

Writing Exercises for *Saving Juliet* by Suzanne Selfors

Creative Writing

Pride and Prejudice, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Romeo and Juliet* are examples of well-known stories that have been retold by contemporary writers. Choose a popular story and rewrite the opening scene from the perspective of a secondary character. For example, tell *The Three Pigs* from the wolf's point of view. Or *Beauty and the Beast* from the Beast's point of view.

Compare and Contrast

There's no doubt about it – the twenty-first century is radically different from *Romeo and Juliet*'s era and teens have more freedom. But some of the things that *Juliet and Romeo* craved - independence, free thought, choice – are craved by modern teens as well. Compare and contrast these two teenage worlds. Think about laws, family obligations, social and marital expectations, and education.

Opinion Piece

Write a review of *Saving Juliet*. Your review should include a brief summary of the main plot points. In expressing your opinion of the novel, take pacing, language, tension, and entertainment value into consideration. Are there other books you would compare *Saving Juliet* to? What age would you recommend read this book?

Personal Essays

1. Mimi fights for her right to choose her own path and become a doctor. Juliet fights to avoid an unwanted marriage. Even though parents and other figures in your life try to look out for your best interests, sometimes they do

not see your wants and desires. In your life, have you even had to fight against someone in power to gain your independence?

2. Romeo and Juliet are often described as “star-crossed lovers,” meaning that their fate was predetermined by forces beyond their control. Do you believe in fate, or that one’s own choices determine the future? Or a combination of the two? Explain.

3. At the end of the book, Troy and Mimi discover they hadn’t really know each other prior to their adventure. Their opinions were based on appearances before taking the time to get to know each other. Has this happened in your own life? Have you judged someone without knowing his or her true character? Did you change your opinion after you got to know this person?

4. If you could go back in time, what time period would you go to? Why? If you could enter a story, which one would you choose? Why?