

ADG 4M Acting Focus Course: The Stanislavski System
Sample Script - Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
Act 3, Scene 5

Given Circumstances: This scene takes place in Capulet's orchard between Juliet, her parents, and the Nurse. Juliet has met, fallen in love with and married Romeo, and he has just killed her cousin Tybalt and been banished from Verona. Capulet has arranged for Juliet to marry Paris, and knows nothing of her relationship with Romeo. In this scene, Juliet tries to ask her father to cancel the wedding to Paris.

Capulet

Objective: I want to proceed with the marriage of my daughter Juliet to Paris, as it will improve my social standing in the court.

Obstacle: My daughter is refusing to marry Paris.

Juliet

Objective: I want to convince my father to cancel my wedding to Paris as I am already married to Romeo.

Obstacle: I cannot reveal my secret marriage to him or I will be disowned and thrown out on the streets.

Nurse

Objective: I want to protect Juliet and keep secret her marriage to Romeo.

Obstacle: I cannot reveal to the Capulets that I know of the marriage and did nothing to stop it or else I will lose my job.

Lady Capulet:

Objective: I want to keep the peace.

Obstacle: I have very little power or influence over my husband.

Text with Sample Tactics:

JULIET

Good father, I beseech you on my knees,
Hear me with patience but to speak a word **(I plead)**.

CAPULET

Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch! **(I insult)**
I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,

Or never after look me in the face (**I threaten**):
Speak not, reply not, do not answer me;
My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest
That God had lent us but this only child;
But now I see this one is one too much (**I admit defeat**),
And that we have a curse in having her:
Out on her, hilding!

Nurse

God in heaven bless her!
You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so (**I reproach**).

CAPULET

And why, my lady wisdom? hold your tongue, (**I demand**)
Good prudence; smatter with your gossips, go.

Nurse

I speak no treason (**I defend**).

CAPULET

O, God ye god-den.

Nurse

May not one speak?

CAPULET

Peace, you mumbling fool! (**I silence**)
Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl;
For here we need it not.

LADY CAPULET

You are too hot. (**I calm**)

CAPULET

God's bread! it makes me mad:
Day, night, hour, tide, time, work, play,
Alone, in company, still my care hath been
To have her match'd; and having now provided
A gentleman of noble parentage,
Of fair demesnes, youthful, and nobly train'd,
Stuff'd, as they say, with honourable parts,
Proportion'd as one's thought would wish a man;
And then to have a wretched puling fool,
A whining mammet, in her fortune's tender,
To answer 'I'll not wed; I cannot love,
I am too young; I pray you, pardon me.' (**I belittle Juliet**)
But, as you will not wed, I'll pardon you:

Graze where you will you shall not house with me:

Look to't, think on't, I do not use to jest.

Thursday is near; lay hand on heart, advise:

An you be mine, I'll give you to my friend;

And you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in
the streets, **(I reject)**

For, by my soul, I'll ne'er acknowledge thee,

Nor what is mine shall never do thee good:

Trust to't, bethink you; I'll not be forsworn.

Exit