

Regional Group Meetings Spring 2011

A661

Literary Heritage Linked
Texts

Folders: A, B

Section A-Romeo and Juliet

In Act 2, Scene 4, only Mercutio and Benvolio are present. We see Mercutio looking for Romeo:

"Where the devil should this Romeo be?"

This shows us of Mercutio's worry at where he is and also after learning that Tybalt has sent Romeo a challenge he becomes protective as he thinks Romeo will not be up for the fight.

"Alas poor Romeo, he is already dead, stabbed with a white wench's black eye" here he thinks his love for Rosaline has weakened him so he would surely lose in a battle against Tybalt.

We also see Mercutio become angry at the thought of Rosaline hurting Romeo;

"Why, that same pale hard-hearted wench, that Rosaline, torments him so, that he will sure run mad."

This is thought to have meant that Mercutio has homosexual feelings for Romeo and doesn't like women interfering. As later on in the scene we see him joking with Romeo and he says,

"Why is not this better now than groaning for love?"

Here he is asking if these jokes and fun is better than wanting love, this could show that Mercutio wants Romeo to prefer time with him than women, it could also be jealousy which suggests that he is gay.

Although, they are both very comfortable in each others presence as they are able to joke about rude things and call each other names.

"Why then is my pump new flowered?"

this shows that they are just friends and Mercutio's flamboyant behaviour may be down to over-confidence as we see in Act 3 scene 1 where "By my head, here comes the Capulets" and Mercutio replies,

"By my ~~back~~ heel, I care not" and Mercutio continues to mock Tybalt until he asks if "thou consortest with Romeo." which angers Mercutio as he sees it as something bad and so this defies the homosexual theory.

There are also many other reactions to them, as there are other characters present.

For example Benvolio, he is seen as a "third wheel" and desperately tries to be part of Romeo and Mercutio's banter, also when the Nurse arrives Benvolio's only line is

"She will invite him to some supper."

This shows he jumped into the mocking of the Nurse not sure of what to say and needs Mercutio to carry it on for him. Also in Baz Luhrmann's

interpretation of Romeo and Juliet in Act 2, Scene 4

there seems to be an order in which they walk, with Mercutio leading, then Romeo ^{with} Benvolio trailing behind. This suggests that Mercutio and Benvolio are only friends through Romeo, and Romeo and Mercutio are used to having Benvolio there, so nothing will be said to make him leave.

We also see a change in Romeo in Luhrmann's version as their costumes say a lot.

Mercutio wears an open white shirt, that shows he is neutral and has nothing to hide, and

Benvolio wears an open green and yellow shirt which is the colour of the Montague house, but

Romeo wears a closed shirt which may show he has something to hide, even from his closest friend Mercutio. Also the colours on the shirt are blue, white and red, and with blue being the colour of the Capulets it shows a mix of loyalties.

The Nurse is also shocked by the way they both act and the language they use.
"I pray you sir, what saucy merchant was this that was so full of his ropery?"

Here she is asking, who was that who was full of tricks (the changing of words to make them sexual) ^{or do} ¹¹¹

Also Baz Luhrmann used editing techniques to show the reactions. Whilst Romeo is talking to the Nurse he uses a "cross cut", this is where it jumps back and forth from the conversation to Mercutio's reaction, this reaction shows frustration at the fact that Romeo has business Mercutio doesn't know about.

