

# “Love Story” by Taylor Swift



MARIE SCOTT  
HOUSE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
10-27-08

# Novelistic/Dramatic



- Speaker: Juliet
- Setting: A castle during a ball
- Protagonist: Juliet
- Antagonist: Juliet's dad
- Conflict: man vs. man – It is between Juliet and her dad because Juliet's dad won't allow her to be with Romeo.
- Goal: To persuade Juliet's dad to allow Juliet and Romeo to be together
- Obstacle: Juliet's dad
- Outcome: Romeo marries Juliet and they live happily ever after.

Romeo proposes to Juliet with her dad's approval.

Romeo and Juliet sneak out and meet on the outskirts of town, but they are upset that they have to keep this a secret.

They get married.

They live happily ever after!

Romeo and Juliet see each other at the ball but Juliet's dad tells Romeo to stay away from his daughter.



# Realistic



- This song connects to something real in my life because it is about a girl “Juliet” and a boy “Romeo” who love each other but Juliet’s dad doesn’t want Romeo hanging around his daughter. Sometimes, my dad can be a little protective and won’t allow me to do certain activities. For example, I was asked to go to the haunted corn maze with this guy, but Dad did not think very highly of this particular guy so I was not allowed to go with him to the corn maze. Also, the first line of the song, “We were both young when I first saw you” connects to my life because my next door neighbor and I have known each other and been good friends ever since we were five.

# Thematic



- The underlying meaning of “Love Story” is that living happily ever after is possible. No matter the circumstances, love can and will find its way. Although Juliet’s dad tells Romeo to “stay away from Juliet”, this does not stop Romeo from trying to be with Juliet. This song is also a reminder to never lose faith. There is a point in the song when Juliet’s “faith was fading” and she got “tired of waiting”. Juliet lost sight of Romeo’s love and felt like giving up, but just at the right time, Romeo “knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring” and asked Juliet to marry him.

# Allusion



- The allusion in this song is very clear. It is based on the world's most celebrated star-crossed lovers, Romeo and Juliet. The song states that “you were Romeo...and my daddy said ‘Stay away from Juliet’,”. These two lovers sneak out and meet against their parents will just as Romeo and Juliet did. The only difference is that no one dies in this song, instead Romeo and Juliet live happily ever after. Also, this song alludes to Romeo and Juliet in that it uses iambic meter just as Shakespeare does.

# Musical



Rhyme Scheme: no set  
rhyme scheme except for  
lines

6,7,11

17 and 18

28 and 29

30 and 31

33 and 35

34 and 36

44 and 45

The reason this song doesn't have a set rhyme scheme is because it is more like a ballad which tells a story and does not have to have a set rhyme scheme. However, the rhyming does start to increase the closer the song gets to the end. The reason for this is that it is building up to the climax of the story which happens in the last verse.

# Musical



- **Rhythm:** The first verse is mostly iambic with one anapestic in each line. The chorus is mainly trochee with two amphibrach in the fourth line of the chorus.
- The reason for the chorus being trochee is that trochee is opposite of iambic and this adds contrast to the poem and helps to distinguish the difference between the verses and the chorus.
- The two amphibrach rhythms in the fourth line of the chorus falls on “the prince and” and “the princess”. The reason for this is to emphasize “prince” and “princess”. Also, in that same line, the only stressed words are “You’ll”, “prince”, “I’ll”, “princess”. This was done for the same reason, to emphasize Romeo as the prince and Juliet as the princess.

- **We were** both young when I first saw you.  
I close my eyes and the flashback starts:  
I'm standing there on a balcony in summer air.

See the lights, see the party, the ball gowns.  
See you make your way through the crowd  
and say hello;

Little did I know  
That you were Romeo; you were throwing pebbles,  
And my daddy said, "Stay away from Juliet."  
And I was crying on the staircase,  
begging you, 'Please, don't go.'"

