Romeo and Juliet: Act I, Scene I

**Movie Scene Analysis: Act I, Scene I, *A Street in Verona***

1. Who is at fault for the fight that broke out in the street? Why?
2. Compare the way Benvolio and Tybalt respond to the fight.
3. Describe how the street fight escalates. How does it affect the citizens and city of Verona?
4. What do we learn about Romeo prior to him appearing in the play. (Listen closely to Benvolio’s discussion with the Montagues.)

**Close Read: The Prince’s Decree**

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| 80  85  90  95  100 | [Enter **PRINCE ESCALUS**, with his train.]  **PRINCE**  Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,  Profaners of this neighbor-stainèd steel!—  Will they not hear?—What, ho! You men, you beasts,  That quench the fire of your pernicious rage  With purple fountains issuing from your veins,  On pain of torture, from those bloody hands  Throw your mistempered🏵 weapons to the ground,  And hear the sentence of your movèd prince.  Three civil brawls, bred of an airy🏵 word,  By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,  Have thrice disturbed the quiet of our streets  And made Verona’s ancient citizens  Cast by their grave-beseeming🏵 ornaments,  To wield old partisans in hands as old,  Cankered🏵 with peace, to part your cankered🏵 hate.  If ever you disturb our streets again,  Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.  For this time, all the rest depart away.  You, Capulet, shall go along with me,  And, Montague, come you this afternoon  To know our farther pleasure in this case,  To old Freetown, our common judgment-place.  Once more, on pain of death, all men depart. | 🏵 **mistempered:** used with bad temper  🏵 **airy:** light or harmless  🏵 **grave-beseeming:** dignified, as they should be  🏵 **cankered:** The first *cankered* means “rusted” (from the lack of use in peaceful times); the second means “diseased”, like a canker, a running sore |

1. How do you know from his speech that the prince is at first ignored by those engaged in the brawl?
2. There is a dramatic pause at the end of line 85 before the next line is spoken. What do you picture the brawlers doing during this pause?
3. How would you describe the prince’s tone in this speech? Cite evidence to support your answer.
4. What has been happening in Verona? What is the prince’s warning? How might it affect what happens in the play?

***Fold and tape this into your notebook, on top of your responses to the questions, with the blank side facing out. Label the blank page Act I, Scene I.  
Draw a picture of an important moment from Scene I in the blank space.***