# Text Analysis

## SHAKESPEAREAN DRAMA: COMIC RELIEF

Shakespeare often includes comic relief in his tragedies. **Comic relief** is a humorous scene, incident, or speech that is included in a serious drama to relieve emotional intensity. For example, the comical exchange between Peter and the musicians at the end of Act Four, Scene 5, follows the grief-filled scene in which Juliet's body is discovered.

**Directions:** Record other examples of comic relief from Act Four on the chart. An example has been done for you.

| Scene and Line Numbers | Description | Emotional Situation Relieved |
|---|---|---|
| Scene 5, Lines 113–158 | Peter and the musicians exchange insults and puns. | Juliet's body has been discovered. |
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