Riber Mohammad

Instructor Name

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Speech Imagery from Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare is perhaps the greatest drama writer who had ever graced the English Literature. His classic drama *Romeo and Juliet* is perhaps the most read drama of all time. This drama portrays the theme of love using a variety of speech imagery that can be observed in various scenes of the drama. Like in the line “Love heralds should be thoughts/ Which ten times faster glide than the sun’s beams (Act 2, Scene 5, Lines 4-5), the imagery that is portrayed is about heralds, the people that were employed by nobles and kings to announce their arrivals. In this sentence, she means that the joy of Love will come to her as a herald, believing that she will have it as soon as she thinks about it. In a different scene, Juliet gives a speech about the desire to marry Romeo as she uses mythological imagery. In the lines, "Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds/…. /And bring in cloudy night immediately" (Scene 3, Act 2, Lines 1-4), Juliet expresses her impatience by citing the incident of Phaeton from the Greek Mythology. Although there is a basic theme of Love in every one of Juliet's monologue, the use of Greek mythology is somewhat interesting. There is also some diverse imagery when it comes to the portrayal of the character of Romeo as well. For example, in the lines, “On the white wonder of dear Juliet’s hand/ And steal immortal blessing from her lips” (Act 3, Scene 3, Lines 36-7), he paints the image of divinity to be parallel to his love for Juliet. He tries to profess that his love for Juliet is divine and that no one can come between him and Juliet, declaring his friend, Friar Laurence to be a “ghostly confessor”. The image painted in these lines shows the view of Romeo that his love for Juliet is based on pure feelings rather than bodily lust.

# Works Cited

Shakespeare, William. *Romeo and Juliet*. n.d. <http://learningstorm.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/RMEOJLET-1.pdf>.