

Follow, Follow, Follow: Conforming to Society

Task 3: Understanding Power Struggles

Activity 2: Understanding Power Struggles Through Drama

Directions:

You will read short selections from two different plays. As you read, you will determine how dramatic devices, the point of view characters, and the author’s purpose influence the meaning of the text.

Read both of the following drama excerpts:

- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *Master Harold and the Boys* by Athol Fugard

Literary Form

List two characteristics that let you know these stories are written in a play form.
Answers will vary. Ex: Dialogue
Stage Directions
Identify and explain two ways that telling these stories in play format is different than telling these stories in a poem, a short story, or a novel.
Answers will vary. Ex: One way is that sections are differentiated by acts and scenes rather than chapters. Almost the entire text is written in dialogue and is meant to be read orally or seen performed.
In <i>Master Harold and the Boys</i> , explain how the dialogue helps the reader understand the conflict between Sam and Halle.
Answers will vary. Ex: The audience hears the conversation in which an argument ensues.
In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , explain how the dialogue helps the reader understand the conflict between Juliet and Capulet.
Answers will vary. Ex: The dialogue captures and emphasizes the emotion that Juliet feels as she disobeys her father by refusing to marry Paris. Likewise, Capulet’s anger towards his daughter is clear. “Hang thee, young baggage! Disobedient wretch!”

In Romeo and Juliet, explain how the soliloquy helps the reader understand Juliet's point of view.	
(Answers will vary. Ex: Juliet feels that she is doomed. She does not want to marry Paris to whom she is betrothed. Yet, she cannot openly marry Romeo whom her parents despise. She does not want to disobey her father but must follow her heart; therefore, she is willing to die for her true love.	
Explain why you agree or disagree with the way Juliet feels in this soliloquy.	
Answers will vary. All answers should be supported by information from the text.	
Provide two specific examples of stage directions and explain their purpose. You may select from either text.	
Stage Direction	Purpose
Answers will vary. Ex: 1. [Singing as he works]	Tells the reader the action of the character and possibly mood of the character.
2. [Encouragingly]	Tells the reader the way in which the speaker is addressing a character.

Point of View

1. Use the graphic organizer below to list and explain two emotions Juliet feels about authority in this scene (her father, her mother, and her nurse). First, state the emotion. Then provide specific textual evidence that illustrates this emotion.	
1. Emotion	2. Textual Evidence
Answers will vary. Ex: 1. Frustrated	"Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend! Is it more sin to wish me thus foresworn, Or to dispraise my lord with the same tongue Which she hath prais'd him with above compare So many thousand times?"
2. Sad	"Comfort me, counsel me. Alack, alack, that heaven should practise stratagems Upon so soft a subject as myself!"

2. In approximately three sentences, explain how Juliet's point of view helps the reader understand Juliet's feelings about authority (her father, her mother, her nurse)

Answers will vary.

Ex: She respects her father's authority and wants to obey him. However her love for Romeo is so strong that she questions her father and refuses to obey.

3. In the excerpt from *Master Harold and the Boys*, cite evidence (approximately two sentences) to explain how Sam's point of view influences the play's tone?

Answers will vary.

Ex:

Hally is rude and disrespectful to Sam, but Sam continues to be encouraging and calm as he speaks with Hally. When Hally says, "To begin with, why don't you start calling me Master Harold, like Willie." Sam calmly and quietly explains, "If you make me say it once, I'll never call you anything else again." This dialogue creates a tone of disappointment in lieu of anger.

4. Looking from Sam's point of view, write a three-sentence summary describing the interaction between Sam and Hally.

Answers will vary.

Ex: Hally is badmouthing his own father and Sam is trying to get him to calm down and think before he speaks poorly about his dad. Hally gets mad at Sam and almost sees him as defending Hally's father. He retaliates against him verbally. Sam recognizes that Hally is so hurt by his father's behavior that he doesn't take what Hally says to him personally, remaining calm instead.

Author's Purpose

1. From the *Romeo and Juliet* excerpt, state the conflict between Juliet and her authority figures.

Answers will vary.

Ex: It is a parent-child conflict in which Juliet's father has arranged a marriage for her. She refuses to marry the man her father has selected for her. Instead, she wants to marry for love.

2. Cite 1-2 lines from the play spoken by Juliet that illustrates the conflict between Juliet and an authority figure.

Answers will vary.

Ex: "Is there no pity sitting in the clouds
That sees into the bottom of my grief?
O sweet my mother, cast me not away!
Delay this marriage for a month, a week;
Or if you do not, make the bridal bed
In that dim monument where Tybalt lies."

3. From the *Master Harold and the Boys* excerpt, explain how the author shows the conflict between Sam and Hally.

Answers will vary.

Ex: The author shows the conflict between Sam and Hally by using stage directions and dialogue.