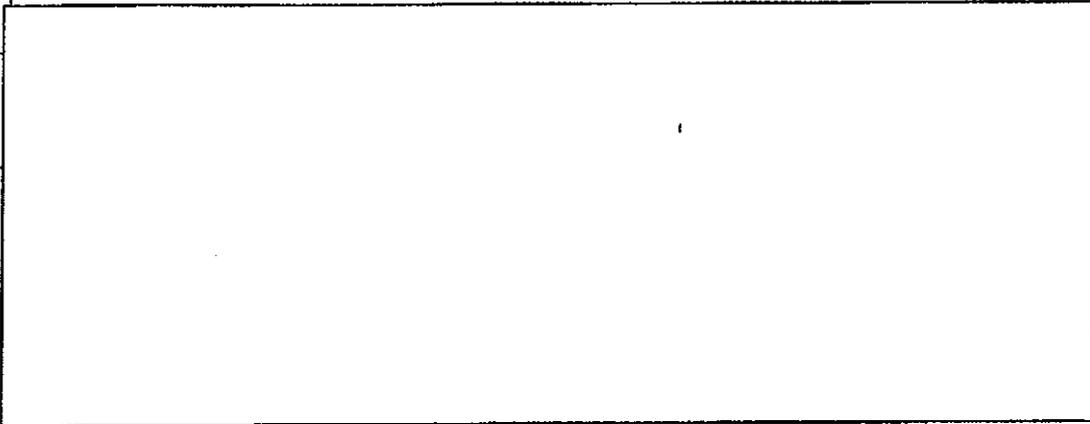
This shows that the relationship would usually be an open one, but now Romeo is being secretive.

Also in this scene where Mercutio says, "Romeo! Romeo!" this replicates Juliet's soliloquy in Act 2, Scene 2, which could show a need for Romeo to notice him and tell him what's going on.

Romeo also has a drastic change of personality. As he is kind and respectful with ~~Romeo~~ Juliet but loud and obscene with Mercutio and Benvolio.

~~Also~~ Also further on in the play and film interpretation when Tybalt ~~arrives~~ ^{arrives} we see that does not hate all Capulets - only Tybalt and this is ~~for~~ one reason ~~as~~ he is protective of ~~the~~ Romeo but is also a friend to the Montagues.

To conclude, the importance of the relationship between Romeo and Mercutio is important as it doesn't further the play or film, but shows how deep their relationship is, in order to make Romeo avenging Mercutio's death make sense. Without this scene we would not see the bond between them, and the love-homosexual or not, they have for each other.



④
I will be comparing the two poems "My Last Duchess" and "Porphyria's Lover" by Robert Browning.

Robert Browning starts "Porphyria's Lover" with pathetic fallacy.

"The sullen wind was soon awake,
It tore the elm-tops down for spite,
And did us worst to vex the lake."

This could predict events to come and the wind and lake could be signifiers, the wind could be Porphyria's Lover and the lake Porphyria and the fact the wind wants to 'vex' the lake could show that the wind is angry and wants to curse the lake. This pathetic fallacy could predict Porphyria's death.

Whilst in "My Last Duchess" the title gives a lot away, the 'my' is a personal pro-noun and so infers that the Duchess belongs to him, also 'last' infers that there was many before the present woman, and 'Duchess' shows wealth and royalty.

The speaker starts by talking about his ex wife which is peculiar as he is talking to the emissary for the Count of Tyrol, to make a deal about marrying his ~~next~~ ^{next} wife. This shows the difference as the speaker in 'Porphyria's Lover' starts passive but ends active and the speaker in 'My Last Duchess' ~~starts~~ ^{starts} active and ends passive, this is because the speaker in 'Porphyria's Lover' kills his lover himself but the Duke hires someone to kill his wife meaning he didn't technically kill her making him passive.

The feelings in the two poems are based on jealousy, in 'My Last Duchess' the Duke envies her beauty and the attention the Duchess ~~receives~~ ^{receives}. Where the Duke says;

"too soon made glad,
too easily impressed; she used whate'er
she looked on, and her looks went everywhere."

Here he suggests that she took compliments as love and "her looks went everywhere" could infer that she couldn't go anywhere without her looks or that she had slept around.

Also like in 'Porphyria's Lover' when he realises that she loves him alot more than she thought,
"at last I knew

Porphyria worshipped me; surprise
made my heart swell, and still it grew
while I debated what to do."

This may suggest that he was unsure of ^{her} ~~his~~ love, and maybe he thought that she may of cheated or only wanted to be with him in secret as she only visits at night, but this sudden burst of love makes him debate what he is about to do, although the jealousy is not as evident in this poem, another reason for her death may be because of the disease she was supposed to of had. Porphyria is a blood disease that only affects royalty, so this shows she was higher up than the speaker.

It may of been an act of euthanasia, as after he has killed her he says,

"She guessed not how
Her darling one wish would be heard."

