

# Eagle English 09-10

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Mrs. Haberling



### Friar Laurence

Posted by Mrs. Haberling on October 19, 2009 at 7:38am

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Earlier we talked about one of the pros of involving Friar Laurence was his wise counsel. What do you think about the advice he is giving Romeo and Juliet? Why do you think he is directing them as he is? What might be some possible consequences of the marriage between Romeo and Juliet (not just the ones we know will happen due to already seeing the play, but those possibilities)? Why should they trust Friar Laurence? Why should they not?

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[👤](#) Reply by Allison on October 19, 2009 at 5:09pm

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I sense that the advice that Friar Lawrence has given Romeo and Juliet is helpful, it's helping to make their relationship healthy. Throughout 2:3 Friar Lawrence is telling Romeo that his love towards any woman, be it Rosaline or Juliet or any woman, he should love her for her personality, heart and mind; not for her looks. That is why he is so surprised with Romeo's decision to marry Juliet, because they just met and he has yet to learn of her personality, heart and mind. So the advice Friar Lawrence gives Romeo is only to make the relationships he is in healthy ones. The advice given to Juliet is fairly helpful, but not in the same way that it was to Romeo. It wasn't advice on love; it was on how to get out of the marriage to Paris. Friar Lawrence isn't giving her the intelligent advice you would expect from a friar. Although the advice isn't going to help build a healthy relationship, I think Friar Lawrence is telling her to do these things because he can tell that their love is true and innocent. He wants their life together to last forever. I believe that Friar Lawrence gives Romeo the advice about love on the inside, not on the outside, because he knows a man's heart and knows that Romeo is looking on the outside of the girl, not the heart. Friar Lawrence gives them advice because he cares about their future. He just doesn't realize the possible consequences from his advice on the marriage. A possible negative consequence could be that the feud between the families worsens, and Romeo and Juliet may be caught in the cross fire of the families. Of course the obvious negative consequence would be that they both die from a plan made by Friar Lawrence, just as it is in the story. On the up side, the feud could be resolved because the families want what's best for their only child. The advice to get married could go either way, but Friar Lawrence is a trustworthy person and shouldn't be doubted by the couple. I feel that Romeo and Juliet should trust Friar Lawrence because he is a man of God and he has many experiences in his lifetime to draw from to advise the two of them. Friar Lawrence is a good man that has proved his loyalty to the couple. He hasn't done anything behind their back; he has always been up front about everything with them. Friar Lawrence's advice was always meant to be helpful, and I believe that the pros of listening to his advice outweigh the cons.

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[👤](#) Reply by Sabrina on October 19, 2009 at 5:31pm

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Friar Lawrence's advice is alright, not the smartest. The whole potion thing to make Juliet seem dead wasn't that great of a plan, obviously. But he is excited that two young children of each household has fallen in love with one another, and he believes this will end the feud between Capulet and Montague. In the clip of the movie we had watched today, he completely disagrees to the marriage until he realizes that it may end the fighting. Then he's all for it. So I can't tell if he's really doing this for Romeo and Juliet's happiness, or if he's only doing it for the town. To end the conflict between families. Possible consequences of their marriage is that they won't be able to run away together, and Romeo will have to leave to another city, and Juliet will have to stay in Verona. This could tear their relationship apart, because they will never see each other. Another consequence could be that Romeo is found still in Verona, and receives the death penalty. Or possibly they are caught getting married and Friar Lawrence, Romeo, and Juliet are all punished for doing this secretly. Romeo and Juliet trust Friar Lawrence because he is a holy man, he is one of the most trustworthy people. A man of God. We trust our pastors and preachers, too, don't we? More than we should, in some cases. They really don't have a reason not to trust him, he hasn't done anything wrong. That and he would probably be punished, too, for marrying them, so he'd be in as deep of a hole as Romeo and Juliet would be (if caught).

