First Name Last Name

Mrs. Criner

English I, period \_\_

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Juliet’s Genuine Love

In William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet’s love for Romeo is real, not just infatuation. When her mother asks her if she is eager to get married, Juliet answers, “It is an honour that I dream not of” (14). This is not just a hypothetical question; Paris has expressed an interest in marrying her. Juliet’s lack of interest shows that she does not just fall for any man who pursues her, suggesting that when she does decide to marry Romeo, it is because of real feelings. Also, when Juliet realizes Romeo is outside her window, she tells him she is glad he cannot see her face clearly in the darkness, “else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek / For that which thou hast heard me speak to-night” (27). Juliet thought she was alone when she spoke romantically about Romeo, which means she said those things because she felt the need to express herself, not to impress him. Her embarrassment comes from the fact that Romeo overheard her revealing deep, personal feelings. Finally, she tells Romeo, “Trust me, gentleman, I’ll prove more true / Than those that have more cunning to be strange” (28). Juliet is worried that she should have been “strange” with Romeo, or made him work harder for her affections, but she assures him that her love is real and lasting. She understands that love is about commitment, not about playing the game the right way. Even though Romeo and Juliet move quickly in their relationship, Juliet’s words and behavior reveal that she is acting out of genuine love for Romeo.