

**Dialectical Journal for Act II**

Motif	Quotation and page number	Interpretation/commentary
<b>light vs. dark</b>	1.) "Come, he hath hid himself among these trees, / To be consorted with the humorous night. / Blind is his love and best befits the dark" (2.1.30-32). 2.) "But soft! What light through yonder window breaks! / It is the east, and Juliet is the sun" (2.1.3-4).	1.) Benvolio associates the darkness of night with Romeo's troubled mind. He does not know, however, that Romeo has left his group of friends after the party to seek Juliet. 2.) Romeo likens Juliet's beauty to the blinding beauty of the sun.
<b>high vs. low</b>	1.) "O speak again, bright angel! / For thou art / As glorious to this night, being o'er my head, / As is a winged messenger of heaven..." (2.2.26-28). 2.) "How camest thou hither, tell me, and wherefore? / The orchard walls are high and hard to climb, / And the place death considering who thou art" (2.2.62-64).	1.) When spying upon Juliet in secret, Romeo likens her to a glorious angel who is not only physically above him but who transcends all humanity with her beauty. 2.) Juliet asks why and how Romeo arrived at her balcony since the walls are so high. Romeo responds by saying that he flew over the wall with the wings of love.
<b>dreams/sleep vs. reality</b>	1.) "O blessed, blessed night! I am afeard, / Being in night, / all this is but a dream, / Too flattering sweet to be substantial" (2.2.139-141). 2.) "And where care lodges, sleep will never lie. / But where unbruised youth with unstuffed brain / Doth couch his limbs, there golden sleep doth reign" (2.3.36-38).	1.) Juliet fears that she will wake up in the morning, and all of her discourse with Romeo will be just a dream because it seems too good to be true. The characters will soon learn that their love is too good to be true. 2.) The friar is speculating that Romeo must have some conflict on his mind to be up so early in the morning (or to have never gone to bed at all). He thinks young men should be care-free and should sleep soundly.
<b>time</b>	1.) "O swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon, / That monthly changes in her circle orb, / Lest that thy love prove likewise variable" (2.2.109-111). 2.) "I will not fail. 'Tis twenty year till then" (2.2.173).	1.) Romeo pledges that his love is like the moon, but Juliet is displeased with this comparison since the moon changes quickly with time. 2.) Juliet promises that she will not fail to send a messenger to him. She

	<p>3.) "Therefore love moderately. Long love doth so. / Too swift arrives as tardy too slow" (2.6.14-15).</p>	<p>explains that it will feel like an eternity until that moment.</p> <p>3.) The friar speaks this warning as he officiates the wedding of the two hasty teens. He urges them to be sensible and not take things too fast. This advice is coming too late.</p>
<b>stars</b>	<p>1.) "Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven, / Having some business, do entreat her eyes / To twinkle in their spheres till they return" (2.2.15-17).</p>	<p>1.) Romeo muses that if the two greatest stars had to go away, her eyes could take their place until they returned.</p>
<b>youth vs. age</b>	<p>1.) "Now old desire doth in his deathbed life, / And young affection gapes to be his heir..." (2.1.1-2).</p> <p>2.) "Had she affections and warm youthful blood, / She would be as swift in motion as a ball... / But old folks, many feign as they were dead, / Unwieldy, slow, heavy, and pale as lead" (2.5.12-17).</p>	<p>1.) The chorus says that Romeo's old desires for Rosaline are dying, and the new feelings for Juliet are taking their place.</p> <p>2.) Juliet is eagerly awaiting news about her impending marriage to Romeo from the nurse. She is saying that if the nurse were young, she would be speedy. Also, she criticizes "old people" (including the nurse) for acting as if they were already dead.</p>