

Name: _____

Block: _____

Honors Socratic Seminar Preparation

Romeo and Juliet Socratic Seminar Questions:

Be prepared with responses to the following questions. Make sure you can connect each question to direct examples from the play.

1. What is love, anyway?
 - a. Can you fall in love at first sight?
 - b. How can you tell the difference between love, infatuation, affection, and desire?
2. How do relationships shape or change our sense of loyalty, values, and actions?
 - a. What could society do to promote “good” relationships?
 - b. How are relationships affected by outside events (family situations, or cultural/political/social trends)?
3. In what ways do “little” decisions/choices affect our “big” achievements/responsibilities/tragedies?
4. Do you believe in fate or can people make their own destiny?

Text Analysis:

1. A **foil** is a character whose qualities or actions usually serve to emphasize the actions or qualities of the main character, the protagonist, by providing a strong contrast. On occasion, the foil is used as a contrast to a character other than the main one. Find the best example from the text and thoroughly discuss what each foil illuminates in the other.

2. In many of his plays, Shakespeare presents the idea that “the course of true love never did run smooth” (from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*). This is true of Romeo and Juliet’s love affair, as well. Examine the course of true love in *Romeo and Juliet*.

- A. How does it fail to run smoothly?
- B. What is ultimately responsible for this failure?
- C. **Who** killed Romeo and Juliet?

Make sure you discuss one specific example from the text for each question, and thoroughly discuss.

3. In a tragedy, the central figure meets with disaster or grave misfortune. In most tragedies, the tragic hero’s downfall is usually the result of fate’s intervention, or of a character flaw (also known as *hamartia* or tragic flaw). Though flawed, the tragic figure is usually of noble stature and is basically good. The downfall, then, always seems to be worse than what the figure actually deserves. Aristotle defines a tragic hero by these basic terms, and states further that the tragic hero should suffer some recognition of his flaw and the reason for his downfall.

- A. Discuss where exactly/how this happens in the text.

Name: _____

Block: _____

Honors Socratic Seminar Preparation

The audience should experience a purging, or catharsis, through the experience of the hero's suffering. Shakespeare deviates from Aristotle's definition of the tragic hero in that it is not the hero who experiences recognition of the whole tragic situation, but other characters, instead.

B. Who are these characters? Explain their epiphany as it relates to the tragedy.

4-5. Create **two** of your own **original questions** to discuss with the group, and thoroughly respond to each.

6-7. Which are the two most significant quotes from the play? Why? Thoroughly discuss.

Name: _____

Block: _____

Honors Socratic Seminar Preparation

Dire Straits- "Romeo and Juliet"

A lovestruck Romeo sings the streets a serenade
Laying everybody low with a lovesong that he made
Finds a streetlight steps out of the shade
Says something like you and me babe how about it?

Juliet says hey it's Romeo, you nearly gimme me a heart
attack

He's underneath the window she's singing hey la my
boyfriend's back

You shouldn't come around here singing up at people like
that

Anyway what you gonna do about it?

Juliet the dice were loaded from the start
And I bet and you exploded in my heart
And I forget I forget the movie song
When you gonna realise it was just that the time was wrong
Juliet?

Come up on different streets they both were streets of
shame

Both dirty both mean yes and the dream was just the same
And I dreamed your dream for you and now your dream is
real

How can you look at me as if I was just another one of your
deals?

When you can fall for chains of silver you can fall for
chains of gold

You can fall for pretty strangers and the promises they hold
You promised me everything you promised me thick and
thin yeah

Now you just say oh Romeo yeah you know I used to have
a scene with him

Juliet when we made love you used to cry

You said I love you like the stars above, I'll love you till I
die

And there's a place for us, you know the movie song

When you gonna realise it was just that the time was wrong
Juliet?

I can't do the talk like they talk on tv
And I can't do a love song like the way it's meant to be
I can't do everything but I'd do anything for you
I can't do anything except be in love with you
And all I do is miss you and the way we used to be
All I do is keep the beat, the bad company
And all I do is kiss you through the bars of Orion
Juliet I'd do the stars with you any time

Juliet when we made love you used to cry

You said I love you like the stars above and I'll love you
till I die

There's a place for us you know the movie song

When you gonna realise it was just that the time was
wrong Juliet?

A lovestruck Romeo sings the streets a serenade
Laying everybody low with a lovesong that he made
Finds a convenient streetlight steps out of the shade
Says something like you and me babe how about it?

You and me babe, how about it?

A. Link it: Find two passages in what we have read
so far that mirror specific sections/quotes of the
song.

B. Love it: What does the song do well? How does
it carry on with the themes and ideas of the text?
What connections can you make?

C. Lose it: What does this song get completely
wrong? How does it do a disservice to the work we
have been reading?

Name: _____

Block: _____

Honors Socratic Seminar Preparation

Taylor Swift- "Love Story"

We were both young, when I first saw you
I closed my eyes
And the flashback starts, I'm standing there
On a balcony in summer air

See the lights, see the party the ball gowns
See you make your way
Through the crowd and say "hello"
Little did I know

That you were Romeo you were throwing pebbles
And my daddy said "stay away from Juliet"
And I was crying on the staircase
Begging you please don't go, and I said

Romeo take me, somewhere we can be alone
I'll be waiting, all that's left to do is run
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess
It's a love story, Baby just say "yes"

So I sneak out
To the garden to see you, we keep quiet
'Cause we're dead if they knew, so close your eyes
Escape this town for a little while, Uh, Oh

'Cause you were Romeo I was a Scarlet Letter
And my daddy said "stay away from Juliet"
But you were everything to me
I was begging you please don't go, and I said

Romeo take me, somewhere we can be alone
I'll be waiting, all that's left to do is run
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess
It's a love story, Baby just say "yes"

Romeo save me they try to tell me how to feel
This love is difficult, but it's real
Don't be afraid, we'll make it out of this mess
It's a love story, Baby just say "yes"

Uh-Oh

I got tired of waiting
Wondering if you were ever coming around
My faith in you was fading
When I met you on the outskirts of town, and I said

Romeo save me, I've been feeling so alone
I keep waiting, for you but you never come
Is this in my head? I don't know what to think
He knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring and said

Marry me Juliet you'll never have to be alone
I love you and that's all I really know
I talked to your dad go pick out a white dress
It's a love story Baby just say, "yes"

Uh, Oh, Uh, Oh

'Cause we were both young, when I first saw you.

A. Link it: Find two passages in what we have read so far that mirror specific sections/quotes of the song.

B. Love it: What does the song do well? How does it carry on with the themes and ideas of the text? What connections can you make?

C. Lose it: What does this song get completely wrong? How does it do a disservice to the work we have been reading?