

Remind yourself of Act 1 Scene 3 and its significance in the play "Romeo and Juliet".

Starting with this scene, explore the ways in which the Nurse is presented in Shakespeare's play, and in one or more performed versions of the play.

Baz Luhrmann

Introduction: so for the Intro: Address the question-overall now is the nurse portrayed-explain your main point-focus on act 1 scene 3, comment on her relationship with Juliet, comment on how the nurse is mainly presented in the Baz Luhrmann Romeo and Juliet, highlight how the nurse and Juliet's relationship develops during the play,
Paragraph 1: The Nurse and Juliet's close bond (Maternal figure) Point: The close bond is heavily emphasised in many ways throughout the play, shown initially, act... First quotation: "Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed./ And I might love to see thee married" Analysis: Shows the range of time she has looked after Juliet; she used to Nurse a lot of babies, but she was special, so it is a quick transition (married) to show time span and how she's stayed with her the whole time and only nurses her now, shows the bond created due to the long amount of time spent together Detailed Analysis: "My lord and you were then at Mantua." - shows that LC was not there to bring up J, Nurse was filling in and moreover making it seem to J's manipulatable young mind that J was her mother, so as J has grown up, Nurse has become J's maternal figure and feels the instinctive motherly love for N rather than JC. Link to Film: Act 1 Scene 3, camera angles, close up for N+J, long shots for LC, shows literal closeness of relationship, and literal distance of relationship Point: Closeness of relationship means can have banter and tease each other without hurting each other's feelings too much. Second quotation: "I am a-weary give me leave a while. Fie how my bones ache!" Analysis: Shows how Nurse teases J and creates suspense, making it seem as if the Nurse should be the centre of attention to aggravate J, shows how they can do this due to the closeness of the relationship, abnormal as she should just have been the wit-nurse, and she is fully competent to handle herself, the Nurse still stays with J, as the relationship is too strong for them to part. Detailed analysis: Use of caesura shows she can go on no longer, but exclamation mark shows exaggeration+sarcasm of what she's saying Link to film: Nurse's eye contact is very passive and she does not look at J a lot, shows she is intentionally avoiding J and the subject of R, all to tease J
Paragraph 2: Nurse's loyalty to Juliet Point: Nurse is also loyal to J throughout, even through hard times starts out with First quotation: "Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days." Analysis: LC discards J's emotions and just wants J to marry for money, doesn't really care about J, however N stays behind and tells J to do whatever J wants to do. This further shows N's close relationship with J and that N goes against her job for J's sake, as she is no longer just a N, but has become a maternal figure to J that supports J in what she does. Detailed Analysis: Fact that line is on its own emphasizes that this is a brief secret that is not to be flaunted, reinforces N's loyalty to J as she risks getting in trouble to advise J. Link to Film: N says the line with vulgar face, bawdy humour Point: Even after changing mind about R, N still looks after J, as she still loves J Second quotation: "O woeful day!" Analysis: Repetition of this shows how the N cannot believe that J is dead, and appears more upset than LC, shows that in reality N is like the real mother and acts like it were her child that died, shows loyalty to J even after going against J's decisions. Detailed Analysis: N says "That you shall rest but little, shows bawdy, jovial humour even with J mad at her, still loving her even after an argument, similar to how a mother would, reinforcing N's maternal loyalty. Link to film: act 3 scene 5, N holds J as she tells J (body language, shows how she doesn't want to hurt J, it is just what she thinks is best for J, and to prevent her running away with R, as she knows J very well, like a mother, so tries to break it to her gently.