

ROMEO AND JULIET

ACT ONE, SCENE THREE

This scene introduces the three female characters of Shakespeare's play. All three women have different characteristics and personalities.

The Nurse, who has raised Juliet from birth, is quite a complex character. She, at one moment is philosophical about life, demonstrating a deep understanding of her existence and its connection to those around her. Then, at the next moment, she is forgetful, absent minded and trivial in her speech and actions.

Lady Capulet is a woman of grace and social style, yet she is unable to display any extent of emotional depth. She has very little in common with her daughter, and finds familiarity a difficult experience.

Juliet is an obedient and thoughtful daughter. She attentively listens to those around her, and responds with a maturity well beyond her years.

Answer the following questions:

1. Draw up a table with three headings, Nurse, Lady Capulet and Juliet and find two quotes per character which display their personalities. Under each quote, translate into your own words.
2. Describe the relationship between Nurse and Juliet. Use quotes to support your answer.
3. Re read Lady Capulet's speech beginning, 'What say you? Can you love the gentleman...'
To what does she compare Paris' face?
Express this comparison in your own words.