

(Students 3 and 4 set up the crypt, as Student 2 walks center stage and lies down [as the seemingly dead Juliet]. Student 1 pries open the crypt.)
STU. 1 (R).

Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death
Gorg'd with the dearest morsel of the earth,
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,
And in despite I'll cram thee with more food.

(Student 1 enters the crypt.)

O here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes
This vault a feasting presence, full of light.
How oft when men are at the point of death
Have they been merry! Which their keepers call
A lightning before death. O how may I
Call this a lightning?

(He kneels next to Student 2.)

O my love, my wife,
Death that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty.
Thou art not conquer'd. Beauty's ensign yet
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,
And Death's pale flag is not advanced there.
Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
That unsubstantial Death is amorous,
And that the lean abhorred monster keeps
Thee here in dark to be his paramour?
For fear of that I still will stay with thee,
And never from this palace of dim night
Depart again. Here, here, will I remain
With worms that are thy chambermaids. O here
Will I set up my everlasting rest
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars
From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, look your last.
Arms, take your last embrace! And lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
A dateless bargain to engrossing Death.

(As Student 1 takes up the fabric, Students 3 & 4 move toward him.)

Come, bitter conduct, come unsavory guide,
Thou desperate pilot now at once run on
The dashing rocks thy seasick weary bark.
Here's to my love!

(Students 3 & 4 take each end of the fabric and pulls it through Student 1's grasping hands.)

O true apothecary,

Thy drugs are quick.

(Student 1 kisses Student 2.)

Thus with a kiss I die.

(Student 1 falls. A long silence. A sound. Students 3 & 4 look at each other, terrified.)

STU. 4.

Fear comes upon me.

STU. 3.

O, much I fear some ill unthrifty thing.

(The two run to Student 1 and try to rouse him.)

Romeo ...

(Student 1 does not move.)

STU. 4.

O, pale ...

STU. 3.

Ah what an unkind hour

Is guilty of this lamentable chance?

(Student 2 awakens.)

STU. 4.

The lady stirs.

(He goes and checks the door to make sure no one is coming, as Student 3 checks Student 2.)

STU. 2 (J).

O comfortable Friar, where is my lord?

I do remember well where I should be,

And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

(Student 3 takes Student 2 and tries to get him to leave. Another sound.)

STU. 4.

I hear some noise.

STU. 3 (F).

Lady, come from that nest

Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep.

A greater power than we can contradict

Hath thwarted our intents.

(As the marching continues, Student 4 grabs the clothes and composition books from under the floorboards.)

START

STU. 4.

Come, come away.

(Student 2 notices Student 1's body.)

STU. 3 (F).

Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead,

Come Juliet, come, I'll dispose of thee

Among a sisterhood of holy nuns.

(Student 2 runs to Student 1's body.)

STU. 4.

Stay not to question, for the Watch is coming.

STU. 3 (F).

Come, go, good Juliet.

(Students 3 & 4 grab their uniforms and dress. Student 2 notices the fabric in Student 1's clutching hand.)

STU. 2 (J).

What's here? A cup clos'd in my true love's hand?

Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end.

(He cannot pull the fabric from Student 1's tight grasp.)

O churl. Drunk all, and left no friendly drop

To help me after? I will kiss thy lips.

Haply some poison yet doth hang on them

To make me die with a restorative.

(He kisses Student 1.)

Thy lips are warm ...

(Students 3 & 4 start marching.)

STU. 2 (J).

Yea, noise? Then I'll be brief. O happy dagger.

This is thy sheath.

(Student 2 takes the fabric and wraps it around his chest.) STOP

There rust, and let me die.

(Student 3 takes one end of the fabric and pulls. Student 2 falls across Student 1's body. The marching stops. Pause. School bells ring. It is morning. The "dream" is over.)

STU. 3.

Now, ere the sun advance his burning eye

The day to cheer, and nights dank dew to dry.

(Students 2, 3, & 4 hurriedly finish dressing for class. They remind themselves of their daily lessons.)

STU. 2. Amo, Amas, Amat, Amamus, Amatis, Amant ... *(He repeats through Student 1's speech.)*

STU. 3. The business of a man is to govern the world, and the destiny of a woman is to charm and influence it. *(He repeats through Student 1's speech.)*

STU. 4. Thou shalt not lie, steal, cheat, kill, lust. *(He repeats through Student 1's speech. Once dressed, they begin doing their old marching patterns. Student 1 runs and grabs the copy of Romeo & Juliet and tries to hold his fellow students with his words, then physically as well.)*

STU. 1.

Now is the time of night

That the graves, all gaping wide,

Everyone lets forth his sprite.

In the churchway paths to glide

And we fairies, that do run

By the triple Hecate's team

From the presence of the sun,

Following darkness like a dream,

Now are frolic!!!!

Now is the time of night ...

Now is the time of night ...

Now is the time of night...!

(Student 2 grabs Student 1 and holds him.)

STU. 2. Shh ... Shhh ...

If these shadows have offended,

Think but this, and all is mended:

That we have but ... slumbered here

Whilst these visions did appear.

And this weak and idle theme,

No more yielding but a dream.

(Student 1 goes to kiss Student 2. Student 2 pulls away from it. Students 2, 3, & 4 begin to march away.)

STU. 1.

If we be friends, give me your hands.

(One by one Students 2, 3, & 4 join Student 1. They clasp hands.)

A glooming peace this morning with it brings:

The sun for sorrow will not show his head.

Go hence to have more talk of these sad things.

(Student 1 takes the copy of Romeo & Juliet and reads from it. It is the most difficult thing he's ever had to do.)

For never was a story of more woe

Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.