

Shakespeare's

Romeo and Juliet

Review: time, chance, foils, humorous relief

Foils

Act I:

Foil: scene 1: Benvolio for Tybalt
scene 3: Nurse for Lady Capulet
scene 4: Mercutio for Romeo
scene 5: Tybalt @ Capulet's party ready to fight
for
Romeo's meeting of Juliet

Time scheme of the play :

Day 1: Sunday (Act I through Act II. Scene 2)
Day 2: Monday (Act II. s.3—Act III. s. 4)
Day 3: Tuesday (Act III. s. 5—Act IV. s. 4)
Day 4: Wednesday (Act IV.5)
Day 5: Early Friday morning (End of Act V.3)

Humorous relief: Except for Capulet's (ironically) exciting preparations for the wedding in Act IV scene 4, the light situations are confined to the first two act as follows:

1. The exchange between Gregory and Sampson (I.1)
2. Romeo's too obvious attempts to convince Benvolio of his love for Rosaline (I.1)
3. The nurse's compulsion to talk (I.3)
4. Mercutio's Queen Mab's speech (I.4)
5. Lord Capulet's behavior (I.5)
6. The exchange between Benvolio and Mercutio (II. 1)
7. The nurse's malpropisms and Mercutio's wit (II.4)
8. The nurse's behavior upon her return from making the wedding plans (II.5)

Role of Chance:

Accident	Result
Romeo meets the illiterate servant	He goes to the Capulet's masquerade and there he meets Juliet
Romeo overhears Juliet's soliloquy telling the night of her love for Romeo	Moved by her words, Romeo goes to Juliet and they decide to marry
Romeo unexpectedly encounters Tybalt in the street	Arguments ensue; Mercutio and Tybalt are killed and Romeo is banished from Verona
Friar Laurence's Messenger is quarantined and unable to get to Romeo	Romeo thinks that Juliet is dead; he decides to commit suicide
Friar John is released too late from the quarantine	Friar Laurence arrives at the tomb too late to save

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Romeo; the grief-stricken Juliet follows her husband in death