

# *Romeo and Juliet:* Who's to Blame?



**Overview:** William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* tells the story of two young lovers, from two feuding families, who die tragically. At the end of the play, Prince Escalus declares, "Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished..." As you read the play, consider this statement and the question it implies: Who is to blame for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet?

## The Documents:

Document A: "Think of Marriage Now"

Document B: "Known Too Late!"

Document C: The Balcony Scene

Document D: "I'll Thy Assistant Be"

Document E: "Disobedient Wretch!"

Document F: "Call My Solution Wise"

Document G: "A Greater Power"

# Characters

<b>MONTAGUE FAMILY</b>	<b>CAPULET FAMILY</b>	<b>OTHER CHARACTERS</b>
<b>Lord Montague/Montague</b> (Romeo's father)	<b>Lord Capulet/Capulet</b> (Juliet's father)	<b>Prince Escalus</b> (Prince of Verona)
<b>Lady Montague</b> (Romeo's mother)	<b>Lady Capulet</b> (Juliet's mother)	<b>Paris</b> (relative of Prince Escalus)
<b>Romeo</b>	<b>Juliet</b>	<b>Mercutio</b> (Romeo's friend)
<b>Benvolio</b> (Romeo's cousin)	<b>Tybalt</b> (Juliet's cousin)	<b>Friar Lawrence</b> (The Priest)
<b>Balthasar</b> (Romeo's servant)	<b>Nurse</b> (Juliet's Caretaker)	<b>Friar John</b> (Another priest)
	<b>Rosaline</b> (Juliet's distant cousin)	<b>Apothecary</b> (Pharmacist)

# Document A: “Think of Marriage Now”

Juliet's mother, Lady Capulet, speaks to Juliet about marrying Paris. Juliet has not yet met Romeo.

## Act 1, Scene 3 (Original)

**Lady Capulet:** Nurse, where's my daughter? call her forth to me..

**Nurse:** I bade her come. What, lamb! what, ladybird!  
God forbid! Where's this girl? What, Juliet! [Enter Juliet.]

**Juliet:** Madam, I am here. What is your will?

**Lady Capulet:** This is the matter:... —nurse, come back again..  
Thou know'st my daughter's of a pretty age.

**Nurse:** Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour.

**Lady Capulet:** She's not fourteen.

**Nurse:** Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed:  
An I might live to see thee married once, I have my wish.

**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.. ..

**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..  
What say you? Can you love the gentleman?  
This night you shall behold him at our feast...  
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.  
Speak briefly. Can you like of Paris' love?

**Juliet:** I'll look to like, if looking liking move:  
But no more deep will I endart mine eye  
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

**Act 1, Scene 3 (Translated)**

**Lady Capulet:** Nurse, where's my daughter? Tell her to come to me.

**Nurse:** I already told her to come. Come on! Where is she?  
What is she doing? What, Juliet! [Enter Juliet.]

**Juliet:** Madam, I'm here. What do you want?

**Lady Capulet:** I'll tell you what's the matter...Nurse, come back here...  
You know how young my daughter is.

**Nurse:** Yes, I know her age down to the hour.

**Lady Capulet:** She's not even fourteen.

**Nurse:** You were the prettiest baby I ever nursed.  
If I live to see you get married someday, all my wishes will come true.

**Lady Capulet:** Well, marriage is exactly what we have to discuss.  
Tell me, my daughter Juliet, what is your attitude about getting married?

**Juliet:** It is an honor that I do not dream of.

**Lady Capulet:** Well, start thinking about marriage now.  
Here in Verona there are girls younger than you  
-girls from noble families-who have already become mothers.  
By my count, I was already your mother at just about your age,  
while you remain a virgin. Well then, I'll say this quickly:  
the valiant Paris wants you as his bride...  
What do you say? Can you love this gentleman?  
Tonight you'll see him at our feast...  
Many people think he's handsome,  
and whoever becomes his bride will be just as admired.  
You would share all that he possesses,  
and by having him, you would lose nothing...  
Give us a quick answer. Can you accept Paris's love?

**Juliet:** I'll look at him and try to like him, at least if what I see is likable.  
But I won't let myself fall for him any more than your permission allows.

## Document A Questions

1. What names does the Nurse call Juliet? What kind of relationship do these names suggest?
2. When Juliet enters, she says "Madam, I am here." Do you think she is speaking to the Nurse or her mother? What kind of relationship is suggested by the use of "Madam"?
3. How old was Lady Capulet when she got married? How old is Juliet now?
4. What reasons does Lady Capulet give Juliet as to why she should marry Paris?
5. What is Juliet's response to her mother's request? What does this show us about Juliet?
6. According to this document, who's to blame? Why?

