

Name _____

The Journey of 'Romeo and Juliet': Start, Middle, and End

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The themes of love and hatred are central to "Romeo and Juliet." At the start, love between the two protagonists is passionate and forbidden due to their families' hatred. In the middle, love is tested by the feuding families, and hatred escalates with Mercutio's death. At the end, the tragedy underscores the destructive nature of hatred and the power of love to transcend it.
2. Romeo and Juliet's secret marriage complicates their lives, leading to Mercutio's death, Romeo's banishment, and the tragic conclusion. Their marriage symbolizes their love, but it also seals their fate as it contributes to the escalating conflict.
3. Juliet's character evolves from a young and obedient daughter to a determined and brave lover. She goes from being passive in her circumstances to taking drastic actions to be with Romeo, ultimately leading to her tragic end.
4. Friar Laurence plays a pivotal role in the play by marrying Romeo and Juliet, concocting the plan with Juliet's potion, and advising Romeo. However, his decisions have unintended consequences that contribute to the tragedy, highlighting the complexities of his character.

