**Romeo & Juliet Historical & Social Context (AO3)**

1. In the Elizabethan era, the father was the undisputed head of the household.
2. At the time of the play’s production, society was a patriarchal one and women had no rights or authority in law. Women could not own property or money, but could influence their husbands.
3. In Shakespeare’s England, children were regarded as ‘property’, and could be given in marriage to a suitable partner.
4. Reputation and honour was one of the most important attributes of a man in the Elizabethan era. A man was judged by the honour he had and was expected to defend it at all costs.
5. Trial by duel was a part of the tradition of the time and it occurred quite frequently with the purpose of defending one’s honour in the society.
6. Shakespeare’s play draws upon the ancient Greek genre of ‘Tragedy’. Typically, these plays feature a protagonist who has a major flaw of character (hubris), or who comes in to contact with an over-powering force.
7. Poet W.H. [Auden](http://www.shmoop.com/funeral-blues/) argues that everything is Romeo and Juliet's fault—they're too passionate and their love is far too excessive.

**Romeo & Juliet Historical & Social Context (AO3)**

1. In the Elizabethan era, the father was the undisputed head of the household.
2. At the time of the play’s production, society was a patriarchal one and women had no rights or authority in law. Women could not own property or money, but could influence their husbands.
3. In Shakespeare’s England, children were regarded as ‘property’, and could be given in marriage to a suitable partner.
4. Reputation and honour was one of the most important attributes of a man in the Elizabethan era. A man was judged by the honour he had and was expected to defend it at all costs.
5. Trial by duel was a part of the tradition of the time and it occurred quite frequently with the purpose of defending one’s honour in the society.
6. Shakespeare’s play draws upon the ancient Greek genre of ‘Tragedy’. Typically, these plays feature a protagonist who has a major flaw of character (hubris), or who comes in to contact with an over-powering force.
7. Poet W.H. [Auden](http://www.shmoop.com/funeral-blues/) argues that everything is Romeo and Juliet's fault—they're too passionate and their love is far too excessive.