## Document B: “Known Too Late!”

Romeo and Juliet have just met and kissed at the Capulet party not knowing who each other are.

### Act 1, Scene 5 (Original)

**Romeo:** What is her mother?

**Nurse:** Marry, bachelor,  
Her mother is the lady of the house,  
And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous.  
I nursed her daughter that you talked withal.  
I tell you, he that can lay hold of her  
Shall have the chinks.

**Romeo:** (*aside*) Is she a Capulet?  
O dear account! My life is my foe's debt.

*All but Juliet and Nurse move to exit.*

**Juliet:** Come hither, Nurse. What is yond gentleman?

**Nurse:** His name is Romeo, and a Montague,  
The only son of your great enemy.

**Juliet:** (*aside*) My only love sprung from my only hate!  
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!  
Prodigious birth of love it is to me,  
That I must love a loathed enemy.

### Act 1, Scene 5 (Translated)

**Romeo:** Who is her mother?

**Nurse:** Indeed, young man, her mother is the lady of the house. She is a good, wise, and virtuous lady. I nursed her daughter, whom you were just talking to. Let me tell you, the man who marries her will become very wealthy.

**Romeo:** (*to himself*) Is she a Capulet? Oh, this is a heavy price to pay! My life is in the hands of my enemy.

*Everyone except Juliet and Nurse begins to exit.*

**Juliet:** Come over here, nurse. Who is that gentleman?

**Nurse:** His name is Romeo. He's a Montague. He's the only son of your worst enemy.

**Juliet:** (*to herself*) The only man I love is the son of the only man I hate! I saw him too early without knowing who he was, and I found out who he was too late! Love is a monster for making me fall in love with my worst enemy.

## **Document B Questions**

- 1. Why are Romeo and Juliet upset when they find out who each other are?**
- 2. They just met and are already in love. What are your thoughts about this?**
- 3. According to this document, who's to blame? Why?**

## Document C: The Balcony Scene

After leaving the party, Romeo sneaks back into the Capulet mansion to find Juliet on her balcony.

### Act 2, Scene 2 (Original)

**Juliet:** (to herself) O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name.

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I'll no longer be a Capulet...

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.

Thou art thyself, though not a Montague...

Romeo, doff thy name,

And for that name...Take all myself.

**Romeo:** I take thee at thy word.

Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized.

Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

**Juliet:** What man art thou that, thus bescreened in night,

So stumblest on my counsel?

**Romeo:** By a name I know not how to tell thee who I am...

Because it is an enemy to thee.

**Juliet:** Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

If any of my kinsmen find thee here...they will murder thee.

**Romeo:** Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye

Than twenty of their swords. Look thou but sweet,

And I am proof against their enmity.

**Juliet:** Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face,

Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek

For that which thou hast heard me speak tonight.

Fain would I dwell on form. Fain, fain deny

What I have spoke. But farewell compliment!

Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say "ay,"

And I will take thy word. Yet if thou swear'st

Thou mayst prove false...

If thou think'st I am too quickly won,

I'll frown and be perverse and say thee nay...

**Romeo:** Lady, by yonder blessed moon I vow...

**Juliet:** O, swear not by the moon...

Although I joy in thee,

I have no joy of this contract tonight.

It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden,

Good night, good night! As sweet repose and rest

Come to thy heart as that within my breast.

**Romeo:** O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

**Juliet:** What satisfaction canst thou have tonight?

**Romeo:** Th' exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

**Juliet:** Three words, dear Romeo, and good night indeed.

If that thy bent of love be honorable,

Thy purpose marriage...

By one that I'll procure to come to thee

Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite...



What o'clock tomorrow  
Shall I send to thee?

**Romeo:** By the hour of nine.

**Juliet:** I will not fail. 'Tis twenty year till then.

**Romeo:** Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast.

Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest.

Hence will I to my ghostly friar's close cell,

His help to crave and my dear hap to tell.

### Act 2, Scene 2 (Translated)

**Juliet:** *(not knowing Romeo hears her)* Oh, Romeo, Romeo, why do you have to be Romeo? Forget about your father and change your name. Or else, if you won't change your name, just swear you love me and I'll stop being a Capulet...It's only your name that's my enemy. You'd still be yourself even if you stopped being a Montague...Romeo, lose your name. Trade in your name...and take all of me in exchange.

