

## *Romeo and Juliet Character Diaries*

For this major assignment (100 points), you will assume the persona of a character in *Romeo and Juliet* and create an appropriate diary. The diary entry will reflect the character's unique traits: sex, rank, and social position, as well as personality and temperament. Remember, you are climbing inside this character's skin – you *are* this character. How do they think? Feel? What do they believe? Why do they do what they do? This activity stretches over the entire study of the play. I will give you time during classes to work on it.

Your diary will contain a minimum of **five** entries. Entries should show how the character grows and changes based upon what that character knows at certain points in the play. Include as much information from Shakespeare's text as possible in your journal entries. Quote the text directly at least once in each entry – in fact, beginning with a quote may be a good jumping off point for a creative exploration of the scene you plan to discuss in your entry.

Be creative; tackle Shakespearean-sounding English or poetry for extra points (but only if you tackle it correctly and make sense!). If your character dies or disappears during the play, you must create a letter from another character who has "found" the diary and written an explanation of what happened to the character (and if Shakespeare didn't say, that means you get to be creative).

Divide into small groups with other writers. Edit each other's work. Revise your entries. Your final drafts must be free of errors and presented in a creative format (think back to the *Oliver Twist* newspapers, which many of you did so creatively – how can you make a character diary look as nice?)