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BOOK REPORT

I've decided to do the Book Report on the book "Romeo And Juliet" using a song that relates to the theme of the book and explaining similarities between them.

The link to the song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xg3vE8Ie_E

I've decided to use the song "Love Story" by Taylor Swift because this song speaks about a love story that is very similar to the one that the book describes.

Now I'll explain these similarities.

The song begins with the sentence "We were both young when I first saw you". In the book, Juliet is described like a young girl, and, at the end of Chapter Three, there's a research which speaks about the characteristics of the characters and I read that Shakespeare's Juliet was 13 years old. I found it a bit strange because, I know that people in 17th century used to get married very young, but not that young! So I searched on the internet to find more informations about it and I discovered that Shakespeare decided to "create" a 13 years old Juliet to highlight the immaturity of this character. In fact, this characteristic is clear when, for example, she accepts to marry Romeo after they have only met twice.

The song continues with: "I'm standing there on a balcony in summer air". In the book, Juliet goes to the balcony of her room when the party where she met Romeo for the first time ends. She starts speaking to the moon and she admits her love for Romeo. At the same time, Romeo is walking in the "Garden Of Roses", a garden situated under the balcony of Juliet. He hears the conversation between the moon and Juliet and he understands what Juliet feels for him, so he decides to tell her that he feels the same.

The song continues with: "See the lights, see the party, the ball gowns". This expression immediately reminded me of the ball of the Capulets, where Juliet met Romeo for the first time. Romeo was not invited because he was the son of Lord Montagues, the biggest enemy of the Capulets family; but when the servant of the Capulets went out of the palace to give the invitations for the party to the aristocrats of Verona, he asked Romeo for help (he didn't know who Romeo was). He didn't know how to understand the names of the guests that were written on the list, because he couldn't read. Romeo looked at the paper and saw the name of Rosaline, the girl he was in love with, and he decided to go to the ball to see her. He couldn't be recognized at the party, so he decided to wear a mask.

An other sentence of the song which relates to the party of the Capulets is this: "I see you make your way through the crowd and say hello, little did I know that you were Romeo". When Romeo

arrives at the party, he sees Juliet and he goes towards her, they speak and he kisses her. She didn't know exactly who he was, because he was wearing a mask and because her parents have always

kept her away from him because he was the son of their enemies. In fact, the song describes this situation with the sentence "And my daddy said stay away from Juliet".

Some days after the party, during a fight between Tybald, the cousin of Juliet, and Mercutio, the best friend of Romeo, Mercutio dies. Romeo, who is present during the fight, wants to take revenge, so he decides to kill Tybald.

When Tybald dies, the Prince of Verona, who is the man who rules in the town, arrives at the place where Romeo and Tybald have fought. He sees that Romeo killed Tybald so he decides to banish him from the town.

Romeo, goes secretly to Juliet's palace and tells her what happened. Juliet, like the song says, tells him that: "all that's left to do is run". In fact, their only possibility to stay together, is running away from Verona and finding a place where the Prince and their families can't obstruct their relationship. But Juliet can't run away. Her father in fact, orders her to marry Paris, an aristocratic that she doesn't love. He says that he's the right man for her, but she disagrees. This situation is described in the song too, "Romeo, save me, they're trying to tell me how to feel."

Juliet doesn't love Paris and she thinks that her love for Romeo is stronger than her father's ideas, "This love is difficult but it's real."

Juliet doesn't want to marry Paris because she has already married Romeo, who asked her to marry him the night of the party at the house of the Capulets. The song in my opinion describes very well the moment when Romeo asks Juliet to marry him with the sentence: "He knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring and said...Marry me, Juliet, you'll never have to be alone. I love you, and that's all I really know."

The song doesn't speak about the end of the real story of Romeo and Juliet that is described in the book, it ends with the same sentence with which it begins: "cause we were both young when I first saw you." In my opinion, the singer decided to use the same sentence that she used at the beginning to end the song because, she wanted to underline the fact that the two lovers were very young when they first met, they believed in true love and in fairytales, but a hostile society like the one that there was in Verona at the time when the story takes place, didn't allow people to believe in true love.

