

Where's Romeo?

Use the graphic organizer below to make notes about how two different directors portray the characters in film versions of Act III, scene ii. Pay careful attention to the language, the sound effects, the physical elements (such as costumes and scenery), and camera angles in the film.

SCENE DESCRIPTION:

The friar and nurse try to reason with Romeo as he sobs in response to the prince's edict that he will be banished for taking the life of Tybalt.

Film Elements	Your Observations (The 1996 Baz Luhrmann Version)	Your Observations (The 1968 Franco Zeffirelli Version)
Language	The Baz Luhrmann version omits the portion in which Romeo attempts to stab himself with a dagger in a fit of despair.	The Zeffirelli version is true to the original text although the characters do seem to shout the lines more loudly than in the other film version.
Sound Effects	It is raining outside, so the primary sounds are ominous claps of thunder and pouring rain. Also, the nurse's knocking on the door is very prominent. There is soft, spooky music playing in the background that heightens in intensity as the scene ends.	There is no background music. The only sounds are the loud sobs and groans from Romeo as well as soft cries and whimpers from the nurse.
Physical Elements	The sobbing Romeo is shirtless, soaked to the bone, and bleeding. The friar wears a white shirt through which his large cross tattoo is visible. The cell looks more like a modern apartment and has religious icons everywhere--statues, pictures, and rosaries.	Romeo, clad in his doublet and tights, is writing on the floor of the friar's cell as he sobs. The cell made from stone and is dark, only lit by the faint glow of candles. The nurse has on a costume that looks like that of a nun, and the friar wears a traditional brown monk robe.
Camera Angles	Baz Luhrmann's style of shooting film is unique; just as the language moves quickly, so do the camera angles. The picture moves in and out with the pace of the action. One prominent shot is a close up shot of Juliet's wedding ring, which has the inscription "I love thee" on the inside.	The camera angles mostly are zoomed out. There is one particular shot that zooms up on the friar's glasses and vessels that he uses for his apothecary work.

Which film is more effective, and why?

Answers will vary.

Close Reading of Lines from Act III, Scene iii

Artist William Hatherell created a watercolor painting of Romeo weeping after he has killed Tybalt called *Where's Romeo?* The lines that inspired the painting are below. Read and annotate the excerpt using the annotation guide.

<p>Nurse</p> <p>81 O holy friar, O, tell me, holy friar, Where is my lady's lord, where's Romeo?</p> <p>Friar Laurence</p> <p> There on the ground, with his own tears made drunk.</p> <p>Nurse</p> <p> O, he is even in my mistress' case,</p> <p>85 Just in her case! O woful sympathy! Piteous predicament! Even so lies she, Blubbering and weeping, weeping and blubbering. Stand up, stand up; stand, an you be a man:</p> <p>90 For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand; Why should you fall into so deep an O?</p>	<p>Sentence Structure/Syntax:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Highlight all of the questions in the excerpt.● Highlight all of the exclamatory statements in a second color.● Underline all of the imperative statements.● Write the effect of these sentence types below. <p>Word Choice/Diction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Circle words that describe the teens' behavior.● Define any words that you do not know.● How does the diction influence your understanding of the characters?
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Analyzing a Visual Depiction of Act III, Scene iii

Examine the details in the William Hatherell painting titled [Where's Romeo?](#) Then complete the accompanying activities.

Complete the OPTIC¹ graphic organizer as you examine the painting.

O	O is for Overview . Conduct a brief overview of the main subject of the visual.
	The main focus of the painting is Romeo. He is on the group leaning on a bench crying. He is covered in a bright red cape.
P	P is for Parts . Scrutinize the parts of the visual. Note any elements or details that seem important.
	The nurse and Friar Laurence stand in the back of the painting and appear to be discussing Romeo's current state. They look concerned. There is a play between shadow and the light from the stained glass window in the space between Romeo and the Nurse and the Friar. Also, there the Nurse and the Friar are portrayed in muted colors, which drastically contrast with Romeo's crimson cape.
T	T is for Title . Read the title or caption of the visual (if present) for added information.
	<i>Where's Romeo?</i> is the title. In the play excerpt, the nurse asks where Romeo is, as she has come to report about Juliet. Friar Laurence explains that Romeo is upset.
I	I is for Interrelationships . Use the words in the title or caption and the individual parts of the visual to determine connections and relationships within the graphic.
	The title is ironic as Romeo is the part of the painting your eyes are immediately drawn to--the viewer knows exactly where he is. The bright red of his cape draws immediate attention, and he is hunched over his bench crying at the very front of the painting.
C	C is for Conclusion . Draw a conclusion about the meaning of the visual as a whole. Summarize the message in one or two sentences.
	This painting emphasizes the differences between the young and the old, a pattern of contrast in the play itself by portraying Romeo as a larger, more colorful character in the foreground of the painting and making the Nurse and the Friar appear more muted in the background.

¹ Adapted from Pauk, W. (2000). *How to study in college* (7th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston.

1. Using your mood words handout, list some words that appropriately depict the emotional atmosphere of the painting.

depressed, desolate, dreary, fatalistic, foreboding, morose, somber, tense, worried

2. Using the words that you used to describe the mood of the painting, complete the following statement:

While Romeo is sobbing uncontrollably, the others in the painting are discussing his current state of affairs. The mood of the painting can be described as fatalistic and foreboding, which communicates the idea that rash actions can bring drastic consequences.

3. Look at the idea you wrote above and think about how the details that create the mood of the painting reveal Hatherell's general statement about life or human nature. Write a thematic statement about the painting, *Where's Romeo?* What does this painting have to say about human experience?

Just as Romeo regrets his hasty actions, many people have regretted acting in an uncontrolled fit of rage. Romeo has to face the natural and very fair consequences of his actions. His situation, however unfortunate, shows readers that our reactions to setbacks and conflicts indeed dictate our outcomes.