And I said,  
"Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone.  
I'll be waiting; all there's left to do is run.  
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess  
It's a love story - baby just say 'Yes.'"

**So I sneak** out to the garden to **see** you.  
We keep quiet 'cause we're dead if they knew.  
So close your eyes; escape this town for a little while.  
'Cause you were Romeo, I was a scarlet letter,  
And my daddy said "Stay away from Juliet,"  
But you were everything to me; I was begging you, 'Please, don't go,'"

**Red** = alliteration  
**green** = consonance

• And I said,  
"Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone.  
I'll be waiting; all there's left to do is run.  
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess  
It's a love story - baby just say 'Yes.'



Romeo save me - **they're tryin' to tell** me how to feel;  
This love is difficult, but it's real.  
Don't be afraid; we'll make it out of this mess.  
It's a life story - baby just say "Yes."  
Oh.

I got tired of waiting,  
Wondering if you were ever comin' around.  
My **faith** in you was **fading**  
When I met you on the outskirts of town,

And I said,  
"Romeo save me - I've been feeling so alone.  
I keep waiting for you but you never come.  
Is this in thy head? I don't know what to think-"

He knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring and said,  
"Marry me, Juliet - you'll never have to be alone.  
I love you and that's all I really know.  
I talked to your dad - go pick out a white dress;  
It's a love story - baby just say 'Yes.'"  
Oh, oh.

**We were** both young when I first saw you...

# Musical



## Effect of Sound

- When the chorus is sung the music gets louder and creates a greater sense of need for Romeo to come save Juliet and take her “somewhere [they] can be alone”. Also, in the third to last verse, the music becomes softer and is not as upbeat. This helps the listener feel Juliet’s doubt and understand how “tired of waiting” she was and how much her “faith in [Romeo] was fading”. The most significant effect, however, is the key change right before the last verse when Romeo and Juliet get married. The reason for the key change is to create a whole new feeling to the song and to imply a new beginning. This key change builds the intensity and helps the listener feel the emotion of the song.

# English Teacher



The figurative language in this poem gets the attention of the reader and helps portray a “love story”. The use of metaphors helps the reader to have an image of a “prince” and a “princess”. Comparing Juliet to a “scarlet letter” causes the reader to realize how delicate and off limits Juliet is according to her dad. Also, alliteration is used quite numerously. This causes phrases such as “faith was fading” or “So I sneak” to stick out the reader and causes the reader to have a more lasting and vivid image. The biggest use of figurative language in “Love Story” is the whole poem. The entire poem is used as a metaphor to compare a guy to Romeo and a girl to Juliet. This is very clever because everyone knows the story of Romeo and Juliet and can relate to being in love.

- **We were** both young when I first saw you.  
**I** close my eyes and the flashback starts:  
**I'm** standing there on a balcony in summer air.

**See** the lights, see the party, the ball gowns.  
**See** you make your way through the crowd  
and say hello;

Little did I know  
That **you were** Romeo; **you were** throwing pebbles,  
**And** my daddy said, "Stay away from Juliet."  
**And** I was crying on the staircase,  
begging you, 'Please, don't go.'"

- **Red** = anaphora
- **Blue** = alliteration
- **Green** = metaphor
- \_\_\_\_\_ = parallelism
- **Yellow** = hyperbole
- **Pink** = repetition
- **Brown** = jargon



- And I said,  
"Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone.  
I'll be waiting; all there's left to do is run.  
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess  
It's a love story - baby just say 'Yes.'"

So I sneak out to the garden to see you.  
We keep quiet 'cause we're dead if they knew.  
So close your eyes; escape this town for a little while.  
'Cause you were Romeo, I was a scarlet letter,  
And my daddy said "Stay away from Juliet,"  
But you were everything to me; I was begging you,  
'Please, don't go,'"



- And I said,  
"Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone.  
I'll be waiting; all there's left to do is run.  
You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess  
It's a love story - baby just say 'Yes.'

