

Assignment: Re-write *Romeo and Juliet's* famous 'Balcony Scene' into modern language.

Instructions:

1. Do not re-write the scene line by line, but rather condense the information into a digestible amount.
2. Make sure to keep the meaning of each passage. Spend more time on the significant passages and less on the insignificant lines.
3. Use authentic, modern language. Re-write the scene in the way that it could be acted today. Use the language that you use every day.
4. Use your playbook, a dictionary, and a thesaurus to look up difficult terms and phrases.
5. Optional: Read/act-out your new, modernized balcony scene for the class. Keep the meaning and inflections used in the original production, but use your own, creative language.

Act II, scene ii: 'The Balcony Scene'

Capulet's orchard.

Enter ROMEO

ROMEO:

[Enter Juliet above.]

But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief,
That thou her maid art far more fair than she:

...

It is my lady, O, it is my love!
O that she knew she were! ...
Her eye discourses; I will answer it.
I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
Having some business, do entreat her eyes
To twinkle in their spheres till they return...
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,
As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven
Would through the airy region stream so bright
That birds would sing and think it were not night.
See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET: Ay me!

ROMEO: She speaks.
O, speak again, bright angel, for thou art
As glorious to this night...
As is a winged messenger of heaven...

JULIET: 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.

ROMEO: *[Aside]* Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

Our modern, condensed version

JULIET: 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself...
What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title...

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:
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,
Because it is an enemy to thee...

JULIET: My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words
Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound:
Art thou not Romeo and a Montague?

ROMEO: Neither...if either thee dislike.

JULIET: How cam'st thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?
The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,
And the place death, considering who thou art,
If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

ROMEO: With love's light wings did I over-perch these walls,
For stony limits cannot hold love out...

JULIET: If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

ROMEO: Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye
Than twenty of their swords...

JULIET: I would not for the world they saw thee here.

ROMEO: I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight;
And but thou love me, let them find me here:
My life were better ended by their hate,
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

JULIET: Thou knowest the mask of night is on my face,
Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek...
Fain would I ...deny what I have spoke...
Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say 'Ay,'
And I will take thy word. Yet if thou swearest,
Thou mayst prove false...
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully...
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond,
And therefore thou mayst think my 'havior light,
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true...
I must confess... that thou overheardst, ere I was ware,
My true love's passion.

Therefore pardon me,
And not impute this yielding to light love,
Which the dark night hath so discovered.

ROMEO: Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear -

JULIET: O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,
That monthly changes in her circled orb,
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

ROMEO: What shall I swear by?

JULIET: Do not swear at all;
Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self...
And I'll believe thee.

ROMEO: If my heart's dear love--

JULIET: Well, do not swear. Although I joy in thee,
I have no joy of this contract tonight:
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be...
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.
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 to-night?

ROMEO: The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

JULIET: I gave thee mine before thou didst request it...
My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
The more I have, for both are infinite.

[Nurse calls within.]

Anon, good nurse! Sweet Montague, be true.
Stay but a little, I will come again.

[Exit Juliet.]

ROMEO: O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard.
Being in night, all this is but a dream,
Too flattering-sweet to be substantial.

[Enter Juliet above.]

JULIET: Three words, dear Romeo, and good night indeed.
If that thy bent of love be honourable,
Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow...
Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite;

NURSE: *[Within.]* Madam!

JULIET: I come, anon -- But if thou meanest not well,
I do beseech thee--

NURSE: *[Within.]* Madam!

JULIET: By and by, I come. --
To cease thy strife, and leave me to my grief.
To-morrow will I send.

ROMEO: So thrive my soul--

JULIET: A thousand times good night!

[Exit Juliet.]

ROMEO: A thousand times the worse, to want thy light.
Love goes toward love, as schoolboys from their books,
But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

[Enter Juliet (above) again.]

JULIET: Hist! Romeo, hist!

