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**Romeo and Juliet**

Read this extract from Act 3 Scene 1 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Prince Escalus is deciding how to punish Romeo for killing Tybalt.

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| **LADY CAPULET**  He is a kinsman to the Montague;  Affection makes him false; he speaks not true:  Some twenty of them fought in this black strife,  And all those twenty could but kill one life.  5  I beg for justice, which thou, prince, must give;  Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.  **PRINCE**  Romeo slew him, he slew Mercutio;  Who now the price of his dear blood doth owe?  **MONTAGUE**  Not Romeo, prince, he was Mercutio's friend;  10  His fault concludes but what the law should end,  The life of Tybalt.  **PRINCE**  And for that offence  Immediately we do exile him hence:  I have an interest in your hate's proceeding,  15  My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a-bleeding;  But I'll amerce you with so strong a fine  That you shall all repent the loss of mine:  I will be deaf to pleading and excuses;  Nor tears nor prayers shall purchase our abuses:  20  Therefore use none: let Romeo hence in haste,  Else, when he's found, that hour is his last.  Bear hence this body and attend our will:  Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill. |

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In this extract, explore how Shakespeare presents the nature of justice.

Write about:

• how Shakespeare presents nature of justice in the extract.

You should refer to language and structure.

**Turn over for the next question**

**Turn over**