**Romeo:** I trust your words. Just call me your love, and I will take a new name. From now on I will never be Romeo again.

**Juliet:** Who are you? Why do you hide in the darkness and listen to my private thoughts?

**Romeo:** I don't know how to tell you who I am...my name is your enemy..

**Juliet:** I recognize the sound of your voice. Aren't you Romeo? And aren't you a Montague?...If any of relatives find you here they'll kill you because of who you are...If they see you, they'll murder you.

**Romeo:** Alas, one angry look from you would be worse than twenty of your relatives with swords. Just look at me kindly, and I'm invincible against their hatred.

**Juliet:** You can't see my face because it's dark out. Otherwise, you'd see me blushing about the things you've heard me say tonight. I would be happy to keep up good manners and deny the things I said. But forget good manners. Do you love me? I know you'll say "yes," and I'll believe you. But if you swear you love me, you might turn out to be lying...if you think it's too easy and quick to win my heart, I'll frown and play hard-to-get...

**Romeo:** Lady, I swear by the sacred moon above...

**Juliet:** Don't swear by the moon...Although you bring me joy...It's too crazy. We haven't done enough thinking. It's too sudden...My sweet, good night. I hope you enjoy the same sweet peace and rest I feel in my heart.

**Romeo:** Oh, are you going to leave me so unsatisfied?

**Juliet:** What satisfaction could you possibly have tonight?

**Romeo:** I would be satisfied if we made each other true promises of love.

**Juliet:** Three words, dear Romeo, and then it's goodnight for real. If your intentions as a lover are truly honorable and you want to marry me... I'll send a messenger to you, and you can pass on a message telling me where and when we'll be married...What time tomorrow should I send a messenger to you?

**Romeo:** By nine o' clock.

**Juliet:** I won't fail. From now until then seems like twenty years...

**Romeo:** I hope you sleep peacefully. I wish I were Sleep and Peace, so I could spend the night with you. Now I'll go see my priest, to ask for his help and tell him about my good luck.

## Document C Questions

1. When Juliet discovers Romeo at her balcony, what does she fear?
2. How does Juliet feel about Romeo hearing her private thoughts?
3. What plan do they make for the next day?
4. How long have they known each other at this point in the play?
5. According to this document, who's to blame? Why?

## Document D: "I'll Thy Assistant Be"

The next morning after the party, Romeo asks Friar Lawrence to marry him to Juliet.

### Act 2, Scene 3 (Original)

**Romeo:** Then plainly know my heart's dear love is set  
On the fair daughter of rich Capulet.  
As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine,  
And all combined, save what thou must combine  
By holy marriage...this I pray:  
That thou consent to marry us today.

**Friar Lawrence:** Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!  
Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,  
So soon forsaken? Young men's love then lies  
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.  
Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine  
Hath washed thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline!  
The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears...  
And art thou changed? Pronounce this sentence then:  
Women my fall when there's no strength in men.

**Romeo:** Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

**Friar Lawrence:** For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

**Romeo:** I pray thee, chide not. Her I love now  
Doth grace for grace and love for love allow.  
The other did not so.

**Friar Lawrence:** Oh, she knew well  
Thy love did read by rote, that could not spell.  
But come, young waverer, come, go with me,  
In one respect I'll thy assistant be,  
For this alliance may so happy prove,  
To turn your households' rancour to pure love.

Later that day, Juliet joins Romeo in the church to be married.

### Act 2, Scene 6 (Original)

**Friar Lawrence:** So smile the heavens upon this holy act  
That after-hours with sorrow chide us not...  
These violent delights have violent ends  
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,  
Which, as they kiss, consume.

After leaving the wedding ceremony, Romeo is confronted by Tybalt. The fight leaves Mercutio and Tybalt dead, and as his punishment, Romeo is banished from Verona by the Prince. Juliet is distraught over her cousin's death, but more so over Romeo's banishment.

The next morning after the party, Romeo asks Friar Lawrence to marry him to Juliet.

**Act 2, Scene 3 (Translated)**

**Romeo:** I love rich Capulet's daughter. I love her, and she loves me. We're bound to each other in every possible way, except we need you to marry us...I'm begging you: please, agree to marry us today.

**Friar Lawrence:** Holy Saint Francis, this is a drastic change! Have you given up so quickly on Rosaline, whom you loved so much? Then young men love with their eyes, not with their hearts. Jesus and Mary, how many tears did you cry for Rosaline? The sun hasn't yet melted away the fog you made with all your sighs...And now you've changed? Then repeat this after me: you can't expect women to be faithful when men are so unreliable.