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[👤](#) Reply by Delane on October 19, 2009 at 5:47pm

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The advice that the Friar gave Romeo could help him a lot in his relationships because as we've noticed, Romeo kind of bases his love on looks not personality. First Friar Lawrence was 'yelling' at Romeo because he was moping around about Rosaline and I don't really know that he even met Rosaline and now Friar Lawrence is admonishing him about changing his opinion so fast and because he wants to marry Juliet after they've known each other for only like four hours. This could help because it could change his mind about wanting to marry so fast and about marrying the only daughter of his father's enemy, even if Romeo has no problem with it. The advice he gives Juliet is more of how to get out of marrying Paris like Allison said. I think he was being a little more sympathetic to Juliet about the whole marriage to Romeo and was just trying to make her happy. Some consequences of their marriage are that the fighting gets worse because they're all related now so if there's any bloodshed, it might be held against them longer or more harshly. This could also go the other way because if there was bloodshed, they might be more forgiving (highly unlikely but you never know) or, there probably won't ever be more bloodshed because they're all related.

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Reply by Kristina on October 19, 2009 at 6:57pm

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I think The advice that Friar Lawrence is giving Romeo and Juliet isn't the most thought out and best, but he has good thought behind it. He tells Romeo that he should love whoever he loves for their heart and personality; for who they are, not for their looks. At first he doesn't agree to marrying them until he realizes that their matrimony might help to end the feud between the two households, the Capulets and Montagues. The plan to give Juliet the potion was obviously not very thought out, because they should've made sure Romeo knew of the plan before starting it. Also maybe they do it different then now days, but they couldn't have been completely certain that everything would happen the way they imagined. Something bad could've gone terribly wrong with the potion, since it probably hadn't been tested. I understand why they trust Friar Lawrence, and I think they should. I think this because it seems they've known him for quite awhile, and he is a big part of Verona, Italy. He is the priest and is on both sides. He seems to be a very kind man, and loved by all. I don't really see any reason for them not to trust him, besides maybe the fact, once again, that the potion probably hadn't been tested before.

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Reply by Tori on October 19, 2009 at 7:05pm

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Tori said:

*I think that Friar Lawrence is trying to be helpful. On the other hand, I am not sure if the guidance he is giving Romeo and Juliet is not the most wise advice. First of all it is against both of their families. If the Capuletes or Motagues found out that Romeo and Juliet were allready married without their knowing, it could add to their feud. Secondly, the pressure put on Romeo and Juliet could stress their relationship and weaken it greatly. Again, I think that Friar Lawrence is trying to be helpful.*

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Reply by Philip on October 19, 2009 at 7:32pm

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I don't quite remember some of the advice Friar L. gave Romeo and Juliet but I don't think it was bad advice because I think he seemed to try to lead them into the right direction. I think the Friar is mainly directing them because I think mabey Romeo and Juliet are higher in comunity or class than him, Friar L. might be a little afraid of what they could do if he said no. Also Friar L. would see this relationship as a pillow between Montague and Capulets family feud. I think they should be able to trust him because he's a "holy" man. But you never know what he's really thinking because of his potions, herbs, and secret mariages and stuff.

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Reply by Cara on October 19, 2009 at 8:43pm

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Friar Lawrence marrying Romeo and Juliet is suppose to be a nice deed, but it's not really thought out well or that great of a plan. Yes Friar Lawrence is making them happy, but he doesn't/didn't know what was going to happen next. Romeo just got banished from Verona and will get killed if he goes back, what does this mean is going to happen to Juliet and him? The advice Friar Lawrence is giving them is okay in terms of what to do and not to do, but is still not fully-thought-through. The advice he gives Romeo when he says he doesn't love Rosaline but instead Juliet was actually good though, about how he said Romeo shouldn't just go by looks and everything. But then the Friar just ends up marrying them...? Right now I'm thinking that he would be doing this to teach them a lesson about rushing things. (That could be why he said to Romeo the line about those who go too fast stumble). But Shakespeare makes them both die in the end, so they wouldn't learn the lesson, but us as readers would. So I don't know about that, just an idea. Well, almost all the different consequences I could think of had one or the other dying one way or another. Because if Romeo came back they would kill him, but if Juliet left then she could get killed who-knows-how, or if they lived long enough she could die from child birth or something else like that. But then again if their parent's magically understood all the sudden that they loved each other then maybe they could end the family feud, dying or not. But this would also just be as bad for him, which is why I don't think he put much thought into this plan. Personally, I'm on the line between trusting him, and not. Because at this part of the story I guess I would trust him, he is a friar after all. Plus he's an adult, having more knowledge (hopefully) of the world and other things. But if I was Juliet and he said to drink that potion I wouldn't, and I would just tell my parents that I needed more time before getting married. I guess the part that makes me not want to trust him is because of what I already know, not what has happened before.