ROMEO: It is my soul that calls upon my name.
How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,
Like softest music to attending ears.

JULIET: Romeo...
At what o'clock to-morrow
Shall I send to thee?

ROMEO: At the hour of nine.

JULIET: I will not fail. 'Tis twenty years till then...
I have forgot why I did call thee back.

ROMEO: Let me stand here till thou remember it.

JULIET: I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,
Remembering how I love thy company.

ROMEO: And I'll still stay, to have thee still forget,
Forgetting any other home but this.

JULIET: 'Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone:
And yet no further than a wanton's bird,
That lets it hop a little from his hand...
And with a silk thread plucks it back again...

ROMEO: I would I were thy bird.

JULIET: Sweet, so would I...
Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow,
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

ROMEO: Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast.
Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest.

[Exit Juliet.]

Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell,
His help to crave and my dear hap to tell.

Exit.

Assignment: Re-write *Romeo and Juliet's* famous 'Balcony Scene' into modern language.

Instructions:

1. Do not re-write the scene line by line, but rather condense the information into a digestible amount.
2. Make sure to keep the meaning of each passage. Spend more time on the significant passages and less on the insignificant lines.
3. Use authentic, modern language. Re-write the scene in the way that it could be acted today. Use the language that you use every day.
4. Use your playbook, a dictionary, and a thesaurus to look up difficult terms and phrases.
5. Optional: Read/act-out your new, modernized balcony scene for the class. Keep the meaning and inflections used in the original production, but use your own, creative language.

Act II, scene ii: 'The Balcony Scene'

Capulet's orchard.

Enter ROMEO

ROMEO:

[Enter Juliet above.]

But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief,
That thou her maid art far more fair than she:

It is my lady, O, it is my love!
O that she knew she were! ...
Her eye discourses; I will answer it.
I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
Having some business, do entreat her eyes
To twinkle in their spheres till they return...
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,
As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven
Would through the airy region stream so bright
That birds would sing and think it were not night.
See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET: Ay me!

ROMEO: She speaks.
O, speak again, bright angel, for thou art
As glorious to this night...
As is a winged messenger of heaven...

JULIET: 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.

ROMEO: *[Aside]* Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

Our modern, condensed version

Enter ROMEO

ROMEO:

[Enter Juliet above.]

Where is that light coming from?
It is Juliet, my love! Juliet is the sun
that lights up my life! She is much
hotter than the moon and Rosaline.

I love Juliet. If only she knew how I felt.
She doesn't even know how beautiful she
truly is. She is even brighter than the
lights in an Abercrombie dressing room.
What a babe.
I met her only hours ago but I am
absolutely in love.
I wish that I could touch her.

JULIET: Oh my!

ROMEO: Oh, her voice is beautiful too!
Like the voice of an angel...
I wonder if she will talk to me.

JULIET: Where is the boy I met this
evening? Where is Romeo?
I don't care what my father thinks,
I would change my name to be with him.

ROMEO: *[to himself]* Maybe I should stop

JULIET: 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself...
What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title...

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:
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,
Because it is an enemy to thee...

JULIET: My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words
Of that tongue's utterance, yet I know the sound:
Art thou not Romeo and a Montague?

ROMEO: Neither...if either thee dislike.

JULIET: How cam'st thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?
The orchard walls are high and hard to climb,
And the place death, considering who thou art,
If any of my kinsmen find thee here.

ROMEO: With love's light wings did I over-perch these walls,
For stony limits cannot hold love out...

JULIET: If they do see thee, they will murder thee.

ROMEO: Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye
Than twenty of their swords...

JULIET: I would not for the world they saw thee here.

ROMEO: I have night's cloak to hide me from their sight;
And but thou love me, let them find me here:
My life were better ended by their hate,
Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love.