So this shows us that Porphyria may have wanted to die.

The rhyme schemes also give us an insight to what the speakers are like.

In 'Porphyria's Lover' the rhyme scheme is

②

ABABB, this is erratic and unordered like the mindset of the speaker, the speaker is undecided and changes his mind whilst in 'My Last Duchess' the rhyme scheme is ABAB, and is clear and organised like the Duke who decided not to kill her himself but he "gave commands" and got her killed. This gives us the impression that the Duchess wasn't good enough for him when she was alive and so he wouldn't waste his time killing her himself. Although in 'Porphyria's Lover' he actually loves her as after he killed her he held her, we know this by,

"And thus we sit together now,
And all night long we have not stirred,
And yet God has not said a word!"

The last line shows us that he thinks he has done right as in 'The Victorian Era' it was believed that if you done something wrong, God would punish you, but the fact that God said nothing means he was right in his actions, but around the time of the poem

~~Some say that the ideas for~~
was written a philosopher said 'faith is Dead' and so people were going against their religious beliefs and the media was growing so people learnt of new ways of living.

Some say that the ideas for the poems came from Browning's own life, because his wife Elizabeth Barratt Browning was alot more known for her poetry it was suggested that Browning became jealous and was undermined until after his wife's death-though he didn't kill his wife. Also in 'Porphyria's Lover' there isn't meant to be

an intended listener but in 'My Last Duchess' the emissary is supposed to be listening but we don't hear him speak, this is because the Duke doesn't allow him to as he doesn't care about what anyone else thinks. Also he isn't afraid of admitting the killing of his wife as the emissary is of a lower status and so would not be believed if he told anyone.

The Duke is also sure of the fact his wife has cheated on him even though there is no evidence for this.

The endings are also very different as in 'Porphyria's Lover' it ends in the speaker holding the dead Porphyria and telling us that what he did was right, whilst in 'My Last Duchess' he ends by talking about another picture, he says,

"Notice Neptune, though,

Taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity,

Which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze for me!"

here he is saying he is a God taming wild women.

These two poems make us like Porphyria's lover and whilst the Duke wants to be liked he makes us dislike him.



Section A - Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet is about ② young teenagers who fall in love but can't be together for two reasons: ① family ② Romeo got banished.

So they ^{decide} die together. But I am going to be studying the scene where Romeo ran ~~off~~ back

to see Juliet after the party and then when he comes back ~~the next~~ ^{the next} morning Mercutio and Benvolio try to get him to tell them where he was that night, (act 2, scene 4).

I will be working from the original text, I will be studying "Act 2 scene 4, Act 1 Scene 1, Act 3 Scene 1" and the main characters involved ③ Romeo - the lover, Mercutio - Romeo's best friend, Benvolio - Romeo's ^{uncle} ~~uncle~~ and the Nurse. Juliet's helper I will be telling you how Romeo and Mercutio are presented in Act 2 scene 4, and how they change in other scenes.

Romeo and Mercutio are best friends so they express a lot of different feelings with each other. Romeo is Romantic, handsome, good fighter but he falls in love too fast. Mercutio is funny, dramatic, ^{and a} good fighter, but yet get's mad sometimes (Act 1, Scene 4). Mercutio goes mental at Romeo because Romeo is pining over Rosaline but yet we think Mercutio went mad at him because he has been hurt with love before (although we're not sure), and Mercutio shouts "That if love be rough with you, be rough with love", which means that you shouldn't trust love. ~~Act~~ This is all new to us because

Just opening
classroom

just show
standing
classroom

Just guide
into led
classroom
classroom

we haven't seen this side to Mercutio yet
As we can see from Act 2 scene 4, Romeo
and Mercutio like dissing each other (joke)

"That's as much to say, such a case as
yours constrains a man to bow in the horns,"
which means that Mercutio thought he slept
with someone last night, ~~so~~ and caught an
STD, so that's why he can't court ~~su~~. In the
film (Baz Luhrman) when they say that line,
you can tell they are joking because we
can see it; but we ~~can't~~ ^{can't} tell as much if
they are joking in the original text

shows
a comparison
of original
text
film
adaptation

In Act 2 scene 4, more characters are involved;
Tybalt - Good sword fighter, Capulet family,

Juliet's cousin, wants to fight Romeo.

