

Romeo and Juliet

Oxymorons

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Romeo often uses oxymorons to talk about his feelings. An **oxymoron** is a combination of words with opposite or contradictory meanings. We use oxymorons for example when we say that a film had a 'bitter sweet' ending or if we describe a silence as 'deafening.'



Choose a word from Box 1 and pair it with a word in Box 2 to make a combination of opposites.

Box 1

Bright	Serious	Loving
Brawling	Heavy	Sick
Cold		

Box 2

Love	Lightness	Health
Fire	Vanity	Smoke
Hate		

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

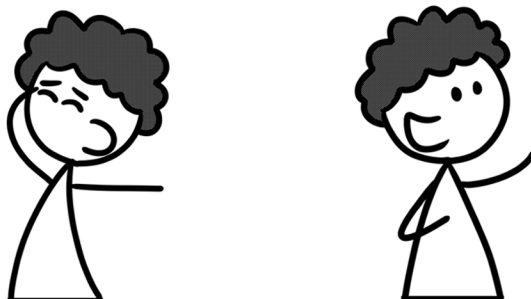
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Here's the passage where Romeo uses them:

ROMEO:

Why then, O brawling love, O loving hate,
O anything of nothing first create!
O heavy lightness, serious vanity,
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health,
Still-waking sleep that is not what it is!
This love feel I that feel no love in this.
(Act I, Scene 1).

Circle each of the seven oxymorons you might have already made on the first page. Can you find two extra ones not listed on the front page?



Why might Romeo combine opposite words? What does the use of oxymorons tell us about Romeo's emotions?



What do you think, is Romeo serious about being in love with Rosaline at the beginning of the play, a character we never get to meet?



How would you react if one of your friends spoke like this about being in love with a girl?