Act 2 – Quotation Analysis

For each quotation, answer the following questions:

1. Put the quotation into your own words *idea for idea*
2. Who said it?
3. What’s the context in which it’s spoken (what’s happening at the time)
4. What’s the significance of this quotations (to the plot, to character development, to theme development)?

### Act 2, scene 2

‘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 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, (2.2.38-45)

With love’s light wings did I o’erperch these walls;

For stony limited cannot hold love out,

And what love can do, that dares love attempt;

Therefore thy kinsmen are no stop to me. (2.2.66-69)

My life were better ended by their hate,

Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love. (2.2.77-78)

Well, do not swear. Although I joy in thee,

I have no joy of this contract to-night;

It is too rash, too unadvis’d, too sudden;

Too like the lightening, which doth cease to be

Ere one can say ‘It lightens’. Sweet, good-night! (2.2.116-120)

### Act 2, scene 3

Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,

And vice sometime’s by action dignified.

Within the infant rind of this weak flower

Poison hath residence, and medicine power:

For this, being smelt, with that part cheers each part;

Being tasted, stays all senses with the heart.

Two such opposed kings encamp them still

In man as well as herbs—grace and rude will. (2.3.17-24)

But come, young waverer, come, go with me,

In one respect I’ll thy assistant be.

For this alliance may so happy prove,

To turn your households’ rancour to pure love. (2.3.85-88)

### Act 2, scene 4

Why, is this not better now than groaning for love?

Now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo; now

art thou what thou art, by arts as well as by nature:

for this drivelling love is like a great natural… (2.4.87-90)

### Act 2, scene 6

So smile the heaven, upon this holy act,

That after-hours with sorrow chide us not! (2.6.1-2)

Amen, amen! But come what sorrow can,

It cannot countervail the exchange of joy

That one short minute gives me in her sight.

Do thou but close our hands with holy words,

Then love-devouring death do what he dare;

It is enough I may but call her mine. (2.6.3-8)

The sweetest honey

Is loathsome in his own deliciousness,

And in the taste confounds the appetite:

Therefore love moderately—long love doth so:

Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow. (2.6.10-15)

# Comedy vs. Tragedy

We know *Romeo and Juliet* is a tragedy, but it begins very much like a comedy.

1. Make a list of specific examples from Act 2 that make *Romeo and Juliet* begin in a comedic way.
2. Why do you think Shakespeare ups the comedy in Act 2?
3. What do you think Act 3 will bring? Make 3 specific predictions based on the characters we’ve met.