**Romeo:** You scolded me often for loving Rosaline.

**Friar Lawrence:** I scolded you for obsessing about her, not for loving her, my student.

**Romeo:** Please, I beg you, don't scold me. The girl I love now returns my love. The other girl did not love me.

**Friar Lawrence:** Oh, she knew very well that you were acting like you were in love without really knowing what love means. But come on, inconsistent young man, come with me. I'll help you with your secret wedding. This marriage may be lucky enough to turn the hatred between your families into pure love.

Later that day, Juliet joins Romeo in the church to be married.

**Act 2, Scene 6 (Translated)**

**Friar Lawrence:** May the heavens be happy with this holy act of marriage, so nothing unfortunate happens later to make us regret it...These sudden joys have sudden endings. They burn up in victory like fire and gunpowder. When they meet, as in a kiss, they explode.

After leaving the wedding ceremony, Romeo is confronted by Tybalt. The fight leaves Mercutio and Tybalt dead, and as his punishment, Romeo is banished from Verona by the Prince. Juliet is distraught over her cousin's death, but more so over Romeo's banishment.

## **Document D Questions**

- 1. Why is Friar Lawrence so shocked about Romeo wanting to marry Juliet?**
- 2. Why does Friar Lawrence eventually agree to marry them?**
- 3. How do you interpret what Friar Lawrence says at the wedding? What is he concerned could happen?**
- 4. According to this document, who's to blame? Why?**

## Document E: “Disobedient Wretch!”

After spending the night together as a married couple, Romeo sneaks out of Juliet’s room and leaves Verona. Moments later, Lady Capulet enters with news she thinks will cheer Juliet up after Tybalt’s death.

### Act 3, Scene 5 (Original)

**Lady Capulet:** I'll tell thee joyful tidings, girl..

Marry, my child, early next Thursday morn...  
The County Paris, at Saint Peter's Church,  
Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.

**Juliet:** He shall not make me there a joyful bride....

**Lady Capulet:** Here comes your father; tell him so yourself... *[Enter Capulet]*

**Capulet:** How now, wife!

Have you deliver'd to her our decree?

**Lady Capulet:** Ay, sir; but she will none, she gives you thanks.  
I would the fool were married to her grave!

**Capulet:** Doth she not give us thanks?

Is she not proud? Doth she not count her blessed,  
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought  
So worthy a gentleman to be her bride?

**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:** What is this? “Proud,” and “I thank you,”  
and “I thank you not,” and yet, “not proud”?  
Mistress minion you...

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!

**Juliet:** 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...  
An you will not wed, I'll pardon you.  
Graze where you will, you shall not house with me...

Hang, beg, starve, die in the streets,  
For, by my soul, I'll never acknowledge thee,  
Nor what is mine shall never do thee good... *[Exit Capulet]*

**Juliet:** O, sweet my mother, cast me not away!  
Delay this marriage for a month, a week...

**Lady Capulet:** Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word:  
Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee. *[Exit Lady Capulet]*

**Juliet:** I'll to the friar to know his remedy.  
If all else fail, myself have power to die. *[Exit]*

**Act 3, Scene 5 (Translated)**

**Lady Capulet:** I have joyful news for you, girl...Indeed, my child, at Saint Peter's Church, early Thursday morning... Count Paris will happily make you a joyful bride.

**Juliet:** He will not make me a joyful bride there....

**Lady Capulet:** Here comes your father. Tell him so yourself...

*[Enter Capulet]*

**Capulet:** Where do things stand, wife? Have you told her our decision?

**Lady Capulet:** Yes, sir, I told her. But she won't agree. She says thank you but refuses. I wish the fool were dead and married to her grave!

**Capulet:** Isn't she grateful? Isn't she proud of such a match? Doesn't she realize what a blessing this is? Doesn't she realize how unworthy she is of the gentleman we have found to be her bridegroom?

**Juliet:** I am not proud of what you have found for me. But I am thankful that you have found it. I can never be proud of what I hate. But I can be thankful for something I hate, if it was meant with love.

**Capulet:** What is this? I hear you say "proud" and "I thank you," and then "no thank you" and "not proud," you spoiled little girl...get yourself ready for Thursday. You're going to Saint Peter's Church to marry Paris. And if you don't go on your own, I'll drag you there. You disgust me, you little bug! You worthless girl! You pale face!

