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English – 3
November 26, 2003

English Essay:

Do you think Romeo and Juliet were really in love?

“With love’s light wings did I o’erperch these walls, for stony limits cannot hold love out, and what love can do, that dares love attempt. Therefore they kinsmen are no stop me.” –Romeo Montague (pg 769 lines 65-69). In William Shakespeare’s “The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet” it is a frequently asked question throughout the play whether Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet were actually in love. To start off answering this question many might ask, what is the definition of love? The Webster’s Dictionary defines love as: a strong usually passionate, affection of one person for another. Did Romeo and Juliet have this strong passionate affection for one another or did they make a huge mistake by killing themselves for one another.

Many might say that Romeo and Juliet were too young to experience what they call “true love”. While Romeo was in his late teens, Juliet was nearly fourteen years old (*“I’ll lay fourteen of my teeth-And yet, to my teen be it spoken, I have but four”* (pg 748 lines 11-12) and never had been in a serious relationship that we know of. Many might conclude that the relationship between Romeo and Juliet was only based upon a physical attraction they had towards one another. Also throughout the play, the viewers of the play learn Romeo and Juliet were rushed into many things. When Romeo and Juliet’s eyes both met for the first time, Romeo immediately went to Juliet and wanted to kiss her. *“My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand, to smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.”* (pg 758 lines 97-98). Not only had they just met, but they had only talked for about a minute. This was not only rushed but very surprising to the viewers of the play because we had just learned that Romeo was deeply in love with another woman named Rosalyn. Also the day after they met, is when they made the decision to be married. *“Thy propose marriage, send me word tomorrow, by one that I procure to come here”* (pg 772, lines 144-145).

You might consider the fact that Lady and Lord Capulet had arranged Juliet to be married to Prince Paris the day before. Maybe Juliet married Romeo so soon as possible, trying to avoid her arranged marriage with Prince Paris. Maybe she only thought that Romeo was the “man of her life”.