

What's in a Name speech from *Romeo and Juliet* (Act II Scene ii)

Jul. O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father, and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet. 40

Rom. [*Aside.*] Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

Jul. 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;
Thou art thyself though, not a Montague.
What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part 45
Belonging to a man. O! be some other name:

What's in a name? that which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet;

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes 50
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name;
And for that name, which is no part of thee,
Take all myself.

Rom. I take thee at thy word.

Call me but love, and I'll be new baptiz'd; 55
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

Jul. What man art thou, that, thus be-screen'd in night,
So stumblest on my counsel?

Rom. By a name

I know not how to tell thee who I am: 60
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself,
Because it is an enemy to thee:
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

Jul. My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words
Of that tongue's uttering, yet I know the sound: 65
Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

Rom. Neither, fair maid, if either thee dislike.