**Juliet:** Good father, I'm begging you on my knees, be patient and listen to me say just one thing.

**Capulet:** Forget about you, you worthless girl! You disobedient wretch! I'll tell you what. Go to church on Thursday or never look at me in the face again. Don't say anything. Don't reply. Don't talk back to me...If you won't get married, I'll excuse you. Eat wherever you want, but you can no longer live under my roof...You can beg, starve, and die in the streets. I swear on my soul, I will never take you back or do anything for you...

*[Exit Capulet]*

**Juliet:** Oh, my sweet mother, don't throw me out! Delay this marriage for a month, or a week...

**Lady Capulet:** Don't talk to me, because I won't say a word. Do as you please, because I'm done worrying about you.

*[Exit Lady Capulet]*

**Juliet:** I'm going to the Friar to find out his solution. If everything else fails, at least I have the power to take my own life.

*[Juliet exits.]*

## Document E Questions

1. What is the “joyful” news that Lady Capulet delivers to Juliet?
2. Why is this news problematic for Juliet?
3. How has Juliet’s attitude towards her parents changed since the beginning? (Think back to how she responded to her mother in Document A.) What do you think has caused her to change?
4. How does Capulet respond to Juliet’s refusal to marry Paris?
5. What does Juliet decide to do? What does she say she’ll do if this situation can’t be fixed?
6. According to this document, who’s to blame? Why?



## Document F: “Call My Resolution Wise”

After the fight with her parents, Juliet leaves her house and goes to see Friar Lawrence.

### Act 4, Scene 1 (Original)

**Friar Lawrence:** Ah, Juliet, I already know thy grief.  
It strains me past the compass of my wits.

**Juliet:** Tell me not, Friar, that thou hear'st of this,  
Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it.  
If in thy wisdom thou canst give no help,  
Do thou but call my resolution wise,  
And with this knife I'll help it presently.  
*(shows him a knife)*  
God joined my heart and Romeo's, thou our hands.  
And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo sealed,  
Shall be the label to another deed,  
Or my true heart with treacherous revolt  
Turn to another, this day shall slay them both...

**Friar Lawrence:** Hold, daughter. I do spy a kind of hope,  
Which craves as desperate an execution  
As that is desperate which we would prevent...  
Go home, be merry. Give consent to marry Paris...  
Tomorrow night look that thou lie alone...  
*(shows her a vial)*  
Take thou this vial, being then in bed,  
And this distilled liquor drink thou off,  
When presently through all thy veins shall run  
A cold and drowsy humor, for no pulse  
Shall keep his native progress, but surcease...  
Now, when the bridegroom in the morning comes  
To rouse thee from thy bed, there art thou dead.  
Then, as a manner of our country is,  
In thy best robes uncovered on the bier  
Thou shalt be borne to that same ancient vault  
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.  
In the meantime, shall Romeo by my letters know our drift,  
And hither shall he come, and he and I  
Will watch thy waking, and that very night  
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua.

**Juliet:** Give me, Give me!

After the fight with her parents, Juliet leaves her house and goes to see Friar Lawrence.

Act 4, Scene 1 (Translated)

**Friar Lawrence:** Oh, Juliet, I already know about your sad situation.  
It's a problem too hard for me to solve.

**Juliet:** Don't tell me you've heard about this marriage, Friar,  
unless you can tell me how to prevent it. If you who are so wise can't help,  
please be kind enough to call my solution wise.  
*(she shows him a knife)*  
And I'll solve the problem now with this knife.  
God joined my heart to Romeo's. You joined our hands.  
And before I—who was married to Romeo by you—am married to another man,  
I'll kill myself...

**Friar Lawrence:** Hold on, daughter, I see some hope. But we must act boldly  
because the situation is so desperate...Go home, be cheerful,  
and tell them you agree to marry Paris...  
Tomorrow night make sure that you are alone...  
*(showing her a vial)*  
When you're in bed, take this vial, mix its contents with liquor, and drink.  
Then a cold, sleep-inducing drug will run through your veins,  
and your pulse will stop...Now, when the bridegroom comes  
to get you out of bed on Thursday morning, you'll seem dead.  
Then, as tradition demands, you'll be dressed up in your best clothes,  
put in an open coffin, and carried to the Capulet family tomb.  
Meanwhile, I'll send Romeo word of our plan. He'll come here,  
and we'll keep a watch for when you wake up.  
That night, Romeo will take you away to Mantua.

