



Analyzing an Argument – *Romeo and Juliet* Grade Nine

Skill Focus

Levels of Thinking				
Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate
Close Reading		Grammar		Composition
Reading Strategies Inference Figures of Speech Metaphor Personification Simile Sound Devices Alliteration Literary Techniques Antithesis Argumentation emotional appeals ethical appeals logical appeals Literary Forms Drama Verse	Syntax Techniques Asyndeton Parallelism Polysyndeton Repetition epistrophe Reversal inverted order (inversion) Rhetorical Question (10)	Types (modes) Expository analytical		

Materials and Resources

- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- Terms associated with Close Reading
- Terms associated with Grammar
- Grammar Foundation Lesson: “Advanced Syntax Techniques”

Lesson Introduction

The text is Act III, scene iv of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Note the rhetorical devices all through the monologue.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| • rhetorical question | • asyndeton | • metaphor | • alliteration |
| • repetition | • epistrophe | • parallelism | • antithesis |
| • polysyndeton | • inversion | • simile | • personification |

Show how Shakespeare uses these rhetorical devices to create a speech that persuades Romeo to reconsider his rash deed.

Note: One example of each type of rhetorical device is noted in the margin.

In grief and despair over his banishment, Romeo tries to stab himself, and the Nurse snatches away the dagger. The Friar then addresses Romeo:

Hold thy desperate hand.	
Are thou a man? Thy form cries out thou art;	rhetorical question
Thy tears are womanish, thy wild acts denote	
The unreasonable fury of a beast.	metaphor
Unseemly woman in a seeming man,	repetition
And ill-beseeming beast in seeming both!	
Thou hast amazed me. By my holy order,	
I thought thy disposition better tempered.	
Hast thou slain Tybalt? Wilt thou slay thyself?	
And slay thy lady that in thy life lives,	
By doing damned hate upon thyself?	
Why raillest thou on thy birth, the heaven, and earth,	parallelism
Since birth and heaven and earth, all three do meet	polysyndeton
In thee at once, which thou at once wouldst lose.	
Fie, fie, thou shamest thy shape, thy love, thy wit,	asyndeton
Which, like a usurer, abound'st in all,	simile
And usest none in that true use indeed	
Which should bedeck thy shape, thy love, thy wit.	
Thy noble shape is but a form of wax,	
Digressing from the valor of a man;	
Thy dear love sworn but hollow perjury,	
Killing that love which thou hast vowed to cherish;	
Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,	
Misshapen in the conduct of them both,	
Like powder in a skillless soldier's flask,	
Is set afire by thine own ignorance,	
And thou dismemb' red with thine own defense.	alliteration
What, rouse thee, man! Thy Juliet is alive,	
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead:	
There art thou happy. Tybalt would kill thee,	epistrophe
But thou slewest Tybalt: There art thou happy.	antithesis, inversion
The law, that threat' ned death becomes thy friend	
And turns it into exile: There art thou happy.	
A pack of blessings light upon thy back,	
Happiness courts thee in her best array;	personification
But, like a misbehavèd and sullen wench,	
Thou puts up thy fortune and thy love.	
Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.	



Analyzing an Argument – *Romeo and Juliet* Grade Nine

The text is Act III, scene iv of *Romeo and Juliet*. In grief and despair over his banishment, Romeo tries to stab himself, and the Nurse snatches away the dagger. The Friar then addresses Romeo:

Close Reading

Hold thy desperate hand.
Are thou a man? Thy form cries out thou art;
Thy tears are womanish, thy wild acts denote
The unreasonable fury of a beast.
Unseemly woman in a seeming man,
And ill-beseeming beast in seeming both!
Thou hast amazed me. By my holy order,
I thought thy disposition better tempered.
Hast thou slain Tybalt? Wilt thou slay thyself?
And slay thy lady that in thy life lives,
By doing damned hate upon thyself?
Why railst thou on thy birth, the heaven, and earth,
Since birth and heaven and earth, all three do meet
In thee at once, which thou at once wouldst lose.
Fie, fie, thou shamest thy shape, thy love, thy wit,
Which, like a usurer, abound'st in all,
And usest none in that true use indeed
Which should bedeck thy shape, thy love, thy wit.
Thy noble shape is but a form of wax,
Digressing from the valor of a man;
Thy dear love sworn but hollow perjury,
Killing that love which thou hast vowed to cherish;
Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,
Misshapen in the conduct of them both,
Like powder in a skillless soldier's flask,
Is set afire by thine own ignorance,
And thou dismemb' red with thine own defense.
What, rouse thee, man! Thy Juliet is alive,
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead:
There art thou happy. Tybalt would kill thee,
But thou slewest Tybalt: There art thou happy.
The law, that threat' ned death, becomes thy friend
And turns it into exile: There art thou happy.
A pack of blessings light upon thy back,

Happiness courts thee in her best array;
 But, like a misbehavèd and sullen wench,
 Thou puts up thy fortune and thy love.
 Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.

1. Mark the rhetorical devices throughout the monologue.
 - rhetorical question • asyndeton
 - metaphor • alliteration
 - repetition • epistrophe
 - parallelism • antithesis
 - polysyndeton • inversion
 - simile • personification

2. Select three examples from number one and write a paragraph explaining how Shakespeare uses these rhetorical devices to create a speech that persuades Romeo to reconsider his rash deed.

3. Fill in the chart with examples of appeals to logic and emotion.

Logical Appeals	Emotional Appeals

4. Does the Friar rely more on logic or emotion, or is there a balance between the two?