

Point-by-Point Structure Comparison

Paragraph Mentor Text

Prompt: In a well-organized argumentative paragraph, compare depictions of teenage love in Olivia Rodrigo's song "drivers license" and William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.

Both Olivia Rodrigo's song "drivers license" and Act 1 of William Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet* depict teenage love as all-consuming and immature. In the song, Rodrigo sings about her intense sadness about a breakup: "But today I drove through the suburbs / Cryin' 'cause you weren't around" (00:27–00:31). Through these lyrics, Rodrigo exemplifies the intensity of teenage love. Likewise, Romeo dramatically exclaims to his cousin, Benvolio, "Do I live dead, that live to tell it now" (1.1.232) to explain that he feels emotionally dead. Both Rodrigo and Shakespeare highlight that unrequited love is so consuming that teenagers are unable to focus on anything but their own intense feelings. In addition, the song and play highlight the immature nature of teenage love. In "drivers license," Rodrigo sings, "'Cause how could I ever love someone else?" (00:53–00:56). The lyrics highlight that teens can feel like teenage love will last forever, but in fact, these feelings are unrealistic and immature. Even though the teenager in the song currently feels like they could never love another, in all likelihood, they will eventually fall in love with someone else. Similarly, Romeo, in response to Benvolio encouraging him to forget his love for Rosaline, exclaims, "thou canst not teach me to forget" (1.1.246), as he, at this point, feels that his feelings for Rosaline could never go away. Through these similarities, the song and play parallel one another in their depiction of the immature view that teenage love is forever. Ultimately, both Rodrigo's song and Shakespeare's play reveal that depictions of teenage love have not changed much since Shakespeare's time. They both highlight that teenage love is intensely emotional and naive.