**Juliet:** Give me the vial. Give it to me!

## Document F Questions

1. Why does Juliet think Friar Lawrence should “prevent” her marriage to Paris?
2. In your own words, describe Friar Lawrence’s plan.
3. Do you think this plan is wise? Why or why not? What else could Friar Lawrence have done?
4. According to this document, who’s to blame? Why?

## Document G: “A Greater Power”

While in Mantua, Romeo receives news from his servant, Balthasar.

### Act 5, Scene 1 (Original)

**Romeo:** News from Verona! How now, Balthasar?  
Doest thou not bring me letters from the friar?  
How doth my lady? How fares my Juliet?

**Balthasar:** Her body sleeps in Capel's monument,  
And her immortal part with angels lives.

**Romeo:** Is it e'en so? Then I defy you, stars!

Romeo then leaves to go buy poison from a nearby apothecary (pharmacist).  
Meanwhile, Friar Lawrence finds out that Friar John was unable to deliver the letter to Romeo.

### Act 5, Scene 2 (Original)

**Friar John:** Going to find a barefoot brother out,  
One of our order to associate me,  
Here in this city visiting the sick,  
And finding him, the searchers of the town,  
Suspecting that we both were in a house  
Where the infectious pestilence did reign,  
Sealed up the doors and would not let us forth.  
So that my speed to Mantua there was stayed.

**Friar Lawrence:** Who bare my letter, then, to Romeo?

**Friar John:** I could not send it—here it is again...  
(gives Friar Lawrence the letter)

**Friar Lawrence:** Unhappy fortune! By my brotherhood,  
The letter was not nice but full of charge,  
Of dear import, and the neglecting it  
May do much danger.

Friar Lawrence enters the Capulets' tomb to find Romeo and Paris dead.

### Act 5, Scene 3 (Original)

**Friar Lawrence:** Romeo! O, pale! Who else? What, Paris too?  
And steep'd in blood? Ah, what an unkind hour  
Is guilty of this lamentable chance!

(Juliet wakes)

**Juliet:** O comfortable Friar! Where is my lord?...

**Friar Lawrence:** A greater power than we can contradict  
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away..

Hearing a noise outside, Friar Lawrence leaves the tomb. Juliet sees Romeo dead from the poison and uses his knife to kill herself.

While in Mantua, Romeo receives news from his servant, Balthasar.

**Act 5, Scene 1 (Translated)**

**Romeo:** Do you have news from Verona! What is it, Balthasar? Do you bring me a letter from the friar? How is my wife? How is my Juliet?

**Balthasar:** Her body sleeps in the Capulet tomb, and her immortal soul lives with the angels in heaven.

**Romeo:** Is it really true? Then I rebel against you, stars!

Romeo then leaves to go buy poison from a nearby apothecary (pharmacist).  
Meanwhile, Friar Lawrence finds out that Friar John was unable to deliver the letter to Romeo.

**Act 5, Scene 2 (Translated)**

**Friar John:** I went to find another poor friar from our order to accompany me. He was here in this city visiting the sick. When I found him, the town health officials suspected that we were both in a house that had been hit with the plague. They quarantined the house, sealed up the doors, and refused to let us out. I couldn't go to Mantua because I was stuck there.

**Friar Lawrence:** Then who took my letter to Romeo?

**Friar John:** I couldn't send it. Here it is.

*(he gives Friar Lawrence the letter)*

**Friar Lawrence:** Unhappy fortune! By my brotherhood, the letter was not just a nice greeting. It was full of very important information. It's very dangerous that it hasn't been sent.

Friar Lawrence enters the Capulets' tomb to find Romeo and Paris dead.

**Act 5, Scene 3 (Translated)**

**Friar Lawrence:** Romeo! Oh, he's pale! Who else? What, Paris too?  
And he's covered in blood? Ah, when did these horrible things happen?

*(Juliet wakes up.)*

**Juliet:** Oh friendly friar! Where is my husband?

**Friar Lawrence:** A greater power than we can fight has ruined our plan.  
Come, come away.

Hearing a noise outside, Friar Lawrence leaves the tomb. Juliet sees Romeo dead from the poison and uses his knife to kill herself.

# Document G Analysis

1. What news does Balthasar deliver to Romeo?
2. When Romeo gets this “false news,” who or what does he blame? (Hint: What might “stars” represent?)
3. Why was Friar John not able to deliver the letter to Romeo?
4. What does Friar Lawrence mean when he says, “a greater power” has ruined their plan?
5. According to this document, who’s to blame? Why?