Benvolio - Romeo's cousin, Montague family

Nurse - Juliet's assistant, Capulet family

In Act 1 scene 4 or Act 2 scene 4 we don't
see Tybalt but we hear about him, then in
Act 3 scene 1, we see Tybalt and he
wants to kill Romeo for destroying his
family's party and when Tybalt first

enters this scene Mercutio straight away

starts dissing him (in the film) but in the

book Tybalt says "Mercutio, thou consortest
with Romeo" which gets him really mad

Benvolio first appears at the start but then

again in Act 2 scene 4, whilst talking to Mercutio

"Where the devil should this Romeo be? Came
he not home tonight?" "Not to his father

; I spoke with his man". They seem to be
getting along well with each other in this scene.

Romeo + Juliet

The nurse in act 2 scene 4, gets dissed quite alot by Mercutio, Benvolio and even Romeo, she doesn't like this.

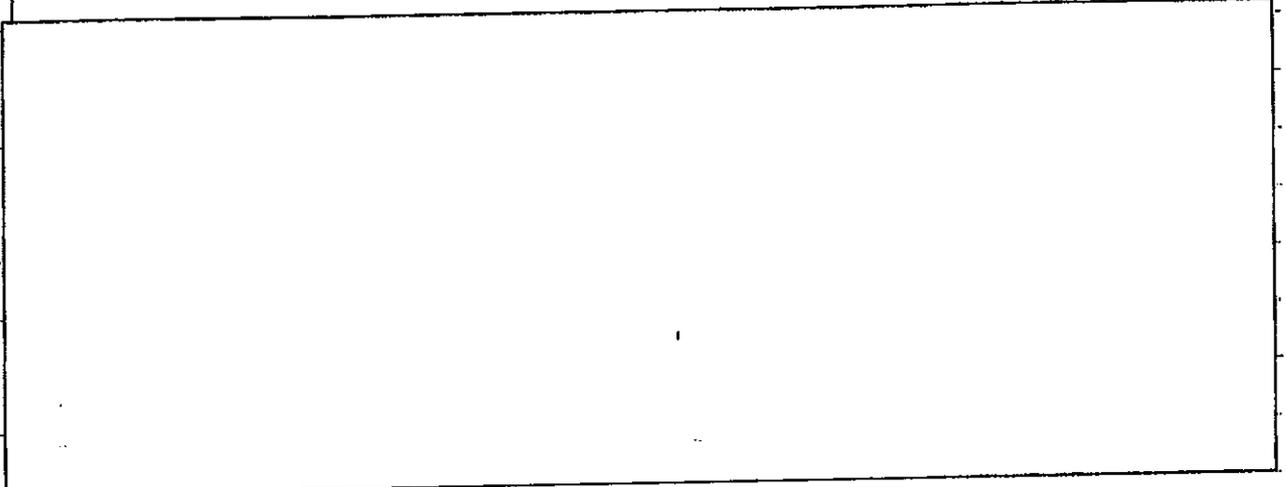
"Now afore God I am so vexed, that every part about me quivers". And you see her get mad in the film and tells Peter to help her.

and again
has
aspects
of it.

The relationship between Romeo and Mercutio is so important because they get on well together, even when they diss each other they're still happy about it and are still best friends "Here's goodly gear! A sail, a sail!" "Two, two a shirt and a smock" This shows that after they were dissing each other they're back to best friends again. But in Act 3 scene 1, this all changes because Romeo got Mercutio killed, Mercutio curses Romeo and Tybalt.

"I am hurt. A plague on both your houses, I am sped. Is he gone and hath nothing?" Without them being best friends and Romeo trying to save Mercutio from being stabbed, Mercutio wouldn't of died, cursed Romeo and Tybalt. Then Romeo wouldn't of chased and killed Tybalt for killing Mercutio, and then Romeo wouldn't of got banished from the country, come back to think Juliet was dead, then kills himself and Juliet does. This wouldn't of been/ended as a love story if Romeo and Mercutio hadn't of been best mates, so that is a very important part to Romeo and Juliet itself.

