

MAKING MEANINGS ACT IV

First Thoughts

1. Why is Juliet so willing to trust the friar's plan? Would you be willing to?

Shaping Interpretations

2. One of the pleasures of watching a play is knowing something that a character onstage does not know. This use of **dramatic irony** makes us feel **suspense**. We wait anxiously to find out what will happen when the characters discover what we already know. Where do you feel dramatic irony in Scenes 2, 3, and 4?
3. What terrible trials does Juliet face in this act? How does she respond to these challenges?
4. What do Juliet's responses tell you about her **character**?
5. Juliet's parents are the **blocking figures** in the play—their plans for Juliet make it seem impossible for the young couple to stay together. Does Shakespeare present the Capulets as bad characters? Or does he help us see them as complex human beings, not as mere stage villains? Explain your feelings.

Reading Check

- a. In Scene 1, what does Juliet threaten to do if the friar cannot help her?
- b. What is the friar's plan for getting Romeo and Juliet together?
- c. In Scene 2, another major problem comes up: What change does Capulet make in the wedding plans?
- d. What is the situation in the Capulet house at the end of Act IV?

CHOICES: Building Your Portfolio

Writer's Notebook

1. Collecting Ideas for a Research Paper

Finding a topic. As you search for a topic for the research paper



you'll write for the Writer's Workshop on page 868, you might be inspired by issues in the play that remind you of real-life situations today. Racial or ethnic hatreds often divide people and lead to tragedy.

You might think of problems in places like Northern Ireland, Eastern Europe, the Middle East—even in the United States, where racial animosities still cause tragedy. Jot down some examples of ethnic or racial or religious animosities you're aware of. Could one of these give you a topic for a research paper? Be sure to read "Dear Juliet" (see *Connections* on page 854) and "Romeo and Juliet in Bosnia" (page 860).

Creative Writing

2. Juliet's Thoughts

Write down Juliet's thoughts as you imagine them during this difficult time. (You could write as "I.") Write about her feelings toward her parents, Romeo, her nurse, Paris, and Friar Laurence. Let Juliet describe her feelings about the drug she is about to take and about her horror of being buried alive.

Re
Bookin

P
Par
own
plifie
shor
than
as in
chec
text
Juliet

I
I
A
Para
that,

A Cl
✓
✓
✓
✓
✓
✓