

Find the Main Idea

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet, a play by William Shakespeare, tells of two young lovers from feuding families. Romeo is a Montague and Juliet is from the Capulet family. Earlier in the play, Juliet and Romeo meet for the first time at a party. In this scene, Romeo has climbed over a wall into the garden outside Juliet's room. She is on the balcony and has not seen him. She thinks she is alone, although Romeo can hear her.

Act II, Scene 2

Juliet: 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.
 Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
 What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
 Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
 Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
 What's in a name? That which we call a rose
 By any other name would smell as sweet.
 So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
 Retain that dear perfection which he owes
 Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name;
 And for that name, which is no part of thee,
 Take all myself.



1884 painting of Romeo and Juliet during the balcony scene.

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Write the main idea of the Juliet's speech in your own words.

Write two supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. _____

2. _____

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Actual wording and supporting ideas will vary. Example of correct answers:

Write the main idea of the Juliet's speech in your own words.

Names are not important; Romeo should give up the Montague name so

Romeo and Juliet can be together.

Write two supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. **A rose would still smell as sweet if it had another name, so Romeo would still**

be Romeo if he gave up the Montague name.

2. **A name is not a concrete thing, like a hand, a foot or an arm.**
