

The Log: For *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

While reading the play, you will keep a log (that is, a record) of your journey through it. Log entries will consist of such things as scene summaries; comments on the action, characters, language, themes, and so forth; and your personal reactions to those elements of the play.

Record all log entries in a notebook.

You are in charge of your own personal log. You will decide what to write and in what form, but there are three rules:

1. **Clearly label each entry with the act and scene number**
2. **Write after every reading assignment**
3. **Over the course of the play, respond to a variety of the components so that by the end you have considered each component several times.**

Remember! Write in your own voice. Interact with the play. Always attempt to support your ideas with specific references to (or evidence from) the text. Grades will be based on the thoroughness with which you posit warranted and plausible assumptions, opinions, thoughts, questions (and answers), judgements, and ideas.

Entries: For each scene, do a minimum of *three* of the following:

1. **Summarize the action of the scene.**
2. **Comment in one sentence on what you think is the significance of this scene. Speculate; what would the play be like without it? Explain your thinking.**
3. **Ask questions about the scene. Has anything in the scene caused you confusion? Ask one of the characters in the scene a question—or ask me a question. Finally, **attempt to answer your own questions**. What matters most is not whether you get the answers but that you are **thinking about** what they might be.**
4. **Quote lines from the scene that you enjoyed and comment on their significance to you.**
5. **Describe your reactions to a character, action, or idea you confronted in the scene.**
6. **Talk about the relationships characters have to one another, quoting specific words or phrases to give evidence for your opinion.**
7. **Pretend you are an actor playing one of the characters in the scene. Get inside that character's mind. Tell how the character feels about herself (himself) about other characters, about the situation of the scene.**