

English 9
Romeo and Juliet

Name _____

Essay on Secrecy

Deceit is the "act of concealing or misrepresenting the truth; lying". Deception, lying, cheating, and fraud all come from the same idea of trying to cover up or alter the truth. From these come some of the most intriguing behaviors known to man. From these intrigues come some of the best, most fascinating stories in literature. Humans love a good story, especially one filled with devious turns, lies, and secrets which have to be unraveled before the plot can have any decent kind of end. Modern day soap operas are filled with these deceptions; everyday life is filled with them, too. Even the "white lie," meant to be told for a good reason, can backfire and make a mess of things.

ROMEO AND JULIET is an excellent example of this. Having to hide their love, Romeo and Juliet become entangled in a set of circumstances from which they cannot escape. In the end, the well-intended deceptions and secrets cut down the lives of not only Romeo and Juliet but Mercutio, Tybalt, Paris and many of their kinsmen. In addition the whole of Verona must suffer these losses. While a "forbidden" love can be exciting, this one led to a totally tragic end.

In an essay, show how secrecy creates a web of trouble for Romeo and Juliet from which they cannot escape. Try to come up with all the hiding, lies, and "secret" plans which create this entanglement, and explain at what point these added up to the final outcome - the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. You don't necessarily need specific lines as much as a logical sequencing of the events in the play as they unfold. If you do quote from the play, please cite the Act, scene, lines. (I, ii, 3-10).