

Romeo & Love - Cheatsheet

3 Key Facts

1. In Act 1, Scenes 1-4, Romeo pines after Rosaline.
2. Romeo instantly falls in love with Juliet when he meets her in Act 1, Scene 5.
3. Romeo matures when he meets Juliet. This is shown by his changing language.

Key Quotations

"O brawling love! O loving hate!"	When Romeo thinks that he is in love with Rosaline, he speaks in oxymorons (opposite ideas). He feels that his love for Rosaline is "brawling" because it feels like a battle for him. He describes the situation as "loving hate" because he hates the situation he finds himself in, but he still loves Rosaline.
"Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!"	This is another oxymoron used by Romeo to describe his feelings for Rosaline. This highlights how confused and depressed he feels.
"Did my heart love till now... For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night"	As soon as Romeo sees Juliet at the party, he stops feeling any love for Rosaline. He also uses hyperbole (exaggeration) to comment on Juliet's beauty.

The Most Important Questions

What does Romeo repeatedly say about his feelings for Rosaline?	Romeo repeatedly says that his feelings for Rosaline are unrequited. This means that Romeo thinks Rosaline does not feel the same way about him.
What does Romeo's love for Rosaline show about his personality?	Romeo's love for Rosaline shows his childish nature. He seems to be a boy who is more in love with the idea of being in love than actually being in love with someone.
What language does Romeo use to try and woo Juliet?	Romeo keeps trying to woo Juliet by speaking in sonnets (which are traditionally love poems) to exaggerate his love for her.
How does Romeo's language change as he falls for Juliet?	In Act 2, Romeo starts to speak less in sonnets and more in a mixture of sonnets and blank (non-rhyming) verse. This means his feelings sound more genuine as his language sounds more natural.



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