

January 15, 2013

Dear parents and caregivers:

As you likely know, we have begun our extended study of Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*. As it is usually students' first extended experience with unabridged Shakespeare, there is always a bit of excitement in the class as everyone realizes that, line by line, their comprehension skills have improved: what once seemed impossibly difficult transforms into merely challenging.

As part of the final work for this unit, I like to give students the chance to watch a full production of the play without excessive discussion, without explanation, a chance simply to watch the play as Shakespeare intended. However, I want the final viewing to be memorable and to challenge their newly-formed conceptions of the play. To those ends, I show Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet*, a 1996 film version of the play starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Romeo and Claire Danes as Juliet.

Because this film's PG-13 rating, I am required to get parental consent before screening the film. The rating comes from a somewhat sexually-suggestive staging of act three, scene five. For the roughly 40 seconds of inappropriate footage, I simply turn the video off and have the students merely listen to the play's text, essentially removing the scene from the film for students.

Those precautions notwithstanding, I still need a permission slip for each student. If you wish your child not to view this film, I will provide an alternative assignment. As such, please fill out the form at the bottom of this page and have your child return it as soon as possible.

Regards,

Gary Scott

Please check one and sign:

I give permission for my child, _____ (child's name), to view *Romeo + Juliet* at the completion of the unit (approximately mid-February).

I do not give permission for my child, _____ (child's name), to view *Romeo + Juliet*. I would prefer an alternate assignment for my child at the completion of the unit (approximately mid-February).

Parent/Guardian Name
(Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date
