

Romeo and Juliet

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

At this point in the play Romeo is engaging with Mercutio over love.

	Nurse I am a-weary, give me leave awhile: Fie, how my bones ache! what a jaunt have I had!
	JULIET I would thou hadst my bones, and I thy news: Nay, come, I pray thee, speak; good, good nurse, 5 speak.
	Nurse Jesu, what haste? can you not stay awhile? Do you not see that I am out of breath?
	JULIET How art thou out of breath, when thou hast breath To say to me that thou art out of breath? 10 The excuse that thou dost make in this delay Is longer than the tale thou dost excuse. Is thy news good, or bad? answer to that; Say either, and I'll stay the circumstance: Let me be satisfied, is't good or bad?
	Nurse 15 Well, you have made a simple choice; you know not how to choose a man: Romeo! no, not he; though his face be better than any man's, yet his leg excels all men's; and for a hand, and a foot, and a body, though they be not to be talked on, yet they are 20 past compare: he is not the flower of courtesy, but, I'll warrant him, as gentle as a lamb. Go thy ways, wench; serve God. What, have you dined at home?

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Starting with this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the nature of motherhood.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents motherhood in this extract.
- how Shakespeare presents motherhood as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question