

ROMEO AND JULIET

ACT ONE, SCENE FIVE

In this scene, Tybalt's aggressive nature is tempered by Capulet and Romeo forgets the sadness of his unrequited love for Rosaline, as he notices Juliet at the masquerade.

The language of Shakespeare is at its best here when Romeo first describes Juliet. The use of metaphor and poetic imagery allows the audience to recognise the impact she has upon Romeo. Rather than considering Romeo a man of fickle emotion, Shakespeare is able to indicate an immediate and passionate connection.

Answer the following:

1. Look at the lines:

*O she doth teach the torches to turn bright!
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night
As a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear...
Did my heart love till now? Forswear it sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.*

Translate these lines into your own words. What is the effect of Juliet's beauty upon Romeo? How has Romeo changed from the previous scene?

2. Why does Tybalt seem so enraged at the sound of a Montague at the feast? How does Capulet react to Tybalt's rage?
3. How does Juliet react when she discovers Romeo is a Montague? What lines indicates this?