Creative Arts 8
Romeo and Juliet: Balcony Scene Parody

Some say imitation is the greatest form of flattery but let's face it sometimes it's just great fun to make fun of famous people, stories, an events! There is perhaps no one as famous as our good old William Shakespeare and as such no one better than him to parody! Keep in mind a parody *works* because the subject of the parody is usually already familiar to the audiences! Here are the steps to writing a good parody of a very famous scene:

Phase 1
Step 1: As a class read William Shakespeare's famous "Balcony" scene in *Romeo and Juliet*.

Step 2: As you read, pay particular attention to Shakespeare's use of literary devices, such as metaphors, rhyme, and similes.

Step 3: Discuss the plot of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and make sure you know the story very well!

Step 4: Understand the characters! Who are they? What does each want? What is their problem?

Phase 2
You are now ready to begin writing your parody of the famous "balcony" scene from Romeo and Juliet. * SOME OF THE WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE FOR YOU BY SHAKESPEARE HIMSELF! * Your parody must/ include/have:

1. A heavy comic element
2. Entertain the audience
3. Follow the same style of speaking as the characters in the scene
4. Pieces of original text
5. Exaggeration (of characters, speech, events, mannerisms, flaws, etc)
6. Be an original *reinterpretation* of original characters and events

Phase 3
Once your parody has been written, you and a partner will perform it live in front of the class. Costumes and props are strongly encouraged.

Grading: You will be graded on the written and oral presentation of your parody. The attached rubric will be used to evaluate your written parody.

Turn to the back of this page to look at a sample Parody of the "Balcony" scene >>>>>>

Romeo: But wait! What is that creaking sound? T'is the garden's shed opening and Juliet is the lawn mower within. Start, fair mower, and cut the longish grass, that is too long compared to the neighbor's that is short, lush and green because they are retired and actually have time to do petty things like that and… (mutters off complaining about lawn care.) Your hair is like the motor oil inside the mower, dark, greasy, and sticks to you when you touch it. This is the lady I love! If only she knew how fair she where. Her eyes, like rotten grapes, dark and full of hypnotic colors, but this is what wine is of. Look at her as she leans out her window at that awkward position to see me with those wonderful eyes.

Juliet: Oh dear!

Romeo: She speaks! Oh the sound of her voice, the sound of a cricket's song. Beautiful at first and gets annoying after around 5 minuets. Speak again, lovely, to confirm that I'm not hallucinating from the rotten sandwich I ate earlier today.

Juliet: How on Earth did you find me here? Are you stalking me?

Romeo: I found you by our love, the bond of our souls. That and I asked a servant where you where. I stalk you not.

Juliet: If they find you here they will do horrible torture to you.

Romeo: And what would that be, my lady?

Juliet: They will chain you to the wall and force-feed you nothing but sauerkraut until you are 21 and a half years old.

Romeo: O' what a horrid punishment, but I shan't get caught now shall I?

Juliet: And how will you manage that my fine Romeo?

Romeo: I have the cloak of night upon my shoulders. They cannot see me.

Juliet: (Sighs) Oh, my sweet, why must you be named Romeo? It wouldn't matter what you are called, you would still be just as sweet and charming by a different name. If you where called by another name we woul- your choice of exclamation here and your choice of scream goes here (falls out of window to land on top of Romeo) Romeo, my love, have I hurt you?

Possible Ideas for Your Parody:

A nerd and a popular cheerleader
Fire and water
McDonalds and Burger King
Pepsi and Coca-cola
Batman and Joker
Face Book and My Space
God and the Devil
Summer and Winter
Japan and Korea
Day and Night
Life and Death