

**Dialectical Journal for Act I**

Motif	Quotation and page number	Interpretation/commentary
<b>light vs. dark</b>	1.) "Madam, an hour before the worshiped sun peered forth the golden window of the east, a troubled mind drove me to walk abroad..." Benvolio, Act I, Scene I, lines 120-122 2.) "But all so soon as the all-cheering sun should in the farthest east begin to draw... away from light steals home my heavy son... and makes himself an artificial night..." Montague, Act I, Scene I, lines 137-138, 140, and 143	1.) Benvolio associates the darkness of night with his troubled mind. 2.) Lord Montague points out the Romeo, who is deeply troubled, is avoiding the light of day and seeking solace in the darkness of night.
<b>high vs. low</b>	1.) "You are a lover. Borrow Cupid's wings and soar with them above a common bound." Mercutio, Act I, Scene IV, lines 17-18 2.) "I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe. Under love's heavy burden do I sink" Romeo, Act I, Scene IV, lines 21-22	1.) Mercutio relates love and height. Romeo, who is in love, should be flying with Cupid. Mercutio sees the levity in love and adds humor to his explanation. 2.) Romeo, who expresses an unrequited love for Rosaline, associates love with a heavy burden that makes people sink low. Romeo emphasizes the seriousness and gravity of love.
<b>dreams/sleep vs. reality</b>	1.) "But 'tis no wit to go... I dreamt a dream tonight." Romeo, Act I, Scene IV, lines 51 and 53 2.) "Dreamers often lie." and Queen Mab Speech. Mercutio, Act I, Scene IV, line 56	1.) Romeo sees his dream as a premonition that he should not attend the party. He believes in the reality of his dream as an omen which should be regarded. 2.) Mercutio gives a lengthy speech about dreams being given by a fairy named Queen Mab. He does this to further prove his point that dreams are not true.
<b>time</b>	1.) "My only love sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown and known too late!"	1.) Things are happening so quickly at this point that Juliet remarks that she fell in love with Romeo before she figured

	Juliet, Act I, Scene V, lines 152-153	out that he was a Montague and her enemy.
<b>stars</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) "A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life" Prologue, line 6</li> <li>2.) "For my mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars..." Romeo, Act I, Scene IV, lines 113-114</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) The fact that the lovers are star-crossed means that they are fated to be together and die together.</li> <li>2.) Romeo again uses the stars as a symbol for fate as he explains that he thinks something bad is fated to happen to him if he attends this party.</li> </ol>
<b>youth vs. age</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) "... 'tis not so hard, I think, for men so old as we to keep the peace." Capulet, Act I, Scene II, lines 2-3</li> <li>2.) "Such comfort as do lusty young men feel..." Capulet, Act I, Scene II, lines 26-34</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Capulet associates age with the ability to be peaceful and wise.</li> <li>2.) Capulet counsels Paris, whom he sees as a symbol for what a young man should be, to wait to marry and consider other women. He believes that it is wise to not rush into adult obligations at a young age.</li> </ol>