Act 1 Scene 1 Discussion Points and Questions

1. Characterize Sampson and Gregory
   1. Sampson - Jerk with a lot of aggression/anger
   2. Gregory - More calm
2. Contrast what the servants say openly vs. what they say in the “asides” (or whispers to each other). What does this contrast reveal about Sampson and Gregory?
   1. When they speak openly, their words are bold and rash. When they speak in asides, they are cautious and timid. The contrast reveals that they’re not as brave as they claim to be.
3. Characterize Tybalt and Benvolio
   1. Tybalt: hot headed (easily angered), trouble-maker, hates peace, hates the Montagues (very vocal about it)
   2. Benvolio: not as obsessed with fighting and hate, but will fight if he has to (mild temperament…tries to avoid conflict/confrontation)
4. How does love win over hate in the scene with Mr. Capulet and Montague
   1. Lady Capulet and Lady Montague have love for their husbands and they are able to stop the hatred between the two men from erupting into more violence (the men listen to their wives)
5. Why is Prince Escalus pissed?
   1. He is sick of the fighting between Montagues and Capulets because everyone is in a frenzy and violence erupted three times that disturbed the peace (he is supposed to keep the peace and protect his town)
6. How does Prince Escalus get everyone to drop their swords?
   1. Threatens them with the death penalty
7. Why is Montague worried about Romeo?
   1. He is really sad and somber and is closing out happiness and will not talk to him about why (which he thinks is immature). Romeo is withdrawn, sad, and keeping silence…Montague doesn’t know why so he doesn’t know how severe it is.
8. What advice does Benvolio give to Romeo about his situation. What does this scene tell us about Benvolio?
   1. Move on
   2. He’s caring towards Romeo and wants him to feel okay (but also wants to give him space, so he’s considerate)
9. What advice would you give your friend if they were in Romeo’s situation? (They love someone who doesn’t love them back). Why would you give that advice?
10. What is Romeo’s opinion about love?
    1. Romeo’s opinion is that love is a violent, contradictory thing. He doesn’t feel that love is necessarily good, for he calls it a “choking gall” and “preserving sweet”
    2. Love is too hard to forget or move on from
    3. He thinks women should show off their beauty and sleep with men
11. Characterize Romeo
    1. He is driven by his emotions

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