


Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
Topic 5 Content: Reading Act IV of *Romeo and Juliet*

Introduction



Romeo and Juliet

Act IV

Act III presents a number of dilemmas for Romeo and Juliet, and the situation increasingly becomes more complicated for the couple. After Romeo is banished from Verona, Juliet's father threatens to abandon her if she refuses to marry Paris. Before you read each of the five scenes from Act IV, use the **NEXT** button to scroll down the parchment paper for a brief introduction to the scene.

Click **NEXT** to continue.

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Act IV, Scene i

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In this first scene, Juliet arrives at Friar Laurence's cell to find Paris already there. What is Paris talking to the friar about? Why does this worry the friar? Pay attention to how Paris talks to Juliet. What is Friar Laurence's plan to avoid the wedding?

Now read Scene i of Act IV, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene ii.




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Act IV, Scene ii

Act IV, Scene ii



In the second scene, Juliet goes home and agrees to the wedding. Notice how differently her father treats her now compared to Act III, Scene v. What does he do because he is so happy, and how does it complicate the friar's plan?

Now read Scene ii of Act IV, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene iii.

In the second scene, Juliet goes home and agrees to the wedding. Notice how differently her father treats her now compared to Act III, Scene v. What does he do because he is so happy, and how does it complicate the friar's plan?

Now read Scene ii of Act IV, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene iii.


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Act IV, Scene iii

Act IV, Scene iii

In the third scene, Juliet has her most important soliloquy, revealing that she is really frightened about what she is getting ready to do. What are the four specific fears that she names?

Now read Scene iii of Act IV, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene iv.

A painting of Juliet in a bed, looking distressed with her hand raised, set within an arched doorway. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light emanating from the doorway behind her. She is wearing a white, flowing gown and a white veil. Her expression is one of fear and desperation. The background is a textured, parchment-like surface.

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Act IV, Scene iv

Act IV, Scene iv

The fourth scene is very short and does not do much to move the plot forward. Instead, this scene provides some light relief to the intensity of the tragic conflict with which Juliet is struggling. Capulet will joke a bit with the servants and his wife as they prepare for the wedding. What is the dramatic irony here?

Now read Scene iv of Act IV, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene v.



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Act IV, Scene v

Act IV, Scene v



In the final scene, Juliet is found "dead." What is the dramatic irony in this scene? Pay attention to how the parents and Paris talk. Does this fit with how they have treated Juliet before? What does Friar Laurence have to say about Juliet's death? After the family leaves, the musicians remain in the room along with Peter, who exchanges banter with them. Why do you think Shakespeare ended the scene with jokes?

Now read Scene v of Act IV.

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Now read Scene v of Act IV.