

Romeo and Juliet**Essay on Love at First Sight**

The Beatles ask "Do you believe in a love at first sight?" and respond with "Yes, I'm certain that it happens all the time." Romantically speaking, love at first sight seems exciting, but, is it really love, or is it simply infatuation, or even something chemical, something completely inexplicable? Love is blind.

The power of "love," especially a first love, or puppy love, is something which stays with a person forever. Ask your parents to remember back to the first person they fell "head over heels" in love with; ask them what it felt like. Almost everyone has experienced this at one time.

Romeo and Juliet were young and in love. But they were also placed in an unusual set of circumstances by the real-life city-state of Verona and by Shakespeare in his play: Their two families (mostly for political reasons) **hated** each other, so Romeo and Juliet were forced to keep their feelings a secret. It is hard to say how their paths would have been different had this hatred not been present. But, that is not the plot, so we'll never know. Romeo and Juliet fell in love, maybe exhibiting more passion than wisdom, but that is what young people do. Many times older people forget the power of love. Romeo and Juliet's encounter on the balcony should remind everyone of how powerful, how wonderful first love can be. But the play's end also should remind us of the consequences that can be suffered by acting too hastily and in secret.

Re-read the scenes where Romeo and Juliet first see one another; also re-read the balcony scene and the scene in Act III where Romeo and Juliet, fresh from their first (and only) night together, must say good-bye. After reading these parts of the play, explain how Shakespeare's words create the excitement, beauty and tenderness of young love, of a love that is one which happened literally at first sight. If you use specific lines from the play, you know the drill.