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Reply by Taylor on October 19, 2009 at 9:02pm

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Well, Friar Lawrence's advice, as I look at it, it that he wants them to get to know eachother in a couple hours. Even though that's pretty much impossible, I think his advice just was to really see if they wanted to marry eachother. That way he's directing them to maybe see they are going too fast and slow it down a little. But of course the consequences of these actions could lead him to be removed as a friar of the church, since these families have alot of power, with all the chaos they've created. Not only that but he loses trust of two great families if they take it the wrong way, which really goes against him if he, or the church, gets in trouble. But I geuss Romeo and Juliet do trust Friar Lawrence because, for one, he's a friar and seems to know how to react to confessions. Also he seems very fair and neutral to the feud to the battle of the Capulets and the Montague, so he has no guilt of keeping it a secret from those families. Of course there are some troubles with actually trusting Friar Lawrence, like he he could feel guilty for leading Paris and the Capulets on about Juliet's and Paris' wedding being real and confesss. Also he may just pretending the wedding, even though we know he's not, and really marry Paris and Juliet, but the reason I say that is because that could be some kind of problem that could've gone through his mind that he could do.

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Reply by Bailey on October 19, 2009 at 9:26pm

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The advice that Friar Lawrence gives Romeo and Juliet, I think, could use a lot of improvement. First of all, he's all 'no, I won't marry you guys because you barely know each other' and then all of a sudden he agrees to marry them. I know he probably thought it would end the feud between the Montagues and Capulets, but he seems kind of fickle to me. Also, I thought that the whole idea of Juliet drinking that vial to "kill" her was pretty much a terrible idea. I mean, so many things could, and did, go wrong. Romeo never got the message, he kills Paris, he dies, then Juliet awakens and stabs herself. And, like we saw in the play, Juliet was worried that the potion would actually kill her, or it wouldn't and then she would come to underground, be surrounded by the spirits of her dead ancestors, and then be buried alive before Romeo and the Friar could get to her. Some possible consequences of the secret marriage of Romeo and Juliet would be that, well, they live happily ever after and their families find out, but are okay with it because it is both of their children. However, something else that could happen is that the Friar feels like he has betrayed God or something because of their secret marriage, and so uncovers that same secret to the entire town. That, in turn, could cause a huge fight in which all of the people in Verona have to participate and choose sides. The whole book could have turned out differently. But, I'm no Shakespeare, this is just my opinion.

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Reply by Bailey on October 19, 2009 at 9:26pm

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I think that the advice Friar Lawrence is giving Romeo and Juliet bad advice. Friar Lawrence only agrees to marry them because he thinks that if they marry, the feud between the Montagues and Capulets will cease. He doesn't think about what would be best for each of them, or the fact that Romeo is basing his true love on looks alone. By marrying them, Friar Lawrence could easily create more of a feud between the families when they find out that Romeo and Juliet secretly married. They shouldn't trust Friar Lawrence because he's not really caring about them, just the fact that their family's fighting might end and the town will be peaceful. Friar Lawrence is giving Romeo and Juliet bad advice and should not be trusted.

Reply by Emily on October 19, 2009 at 9:42pm

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I think that Friar Lawrence is giving Romeo and Juliet the advice he is because he knows that their relationship is heading toward bad end, and he thinks that maybe he can turn it around. If Romeo and Juliet are married maybe their families will stop feuding, or maybe the marriage will fuel the feud. Friar Lawrence is trustworthy because he is a holy man and he would not do something that he didn't think was right, but it might be wishful thinking when he decides that helping them with their relationship could end the feud between their families and everything could turn out alright.

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### Replies to This Discussion



Reply by Alex on October 19, 2009 at 10:05pm

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First of all, Friar Lawrence (yes, that's how it's spelled in the book) doesn't ADVISE their getting married. He rather CONSENTS to Romeo's begging. If anything, the Friar advises against the marriage. Remember how he is displeased by Romeo's abrupt change of mind and hasty action. The only reasons he reluctantly agreed to get these two married is because 1) He hoped it might end their feud, and 2) Romeo was becoming quite a nuisance.