Romeo save me - they're tryin' to tell me how to feel;  
This love is difficult, but it's real.  
Don't be afraid; we'll make it out of this mess.  
It's a life story - baby just say "Yes."

Oh.

I got tired of waiting,  
Wondering if you were ever comin' around.  
My faith in you was fading  
When I met you on the outskirts of town,



And I said,  
"Romeo save me - I've been feeling so alone.  
I keep waiting for you but you never come.  
Is this in **thy** head? I don't know what to think-"

He knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring and said,  
"**Marry me**, Juliet - you'll never have to be alone.  
**I** love you and **that's all I really know**.  
**I** talked to your dad - go pick out a white dress;  
**It's a love story** - baby just say 'Yes.'"

Oh, oh.

**We were** both young when I first saw you...

# Significant Event



- People write about what they know, and the writer and singer of this song, Taylor Swift, is an 18 year old whose brain is occupied with romance and destiny, which is what “Love Story” is all about. “I was going through a situation like that where I could relate,” the energetic singer-songwriter said. “I used to be in high school where you see a boyfriend every day. Then I was in a situation where it wasn't so easy for me, and I wrote this song because I could relate to the whole Romeo and Juliet thing. I was really inspired by that story. “Love Song” was written this past year and relates to today’s world because young men and women are occupied with feelings of love. Everyone wants to be loved and almost every young girl can relate to loving a guy who your dad doesn’t like too much. Swift’s song is a song of hope to make people realize that happy endings are possible.

# Art History



- “a balcony in summer air.”
  - When someone thinks of a “balcony in summer air” they think of happiness, peace, and love. This image is important because it is vital to the setting and everyone knows the feeling of standing on “a balcony in summer air”. Therefore, helping the reader to feel as though they are actually involved in the poem and can easily imagine themselves there.
- “See the lights, see the party, the ball gowns.”
  - This emphasizes how marvelous the ball is and helps the reader to imagine him or her self at a big party or ball.

# Art History cont.



- “I was crying on the staircase”
  - This image makes the reader feel sorry for Juliet and helps to easily get the emotions in the poem across to the reader. This image may cause the reader to think of a time when he or she was extremely sad therefore making the reader relate to the song.
- “I was a scarlet letter”
  - This image is symbolic because it symbolizes Juliet as a scarlet letter, which is a women convicted of adultery. Most likely, this means that Juliet has gone against her dad’s will when she “sneak[s] out to the garden” to see Romeo.
- Similarities
  - Taylor Swift’s main focus is getting her listeners to sincerely feel the emotions involved in her songs instead of them just listening to the beat. Singing the right pitch or getting the harmony just right is not as important to her when it comes to revealing deep felt emotions to her listeners.

# Structural



- Lines 1-32 is the first section of this song. The tone of this section is “hopeful” because Romeo and Juliet are determined to be together and there is no doubt in their minds that their love for each could ever fade. This section tells the back ground of Romeo and Juliet; how they met and the possibility of creating a love story if Romeo just says “yes”. The only thing in the way of Romeo and Juliet’s dream is Juliet’s dad. The purpose of this section is to make the reader realize how much Romeo and Juliet want to be together.
- The first shift occurs at line 33. The tone switches from being “hopeful” to “doubtful” because in this section Juliet’s strong love towards Romeo is no longer felt. Instead, Juliet’s love and faith is fading, and the

## Structural cont.



- possibility of a love story is not thought of anymore. This section's purpose is to bring about the downfall of Romeo and Juliet and to make the reader think that the love is gone. This section also symbolizes how easily love can slip away.
- The second and last shift in this song is at line 41. At this point in the song, Romeo and Juliet are going to get married. The song takes a full turn during this section because Juliet's doubts of Romeo's love in section two are gone, and a "happy ever after" ending is accomplished in the last section. The tone of this section is finally "complete happiness". The goal has been accomplished and the obstacle overcome.