

Romeo and Juliet

Read this extract from *Act 3 Scene 1* of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Tybalt is challenging Romeo, with Mercutio as a witness.

MERCUTIO

No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church-door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve: ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am peppered, I warrant, for this world. A plague o' both your houses! 'Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death! a braggart, a rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetic! Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

ROMEO

I thought all for the best.

MERCUTIO

*Help me into some house, Benvolio,
Or I shall faint. A plague o' both your houses!
They have made worms' meat of me: I have it,
And soundly too: your houses!*

Exeunt MERCUTIO and BENVOLIO

ROMEO

*This gentleman, the prince's near ally,
My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt
In my behalf; my reputation stain'd
With Tybalt's slander,--Tybalt, that an hour
Hath been my kinsman! O sweet Juliet,
Thy beauty hath made me effeminate
And in my temper soften'd valour's steel!*

Re-enter BENVOLIO

BENVOLIO

*O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio's dead!
That gallant spirit hath aspir'd the clouds,
Which too untimely here did scorn the earth.*

ROMEO

*This day's black fate on more days doth depend;
This but begins the woe, others must end.*

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Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents attitude to truth and honour.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents attitudes to honour and truth in the extract.
- how Shakespeare presents attitudes to honour and truth in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over ►