

Love Connection

Directions: Read the lines listed for each of the following characters. In the first column, write the lines as they appear in the play. Then draw some conclusions about each line or set of lines. What insights do they give into each character’s experiences with, feeling towards, or attitudes about love and marriage? Jot down these insights in the third column.

Character	Lines	Conclusions
Romeo Act 1, Scene 1, 202-206	“Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs; / Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes; / Being vexed, a sea nourished with loving tears. / What is it else? A madness most discreet, / A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.”	Love is confusing – it’s good, it’s bad; it brings pleasure, it brings pain. It is a thing of great extremes.
Benvolio Act 1, Scene 1, 242-243 Act 1, Scene 2, 47-48	“By giving liberty unto thine eyes. / Examine other beauties.” “Tut man, one fire burns out another's burning. / One pain is lessened by another's anguish.”	If one love doesn’t work out, there are many more out there to choose from. One can ease the pain of lost love by starting another love.
Paris Act 1, Scene 2, 12	“Younger than she are happy mothers made.”	Paris is eager to marry. Age is not an issue.
Capulet Act 1, Scene 2, 13 Act 1, Scene 2, 16-17	“And too soon marred are those so early made.” “But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart. / My will to her consent is but a part.”	Girls who marry too early become bitter & shrewish or grow up too fast. If a girl is truly in love with a man, the father will agree to the marriage.
Juliet Act 1, Scene 3, 72 Act 1, Scene 3, 106-108	“It is an honor that I dream not of.” “I’ll look to like if looking liking move. / But no more deep will I endart mine eye / Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.”	Marriage is good. Girls should look to like men, but no more than they are allowed to.
Lady Capulet Act 1, Scene 3, 75-79	“Well, think of marriage now. Younger than you / Here in Verona, ladies of esteem / Are made already mothers. By my count, / I was your mother much upon these years”	Marriage and childbearing should be done while still young, just like the previous generation. Age is no issue.
Nurse Act 1, Scene 3, 104	“No less? Nay, bigger. Women grow by men.”	Women are made better by men – especially since men get them pregnant.
Mercutio Act 1, Scene 4, 27	“If love be rough with you, be rough with love.”	Don’t let love rule you – if you don’t get what you want, find it another way. (Literally, he is referring to sex.)

Grading Deductions: 1) Translates rather than draws conclusions about attitudes; 2) Is clearly inaccurate; 3) Is incomplete, especially the quotations; 4) Is too messy to read.