Foreshadowing and the Friar

**Act** **2** **Scene** **3:** **Friar** **Lawrence**

The audience are introduced to the character of Friar Lawrence for the first time in Act 2 Scene 3. He is gathering herbs and flowers. Romeo tells him that he no longer loves Rosaline and that he wants to marry Juliet.

There is a lot of **foreshadowing** in this scene. This means **hinting** **at** **things** **to** **come.**

Questions:

1) Look closely at Friar Lawrence’s opening speech in this scene. List all the examples of foreshadowing in his words, e.g. poison, grave.

2) Now look at his opening speech again. List all the oppositions in his words, e.g. day/night and grave/womb. Why have these been used?

3) Why does Friar Lawrence think that Romeo is up so early?

4) When Romeo tells Friar Lawrence that he loves Juliet now instead of Rosaline, Friar Lawrence says: ‘Young men’s love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes’. What does Friar Lawrence mean by this?

5) Why does Friar Lawrence agree to marry Romeo and Juliet?

6) Was he right to do this? Explain your answer.

7) Friar Lawrence refers to Romeo as ‘son’ in this scene and Romeo calls Friar Lawrence ‘father.’ Underline and label all the references to father and son in Act 2 Scene 3. What does this show about their relationship?

8) Friar Lawrence’s last line in this scene is a warning to Romeo: ‘Wisely and slow, they stumble that run fast’. What does this mean? How is it another example of foreshadowing?

9) What effect do you think Shakespeare is trying to create by including examples of foreshadowing?

10) What is your impression of Friar Lawrence in this scene and why do you think this? In your answer comment on Shakespeare’s use of language and structure your answer using PEE.