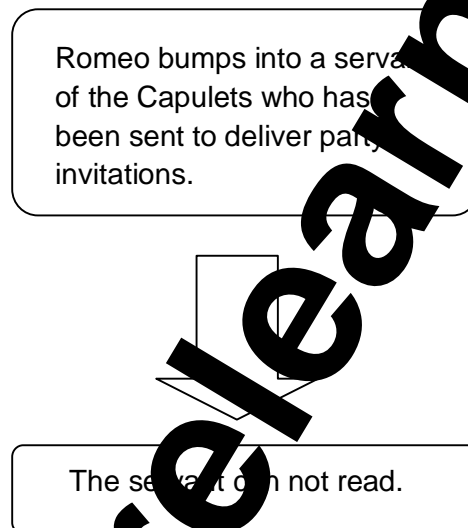


The role of fate

Definition of fate: the power beyond human control that determines events; destruction or an outcome or end, especially one that is adverse and inevitable.
From: *The Penguin English Dictionary*, 2002

1. Bearing in mind the above definition, write one paragraph to summarise the extent to which you think fate is important in *Romeo and Juliet*. You will come back to this later so for now just jot down your initial impressions.
2. Create a flow chart (or other appropriate diagram) to plot the events in the play that can be attributed to (associated with) fate. The first one has been done as an example for you:



3. The following quotation comes from the Prologue: 'From forth the fatal loins of these two foes / A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life.' Why is the phrase, 'star-crossed' linked with the idea of fate?
4. What difference does it make that Shakespeare chose to include the above piece of information in the Prologue to the play?
5. Look on the next page at the quotations, which are all to do with fate, and decide how you could use them in an essay entitled, 'Explore the role of fate in *Romeo and Juliet* and the ways in which Shakespeare uses it for dramatic impact'.
6. Now return to your initial paragraph about the role of fate in *Romeo and Juliet* and re-draft it to reflect the information you have now discovered.

Fill in the gaps to provide the basis for PEA paragraphs on the role of fate in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Analysis:

Evidence:

Romeo: I fear, too early, for my mind /
Some consequence, yet hanging in the stars /
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date /
This night's revels, and expire the term /
Of a despised life closed in my breast /
By some vile forfeit of untimely death (Act 1, Scene 4)

Point:

Even before Romeo meets Juliet
he feels a sense of foreboding
about the future.

Evidence:

Romeo: Is she a Capulet? / O dear account!
My life is my foe's debt. (Act 1, Scene 5)

Analysis:

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Point:

Evidence:
Juliet: Go ask his name. If he is married, / My grave is like to be my wedding bed. (Act 1, Scene 5)

Point:

Evidence:
Juliet: O God! I have an ill-divining soul! / Methinks I see thee, now thou art so low, / As one dead in the bottom of a tomb. (Act 1, Scene 5)

Analysis: