

Romeo & Juliet Act IV Enrichment Activity

Reading Charts

In Act IV, Friar Lawrence administers his herbal potion to Juliet. He explains his interest in herbs and medicines when we first meet him in Act II, Scene iii, saying, *“O, mickle is the powerful grace that lies / In plants, herbs, stones, and their true qualities.”*

Modern medicine has its roots in Greek and Roman tradition, but it began to develop alongside advancing technology in the seventeenth century, long after Friar Lawrence’s time.

Today, medicine is one of our most specialized areas of knowledge. Consider the following chart, which lists several fields, or areas of specialization, in modern medicine.

FIELD	DESCRIPTION	FIELD	DESCRIPTION
Chemotherapy	Prevention or treatment of disease by chemical means	Psychiatry	Mental and emotional illnesses
Orthopedics	Bones, joints, muscles	Hematology	Diseases of the blood
Family Practice	General medicine	Radiology	X-ray and other technology for diagnosis
Pharmacology	Drugs	Ophthalmology	Eyes
Emergency Medicine	Traumatic or medical emergencies	Surgery	Operating techniques of many types

PART I. DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions on the lines provided.

1. Friar Lawrence’s administration of medicine to Juliet might fall into a number of fields of modern medicine. Refer to the chart. Into which medical fields would you classify his actions?

2. Although highly skilled, modern medical personnel must depend on one another when areas of treatment overlap. For each of the following items, list other fields whose specialists might be involved in treatment.

Emergency	Ophthalmology	Orthopedics	Surgery

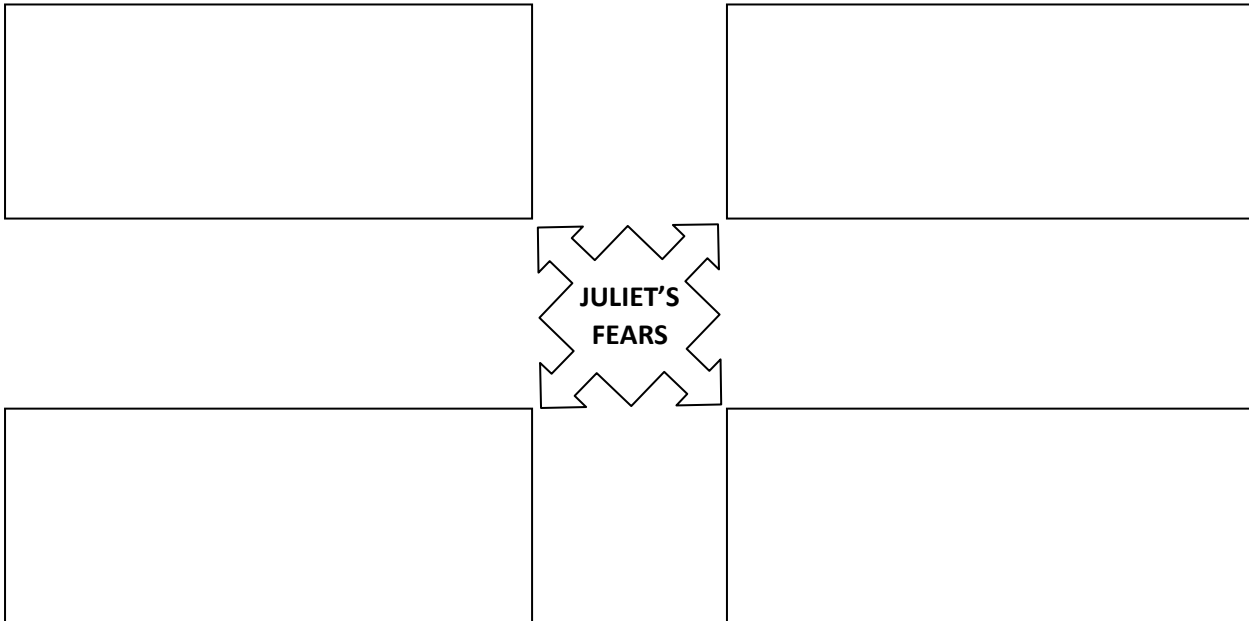
PART II. Short Answer

DIRECTIONS: Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. What is the dramatic irony in the conversation between Juliet and Paris at Friar Lawrence’s cell in Act IV, Scene i, lines 18–43, of *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*?

2. When Juliet comes to Friar Lawrence’s cell, what help does she hope the Friar will provide in Act IV, Scene i, lines 50–67, of *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*? What does she feel is her alternative if he cannot help her?

3. In Act IV, Scene iii, of *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet experiences fears as she prepares to drink the potion the Friar has given her. Fill in the cluster chart, listing the frightening things she imagines before she drinks.



4. What is the dramatic irony in Act IV, Scene v, of *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* when everyone mourns Juliet’s death?
