ROMEO AND JULIET

Romeo and Juliet Act 1 Scene 5 edit

ROMEO

taking Juliet's hand
If I profane with my unworthiest hand
This holy shrine, the gentle sin is this:
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

JULIET

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much, Which mannerly devotion shows in this; For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch, And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

ROMEO

Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

JULIET

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

ROMEO

O then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do. They pray: grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

JULIET

Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

ROMEO

Then move not while my prayer's effect I take. *He kisses her.*

Thus from my lips, by thine, my sin is purged.

Underline all the vocabulary related to religion in this extract. What do you notice about these words? What connotations do they have? Why might Shakespeare have chosen to use words with these connotations in Romeo and Juliet's first shared dialogue?

Look closely at the type of sentences Romeo and Juliet use. Colour code them according to whether they are imperatives, declaratives and interrogatives. Which sentence type does Juliet use most often, and which Romeo? What might this tell us about their personalities?

Highlight all the references to the body in this speech. What body parts do Romeo and Juliet focus on? What senses are these body parts associated with? What does this tell us about their feelings for one another?





ROMEO AND JULIET

JULIET

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO

Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly urged! Give me my sin again. He kisses her.

JULIET

You kiss by th' book.



