

When reading chapter 4 of *How Shakespeare Changed Everything* it really took me a while to take in the idea that Shakespeare created a “fixed” adolescence. Since all my ideas on adolescence have been exactly how he made them seem, I never knew that he made one of the first examples of adolescence. Shakespeare created an entire persona for *Romeo and Juliet* : how the teenagers would drink and make out, and do stupid things. Over time it just came to be. I’ve never read any versions of *Romeo and Juliet* or watched a recreation of the story. I’ve only ever known the basic storyline but never the actual details. I was well aware that they were both young but never caught the, “turning fourteen in two weeks (Juliet),” I had envisioned both Romeo and Juliet to be young adults, maybe in their early 20s, because that’s my definition of young love, not fourteen year olds. I think that fourteen year olds are just children, possibly beginning to get an idea of what love actually is. That is the way I’ve viewed adolescence. Some people might say that no one’s too young for love, and that it’s about maturity which determines if you’re ready or not.

With the quotes that were being used from the original *Romeo and Juliet*, it makes it seem as if they were both very “cliche”. The very last sentence on page 64 the author writes “... he also cut down the rhyming - it made the lovers seem too silly and too unrealistic.” The “he” the author is speaking of is David Garrick, a man who made changes to the play for an audience. Garrick interpreted the play and gave it more cushion to the storyline to make it sound more pure in a way, rather than how bluntly Shakespeare had written the love between them. The changes made were removing the way Romeo and Juliet spoke in a sonnet form, because “it made their love seem too ridiculous and artificial.” That is the way that the author described Garrick’s reasons to the changes he made. After reading the original examples of *Romeo and Juliet*, I feel that Shakespeare purposely shaped the characters this way. If he wanted to write something pure and sweet, I think Shakespeare could of been capable of doing so. I feel that after Shakespeare’s influence on the world, it began to change people. The times where the simplicity of child to adult was gone and gave an in between stage that was known as adolescence. I know that the word adolescence comes from a Latin word that was first used around the 15th century, with a meaning that relates from no longer a child but learning how to become an adult. I feel that what Shakespeare shaped into adolescence hasn’t been outdated since he made the first “observations” on teenagers, because the things these adolescents do are still the same things, some do things that are examples of what Shakespeare writes or some do different things, but they can all branch off from what Shakespeare wrote and created many years ago. I believe what Shakespeare wrote about teenagers is still relevant today. The experiences I’ve had from being a teenager it seems

that the absurdity in what Shakespeare wrote years ago, is still the same rebellion that teenagers have in present day.