Act 2, Prologue and Scene 1

* The prologue of the second act reinforces what has already happened.
* One love has been replaced by another.
* The force of parental influence stands in the way of the lover’s happiness.
* The prologue builds suspense by hinting that there may be some way to overcome the problem of warring households.
* Shakespeare devotes himself to exploring the positive, joyful and romantic aspects of young love.
* Shakespeare looks to the depths of the young lover’s characters and captures the subtleties of their interactions.
* Juliet struggles with the need for caution and an overpowering desire to be with Romeo.
* Shakespeare exploits the transition between day and night with a recurring light/dark motif.
* Romeo imagines Juliet is the sun; that she is transforming night into day.
* Juliet refuses to believe that Romeo is defined by his name.
* She believes the two of them can love each other without fear of social repercussions.
* Language is an expression of social institutions such as family politics or religion.
* Juliet loves Romeo because he is Romeo but the power of her love cannot remove from him his last name.
* In the privacy of the garden, the language of love is triumphant.