
Romeo and Juliet

Read this extract from Act 4 Scene 2 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the Juliet seems to apologise to her father for her disobedience.

	Juliet
	What if it be a poison, which the friar Subtly hath minister'd to have me dead, Lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd, Because he married me before to Romeo?
5	I fear it is: and yet, methinks, it should not, For he hath still been tried a holy man. How if, when I am laid into the tomb, I wake before the time that Romeo
10	Come to redeem me? there's a fearful point! Shall I not, then, be stifled in the vault, To whose foul mouth no healthsome air breathes in, And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes?
15	Or, if I live, is it not very like, The horrible conceit of death and night, Together with the terror of the place,-- As in a vault, an ancient receptacle, Where, for these many hundred years, the bones
20	Of all my buried ancestors are packed: Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth, Lies festering in his shroud; where, as they say, At some hours in the night spirits resort;--

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Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents Juliet as a rationale and sensible character.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Juliet in this exchange.
- how Shakespeare presents Juliet in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question