

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* has been adapted by Sarah to portray Friar Lawrence as a man on trial, believed to be responsible for the death of Romeo and Juliet. In the original script, Friar Lawrence secretly married Romeo and Juliet but after Romeo is banished for murder, he gives Juliet a sleeping potion to help her escape to be with Romeo. This backfires when Romeo finds her and believes she is dead.

The adaptation was well thought through and creative, giving *Romeo and Juliet* a modern twist, though still able to tie well to the original piece. The character in the adaptation retains similarities to the character of Friar Lawrence in Shakespeare's version. The character in Sarah's adaptation had to stand up for what he believes in, through similar characteristics to Shakespeare's Friar Lawrence. I believe this was a logical and sophisticated addition to the performance.

Sarah's monologue has embedded the themes of the forcefulness of love, as well as love being the cause of violence. In her script, Friar Lawrence declared, "She was yelling, and I quote, 'I will kill myself in your home if you do not help me,' demonstrating how powerful this love was. I think the themes of the original piece have been well incorporated in this script, however, the writing could've been improved with the inclusion of the theme of feuding between families, as it is such a large component of the story.

The genre of the piece was a modern tragedy, in some ways portrayed by the actress. Her written work and tone of voice clearly portrayed the tragedy, however her facial expressions could have been slightly more distraught. She proved to understand both the original work and her own written work.

Sarah demonstrated an excellent array of dramatic skills, such as pace, tone of voice, hand gestures and a very controlled delivery. Her pace throughout the performance was very deliberate and controlled, perfectly demonstrating Friar Lawrence's demeanour in court. The pace increased when the character let anger slide through, which was very effective as it gave the audience an understanding of the character's emotions. Her facial expression did not change overly throughout the performance, so to improve in the future she could add some more emotion in her expressions, as her character should be portrayed as distraught. At points where the character was angry or distressed, her tone was well matched, though slightly passive in some sections where the character was going through a lot of emotions. However, her voice had clarity, making her easy to understand, especially when her character was explaining his predicament. An appropriate level of hand gestures was used, as it added to the level of emotion, but wasn't distracting and didn't take away from the performance.

The beginning of the performance was creative as Sarah added a different voice to help set the scene, and engage the audience from the very beginning. She performed confidently and was barely prompted by notes, giving her the ability to make eye contact. A costume or scene props would have been a useful addition for the audience's benefit.

Overall, this was a compelling piece of work, incorporating many uses of dramatic techniques to enhance the performance. It was well written and visibly planned for the modern court house theme.

-Ellie Giger