****Death in *Romeo & Juliet***

Annotate as usual, noting words you don’t know and figurative language. Also indicate which words and phrases you find cool or powerful. Reading the questions may help you to translate.

**Theme Analysis**

***from Prologue:***

A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;

Whose misadventured piteous overthrows

do with their death bury their parents' strife (Pro. 6-8).

Modern Translation:

**Juliet:** Nurse, go ask his name. –If he be married,

My grave is like to be my wedding bed (1.5.134-135).

Modern Translation:

**Tybalt:** What! Dares the slave come hither, covered with an antic face4, to fleer and scorn at our solemnity?5 Now, by the stock and honor of my kin, to strike him dead, I hold it not a sin (1.5.55-59).

Modern Translation:

**Romeo**: …My mind misgives some consequence, yet hanging in the stars, shall bitterly begin his1 fearful date with this night’s revels2 and expire3 the term of a despised life, closed in my breast,

by some vile forfeit of untimely death (1.4.106-111).

Modern Translation:

1. **His =** fate
2. **revels =** enjoyment, partying
3. **Expire =** end
4. **Antic face =** masked face
5. **Solemnity =** dignity, seriousness

**Prologue: Before the play begins**

1. Why does Shakespeare use the phrase, “take their life?” Is this phrase more or less serious or dramatic?
2. How does Shakespeare use the word **bury** in this passage? How is this a clever pun, or play on words?

**Romeo: Right before entering the party at the Capulets’ House**

1. Here Romeo is worried about fate. He has a gut feeling and talks about his own “untimely” death. What does that mean? Why do you suppose he calls his own life “despised”? Who or what might he feel despises him?
2. What does he fear? Why would Shakespeare include this speech? How does this foreshadowing build suspense?
3. What would be the effect if Romeo said the opposite…something like “nothing can possible go wrong!”

**Tybalt: Upon noticing Romeo at the Capulet party**

1. Romeo and Tybalt are of equal social status (they are “alike in dignity”), yet Tybalt refers to Romeo as a slave. What is the connotation (impression or implication) of such a word? In other words, what can you **imply** about Tybalt’s attitude from his use of the word **slave?**
2. Tybalt assumes that Romeo is there to “fleer and scorn” at the Capulets. Is this true? What does this suggest about Tybalt’s nature or personality?
3. Tybalt wants to kill Romeo and justifies it in two ways. What are they?

**Juliet: As she is trying to find out Romeo’s name…after having met and kissed him**

1. **To juxtapose** means to put 2 contrasting words or ideas side-by-side for a strong effect. Juliet **juxtaposes** the words “grave” and “wedding bed”. Cool! In reading this, what do we see about her and her emotions towards Romeo, death and love?