I think that Romeo and Juliet is a great film and that Romeo and Mercutio are presented as best friends and without them this play/film wouldn't have any love in it. ✓



Section B - OCR POETRY

Robert Browning was a famous poet, he wrote such things like "My Last Duchess" and "Porphyria's lover" which I will be studying. Browning came from the Victorian time and lived a long time ago. He's got a very clever mind and a very witty mind too. Browning has his own way of writing poems because he puts dramatic monologue into ~~his~~ them. Dramatic monologue is where one person talks to the reader and tells one side of the conversation. I think he does this to make the ~~poem~~ ^{poems} more alive and to show that they're not just ordinary and have more than one speaker. His poems also have a lot of enjambment, a bit of symbolism and lots of ~~adjectives~~ adjectives which makes the poems more interesting and fun to read.

In my last Duchess; the wealthy duke despised his own wife, the duke had complete power then the wife died. Did the Duke have her killed?

In Porphyria's Lover; the wealthy woman has a forbidden relationship with a normal man, the man has all of the power and he knows she loves him to pieces, so to keep her forever, he kills her. Aswell because ~~the~~ ^{these} poems were set in

Victorian times having your shoulders shown would make you known as a slag; as ^{out of slag} it shows in Porphyria's Lover "And made her smooth white shoulder bare and all her yellow hair displaced".

This shows she was a bit of a slag because she had bare shoulders and aswell had her hair down and displaced. (Aswell) in both poems

skipped
enjoy learning
enjoy writing
poetry

some simple
poems
the wife
poetry

slag
poem

the men treated their own ^{wives} as objects

(My Last Duchess) "Notice Neptune, though, Taming a sea-horse, through a rarity;" This line uses

symbolism which is saying an object represents

something else; and in the poem the man is saying

that women are like seahorses, need to be tamed.

(Arphyria's Lover) "In one long yellow string I wound

Three times around her little throat around, And strangled

her. No pain felt she; This sentence shows he

killed her and he didn't care about her. ^{does it?}

Browning shows a lot of emotion in these two

poems he shows "love, murder, care, hate in

the poems. He shows his compassion for

all of those things and puts it into ^{two} poems.

It shows Browning is dirty, romantic, has a

wild imagination. As well both poems have

enjambment "united her hat and let the damp

hair fall" "Who'd stoop to blame This sort of

trifling?" Enjambment is where a sentence flows from

one to another with no full stops. As well the

duke and the man in both poems are

the same, don't really care about their lovers

and the wives die. "In one long yellow string

I wound Three times her little throat around, And

Strangled her. No pain felt she;" "I gave commands

Then all smiles stopped together". These two

quotations both shows that the two men in the

poems didn't care because they killed their

wives (My Last Duchess - had her killed?) —

Browning as you can tell is very good at English because he loved to use similes, metaphors, extended metaphors etc... as we can

distancing
the
reality
of
the
situation
symbolism

distancing
the
reality
of
the
situation

OCR POETRY

tell from the two poems. "The rain set early in tonight, The sullen wind soon awake, It here the elm-tops down for spite, And did it's worse to vex the lake." This is an extended metaphor, which is where you explain ^{that} something is something but in more detail. Also he uses the use of 3 three. "Too weak, for all her heart's endeavour, To set its struggling passion free from pride, and vainness Her disserve, And give herself to me forever." This shows he has used 3 words that have the same ending to explain something. There's also symbolism "Notice Neptune, though, Taming a sea-horse, through a rarity." This shows says that an object represents something else. There's tons of dramatic monologue in both poems. "That moment she was mine, mine, fair, perfectly pure and good." This means that one person tells the reader the conversation. As we can see Browning loves using different languages.

I think that the poems are very successful. They work out perfectly, all the rhyming matches the topic, the topics are on the right track, the message goes around and personally I just love both poems because of the fact that they're different to most poems I have read with lots of dramatic monologue, rhyme scheme and central themes. I think that for they were also two good poems to study for this coursework and I now understand a lot of things/words I didn't know before I read these poems.

use of
language
to affect