

FATE AND FREE WILL IN ROMEO AND JULIET ESSAY SAMPLE

Choice is one of the main issues of the tragedy Romeo and Juliet. Can the characters choose what they are willing to do or are they just destined to the death and destruction? The play conveys the idea that people are powerless to change their fate.

Fate is the central theme from the beginning of the play and, actually, it's the dominant force. From the very beginning, we are completely aware that the story of Romeo and Juliet will have a tragic end. We also understand that this tragic end is not a result of their actions or personal flaws. It is the fate that marked them for sorrow. We know that everything was decided for them and they can do nothing to change their destiny. In the Opening Prologue, we are informed that the fate controls the destinies of the main characters and Romeo and Juliet are "star-crossed" and "death-marked" and after their deaths, their parents' feud will end. Fate is against them so the lovers will be punished.

The problem of the relationship between fate and free will is set from the very beginning of the tragedy. Fate and fortune dominate in the play and all events in the play are out of human control. The characters also believe that they cannot make their own choices because destiny and luck have a full control of their lives and see omens in many situations. Romeo believes in the powers of the stars that can predict his future and tell what his fate has in store for him. Moreover, he also believes that he is destined to die. Romeo also demonstrates that he believes in the power of dreams that can also foretell the future. In the end of the play, Romeo commits suicide, making an attempt to escape from his destiny but, ironically, he fulfills his destiny. Juliet shows belief in the power of fate as well and when Romeo escapes from Mantua, she appeals to fortune to send Romeo back. Friar Laurence thinks that God has planned all events in the life of people so destiny exists and has power over people.

Fate influences all aspects of Romeo and Juliet relationships from the very beginning. Romeo falls in love with young Juliet at a party he should never have come to. Young people love each in spite of the feud between their families. Romeo proposes a marriage and Friar Laurence agrees to perform the ceremony. All these events demonstrate that fate guides people and controls their lives. Fate rules in all the events that surround the young lovers: the feud between their families, series of accidents that ruin the initial plan of Friar Laurence, the timing of Romeo's suicide and Juliet's awakening.

All events in the tragedy are not coincidences. They are manifestations of the power of fate that brings about the inevitable death of the young lovers. The whole play shows how cruel fate can be and how different events work together to break a great love of Romeo and Juliet.

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