When he marries them in 2:6, though, he does have some advice. Basically, he tells them to take things slowly and wisely and not get too caught up in the infatuation of the moment. He knows that this wedding is not exactly a good idea.

Overall, it's a good thing Friar Lawrence is in on this secret. He is really the wisest of the three, considering the other two are love-struck, impulsive adolescents who honestly don't know what they're doing.

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Reply by Abigail on October 19, 2009 at 10:17pm

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I think that the advice that Friar Lawrence has given Romeo and Juliet is bad. He thinks that the feud between Romeo and Juliet's parents will be ended when the two of them get married, but I don't think it will. It will probably just make them more angry. After all, it's Montague's last child and the man that she chooses to marry is his enemy's son. He also wanted Juliet to marry Paris instead, so he couldn't be to thrilled to find out about the marriage. I think Friar Lawrence could be directing them as he is so that he will look like a hero when and if the Capulets and the Montagues stop fighting. I mean, it would give him a good reputation, but it wouldn't be helping Romeo and Juliet much at all. Friar Lawrence should be partially trusted by Romeo and Juliet because he is respected by other people in Verona. All he's doing is marrying them. His goal isn't to hurt them in any way. On the other hand, Friar Lawrence shouldn't be totally trusted because he isn't marrying them for the good of themselves; he's doing it for the good of his own self. Overall, Friar Lawrence gave Romeo and Juliet some bad advice and I think that they should be careful with what they do so it doesn't end up breaking the families farther apart.

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Reply by Janey on October 19, 2009 at 10:48pm

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Friar Lawrence didn't do anything wrong in marrying Romeo to Juliet. He was a little hesitant at first because they didn't know each other very well but, it didn't seem like anything could go wrong, and Friar thought that maybe this would end the feud between their families. But having Juliet play dead was very bad advice. The only reason he gave this advice was because he had no time to do anything else. For one thing, it isn't honest, and for another thing, it's too risky of a plan. Juliet could wake up too soon and be found out, or too late and be buried alive. Obviously, something did go wrong: Romeo didn't get the message that Juliet was just pretending and they both committed suicide. Even if they had gotten away successfully, Juliet would never be able to show her face in Verona because everyone thinks she's dead. And they would have to start over completely with no money, family, friends, house or job. That part was bad advice. What the Friar should have done was reveal the marriage to the families, but he had to think fast because of the plan for Juliet to marry Paris. Under different conditions he might have given better advice.

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Reply by Abby on October 20, 2009 at 7:20am

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I think that Friar Lawrence felt pretty uncomfortable marrying Romeo to Juliet, which is why he tried to talk Romeo out of it. And he was right that Romeo might not *really* love Juliet and that he was just attracted to her appearance. Since it's a book, of *course* Romeo loved Juliet, but I think that if there was a relationship like that in real life, it would just be held together by the fact that Romeo and Juliet liked each other's appearances. That's what Friar Lawrence was saying when he said, "Young men's love then lies/ Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes." However, as we all know, he did end up marrying the two anyway. I think that this was only because he could see that Romeo couldn't be stopped from being with Juliet. He thought that it was better for them to have a legal marriage than to run off together and either elope or not get married at all. And, when he realized that the marriage of their children might bring peace, between the Capulets and the Montagues, Friar Lawrence used that piece of information to ease his conscience, which was still feeling uncomfortable about the whole idea.

Since Friar Lawrence had a good, healthy relationship with Romeo, he was a good person to trust. On the other hand, he could give in to his guilt and betray them at any time. A possible consequence of Friar Lawrence marrying Romeo and Juliet is that instead of bringing the Capulets and Montagues together, it could make them hate each other even more. And whose side would their children take??

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Reply by Lauren on October 20, 2009 at 11:06am

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I feel that Friar Lawrence is helpful in some ways but not in others. I think he is helpful because he is helping this young couple become more mature. Romeo and Juliet are young and when there is an adult involved it helps their maturity. But I also think that Friar Lawrence is not very helpful. I think this because he is just letting two kids rush into a decision. Friar Lawrence should know that kids are not always sure of what they want and that their minds can change very quickly. He should realize that maybe Romeo and Juliet are too "lovestruck" to notice that this might be just a crush. He is also going against a parents wishes and could possibly make this feud even worse. I'm thinking that Friar Lawrence is doing this marriage with good intentions but I'm not sure that it will end up very good.

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