JULIET: Thou knowest the mask of night is on my face,
Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek...
Fain would I ...deny what I have spoke...
Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say 'Ay,'
And I will take thy word. Yet if thou swearest,
Thou mayst prove false...
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully...
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond,
And therefore thou mayst think my 'havior light,
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true...
I must confess... that thou overheardest, ere I was ware,
My true love's passion.

creeping and say something to her?

JULIET: Your name is the problem...but
you aren't just your name. You are you.
A name doesn't mean anything, but it is
what's keeping us apart.
I would still think Romeo is perfect if he
had a different last name. If only we
could forget names and be together.

ROMEO: I would do anything you say to
be with you. I'll change my name!

JULIET: Who's there?! What kind of
man hides in the bushes and eavesdrops
on my thoughts? Who are you?

ROMEO: I don't know what to say...I
can't tell you my name – my name
makes me your enemy.

JULIET: I think I recognize your voice.
Romeo, the Montague, is that you?

ROMEO: I won't be Romeo or a
Montague if you don't want me to be...

JULIET: How did you even get here? I
have body guards and high walls around
my house...we will be in trouble if
anyone sees you.

ROMEO: Juliet, nothing can keep me
from you – not even the walls around
your home. I love you.

JULIET: You'll be dead if they find out...

ROMEO: I would rather die than have
you upset with me.

JULIET: I hope they don't find you.

ROMEO: It's dark enough that I'm
hidden from them. I need to be here,
with you even if that risks my life.

JULIET: It's a good thing it's so dark out
– that way you can't see me blushing.
Do you love me? I know you're going to
say yes but I need to believe it. I need
some proof; you cannot just swear that
it's true. Who knows what may happen?
I love you very much though. I hope you
believe me when I tell you.

Therefore pardon me,
And not impute this yielding to light love,
Which the dark night hath so discovered.

ROMEO: Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear -

JULIET: O, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,
That monthly changes in her circled orb,
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

ROMEO: What shall I swear by?

JULIET: Do not swear at all;
Or, if thou wilt, swear by thy gracious self...
And I'll believe thee.

ROMEO: If my heart's dear love--

JULIET: Well, do not swear. Although I joy in thee,
I have no joy of this contract tonight:
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be...
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.
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 to-night?

ROMEO: The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

JULIET: I gave thee mine before thou didst request it...
My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
The more I have, for both are infinite.

[Nurse calls within.]

Anon, good nurse! Sweet Montague, be true.
Stay but a little, I will come again.

[Exit Juliet.]

ROMEO: O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard.
Being in night, all this is but a dream,
Too flattering-sweet to be substantial.

[Enter Juliet above.]

JULIET: Three words, dear Romeo, and good night indeed.
If that thy bent of love be honourable,
Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow...
Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite;

NURSE: *[Within.]* Madam!

JULIET: I come, anon -- But if thou meanest not well,
I do beseech thee--

ROMEO: By the moon, I promise that
my love is the truth.

JULIET: I told you not to swear! The
moon doesn't care if your feelings are
true. The moon is constantly changing;
it's not a very good symbol of our love.

ROMEO: What should I swear by?

JULIET: Don't make me promises. Just
prove your love to me somehow.

ROMEO: If that's really what you want...

JULIET: I can't stand broken promises,
But I want to know that you love me.
This night is taking me off guard though
– it is all very sudden and impulsive.
I know that the next time I see you I will
love you even more. Now, I should go to
bed. Goodnight, I'll think of you.

ROMEO: Wait...you're leaving?

JULIET: What more do you want from
me tonight?

ROMEO: Well...you could tell me that
you love me too.

JULIET: Weren't you listening at all? I
did tell you before you even asked me to.
But I'll tell you again, I love you with no
boundaries. It is a never-ending love.

[Nurse calls within.]

Hold on a minute, I'll be right back!

[Exit Juliet.]

ROMEO: Wow! I hope I'm not sleeping
and this is all just a fantastic dream.

[Enter Juliet above.]

