

Romeo and Juliet

Read this extract from Act 4 Scene 5 of Romeo and Juliet and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play the Juliet's family have just discovered what appears to be her dead on the morning of her wedding.

	CAPULET
	For shame, bring Juliet forth; her lord is come.
	Nurse
	She's dead, deceased, she's dead; alack the day!
	LADY CAPULET
	Alack the day, she's dead, she's dead, she's dead!
	CAPULET
5	Ha! let me see her: out, alas! she's cold: Her blood is settled, and her joints are stiff; Life and these lips have long been separated: Death lies on her like an untimely frost Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.
	Nurse
	O lamentable day!
	LADY CAPULET
10	O woful time!
	CAPULET
	Death, that hath ta'en her hence to make me wail, Ties up my tongue, and will not let me speak. <i>Enter FRIAR LAURENCE and PARIS, with Musician</i>
	FRIAR LAURENCE
	Come, is the bride ready to go to church?
	CAPULET
15	Ready to go, but never to return. O son! the night before thy wedding-day Hath Death lain with thy wife. There she lies, Flower as she was, deflowered by him. Death is my son-in-law, Death is my heir;
20	My daughter he hath wedded: I will die, And leave him all; life, living, all is Death's.

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Starting with this speech, explain how far you think Shakespeare presents the characters in this scene as having a right to be sad.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the characters in this scene in this exchange.
- how Shakespeare presents these characters in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

Turn over for the next question