to be detailed--you are looking only at plot and setting.

The *second part* of your Shakespeare Journal will be the **Theme** section. This section will trace a theme of your choosing throughout the play. You must choose one of the following subjects to work with:

Slowness/Haste	Love/Hate	Peace/Violence	Order/Disorder
Freedom/Restriction	Action/Inaction	Fate/Free Will	Immaturity/Maturity
Young/Old	Night/Day	Hot/Cold	Words/Actions
	Real/Imaginary	Realism/Idealism	

As you read, you are expected to put down words, phrases, ideas, situations, etc. from the play which relate to this subject. When you finish the play, you should be able to write a theme based on your study. Write down Act, Scene, and Line for each reference--you will need it later (hint, hint).

Finally, your *third section* of the Shakespeare Journal will be the **Character** section. Choose one of the characters to follow throughout the play:

Romeo	Juliet
Mercutio	Tybalt
Friar Lawrence	Nurse

For each scene that the character is in, write one or more paragraphs describing what he/she is doing and how his/her actions relate to the subject/theme you have chosen.

Here is a chart of the reading and due dates:

Reading	Pages	Date Due
Act I	26	5/5
Act II	24	5/7
Act III	29	5/12
Act IV	16	5/14
Act V	16	5/19

You will have *reading checks* on the due dates.

The most important thing to remember about Shakespeare is that

You do not have to know every single word or understand every sentence!

If you understand what is going on in the play, and can “get” about 20-30% of the lines, you are doing fine.

So, to recap:

Your **Shakespeare Journal** will have three sections:

1. **Summaries** of each scene,
2. keeping track of a **Theme** by *writing down act, scene, & line* with a brief *annotation*, and
3. short *descriptions* of what your **Character** is doing in each scene (if anything)