JULIET: Tell me you love me one more
time and then I have to go. If you truly
love me, we should get married. Let me
know what you think tomorrow. We'll
figure out the details then.

NURSE: *[Within.]* Juliet! Get to bed! Now!

JULIET: I'm coming! – Romeo, believe
me when I say if you don't really love
me... -

NURSE: *[Within.]* Madam!

JULIET: By and by, I come. --
To cease thy strife, and leave me to my grief.
To-morrow will I send.

ROMEO: So thrive my soul--

JULIET: A thousand times good night!

[Exit Juliet.]

ROMEO: A thousand times the worse, to want thy light.
Love goes toward love, as schoolboys from their books,
But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

[Enter Juliet (above) again.]

JULIET: Hist! Romeo, hist!

ROMEO: It is my soul that calls upon my name.
How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,
Like softest music to attending ears.

JULIET: Romeo...
At what o'clock to-morrow
Shall I send to thee?

ROMEO: At the hour of nine.

JULIET: I will not fail. 'Tis twenty years till then...
I have forgot why I did call thee back.

ROMEO: Let me stand here till thou remember it.

JULIET: I shall forget, to have thee still stand there,
Remembering how I love thy company.

ROMEO: And I'll still stay, to have thee still forget,
Forgetting any other home but this.

JULIET: 'Tis almost morning; I would have thee gone:
And yet no further than a wanton's bird,
That lets it hop a little from his hand...
And with a silk thread plucks it back again...

ROMEO: I would I were thy bird.

JULIET: Sweet, so would I...
Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow,
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

ROMEO: Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast.
Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest.

[Exit Juliet.]

Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell,
His help to crave and my dear hap to tell.

Exit.

NURSE: *[Within.]* Now, Juliet!

JULIET: Coming!!!
Romeo, I'll call you tomorrow and we will
figure everything out.

ROMEO: I can't wait.

JULIET: Goodnight! Now I must go!

[Exit Juliet.]

ROMEO: I can't wait for the morning.

[Enter Juliet (above) again.]

JULIET: Romeo! Psst! Come back!

ROMEO: My soul mate is calling me
again and it sounds like music to my
ears.

JULIET: Romeo...
I need to know what time we are
meeting, when should I call you?

ROMEO: Around 9 o'clock?

JULIET: Okay. It feels like forever until
that time, but I will be there. I forget why
I even called you back here.

ROMEO: I will wait here with you until
you remember.

JULIET: I'll never remember with you
here. You'll distract me.

ROMEO: So I will stay forever.

JULIET: We must part – it's nearly
morning! But stay close to me; I can't
bear to have you too far away.

ROMEO: I will...

JULIET: Okay! Time for bed! Goodnight!
I can't believe we have to be apart but I
know in the morning we will be together!

ROMEO: Have a good night Juliet. Think
of me as you drift off to sleep.

[Exit Juliet.]

Now to sneak back home... and prepare
to marry a Capulet. How am I going to
break the news to my dad?

Exit.

Name(s): _____

Romeo and Juliet's Balcony Scene

The Modern Version

	Expectations are...				
	not met	barely met	satisfactorily met	fully met	exceeded
We did not simply re-write the scene line by line, but rather condensed the information into a digestible amount	1	2	3	4	5
We made sure to keep the meaning of each of the passages. We spent more time on the significant passages and less on the insignificant lines	1	2	3	4	5
We used authentic, modern language. We re-wrote the scene in the way that it could be acted in today's day and age. We used the language that we use everyday	1	2	3	4	5
Everyone was equally involved in the translation process. We broke up the scene equally and then consulted on the progress	1	2	3	4	5
We used our playbooks, dictionaries, and thesauruses to look up difficult terms and phrases	1	2	3	4	5
Bonus: We acted out our new, modernized balcony scene for the class. We made sure to keep the meaning and inflections used in the original production, but we used our own, creative language. Everyone was equally involved (this does not necessarily mean that everyone read lines)	1	2	3	4	5

