Theme: Shakespeare - a literary 'giant' in the 21st century – *Romeo and Juliet*
Text: Extract from Act 3. Scene 2 [358 words]

Nurse	
Tybalt is gone, and Romeo banished;	
Romeo that kill'd him, he is banished.	
JULIET	
O God! did Romeo's hand shed Tybalt's blood?	
Nurse	
It did, it did; alas the day, it did!	alas – expresses sorrow / grief
JULIET	
O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!	
Did ever dragon keep so fair a cave?	
Beautiful tyrant! fiend angelical!	fiend – demon / evil spirit [cognate!]
Dove-feather'd raven! wolvish-ravening lamb!	raven (vb) – consume greedily / plunder
Despised substance of divinest show!	
Just opposite to what thou justly seem'st,	
A damned saint, an honorable villain!	
O nature, what hadst thou to do in hell,	
When thou didst bower the spirit of a fiend	bower – enclose
In mortal paradise of such sweet flesh?	
Was ever book containing such vile matter	vile (adj) – cp. villain
So fairly bound? O that deceit should dwell	
In such a gorgeous palace!	
Nurse	perjured – cp., perjury
There's no trust,	forswear – make yourself guilty of perjury;
No faith, no honesty in men; all perjured,	naught – nothing; dissembler - person who
All forsworn, all naught, all dissemblers.	professes opinions that he does not hold
Ah, where's my man? Give me some aqua vita;	aqua vita – brandy
These griefs, these woes, these sorrows make me old.	
Shame come to Romeo!	
JULIET	
Blister'd be thy tongue	blistered (participle) – cp. blister (n): local
For such a wish! he was not born to shame:	swelling of the skin that contains watery
Upon his brow shame is ashamed to sit;	fluid
For 'tis a throne where honour may be crown'd	
Sole monarch of the universal earth.	
O, what a beast was I to chide at him!	chide – scold
Nurse	
Will you speak well of him that kill'd your cousin?	
JULIET	
Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?	
Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy name,	
When I, thy three-hours wife, have mangled it?	mangle – utilate / ruin
But, wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin?	
That villain cousin would have kill'd my husband.	
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring;	
Your tributary drops belong to woe,	tributary (adj) – (n) a) pay tribute to a king
Which you, mistaking, offer up to joy.	b) stream that flows into a larger stream
My husband lives, that Tybalt would have slain;	
And Tybalt's dead, that would have slain my husband:	
All this is comfort; wherefore weep I then?	
Some word there was, worser than Tybalt's death,	
That murder'd me: I would forget it fain;	fain - gladly
But, O, it presses to my memory,	
Like damned guilty deeds to sinners' minds:	
"Tybalt is dead, and Romeo—banished."	
That "banished," that one word "banished,"	
Hath slain ten thousand Tybalts.	

Assignments

1) Summarize the dialogue between Juliet and her nurse and put it in the larger context of Shakespeare's drama. [16]
2) Work closely on the text to analyse Juliet's mental state. Consider Shakespeare's use of literary devices in your analysis. [24]
3) In the context of the present extract, discuss the question of Juliet's age: What are the choices a director can make and how does this choice affect the message of the present scene and the whole drama? [20]