

Carter's Introduction

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare uses celestial bodies, such as the sun, moon, and stars, to enhance the speakers' dialogue and contribute to Romeo and Juliet's relationship. In their love towards one another, Romeo and Juliet tend to speak of symbols such as stars and the moon to evoke their love and passion for each other, despite the difficult situations that they are forced to endure. Because the sun, moon, and stars are seen as symbols of prosperity, strength, and happiness, they are continually applied to the two lovers. These symbols help explain the role of beauty in Romeo and Juliet's love as well as the effects of fate predetermining the outcome of the play. However, while comparisons of Juliet to celestial bodies elevate Romeo's love towards Juliet and show his romantic personality, Romeo's ability to make Juliet's beauty equivalent to the stars and heaven prompts readers to consider whether beauty and attraction are the primary basis of Romeo and Juliet's love. Yet even though the two lovers are forced to endure many hardships and difficult times, their love for one another never terminates, even at their death. The celestial bodies help explain the role of beauty in Romeo and Juliet's love, the effects of fate predetermining the outcome of the play and the necessity to overcome their families' wishes for true love.

1. Gather Information

Carter has already examined the evidence from the play as an aid to develop this essay.

2. Ask Questions

Carter's group has already asked questions that helped him define the purpose of these symbols.

3. Qualify

This question—whether Romeo's love is based primarily on beauty or not—lends interesting nuance to the discussion.

4. Make Connections

While the concept of fate is not directly linked to Carter's main thesis, it is an important motif in the play that Carter's class discussed and that he can use in his paper.

5. Organize and Discuss

Carter gives clear indications of how he will present the discussion at the end of this paragraph.