

Romeo and Juliet: Plot

Act One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Italy, two noble families (the Montagues & Capulets) are feuding yet again. Romeo is in love with Rosaline, who rejects his love. As a result, he is depressed. To cure Romeo of his lovesickness, Benvolio persuades him to attend a masked ball at the Capulets, where he might see prettier girls and therefore forget about Rosaline. Romeo meets Juliet and they instantly fall in love with one another. Tybalt hears Romeo's voice at the ball and is furious that a Montague has dared to attend. Romeo and Juliet each discover the other's identity from the Nurse: "My only love sprung from my only hate"
Act Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benvolio and Mercutio cannot find Romeo after the party. Romeo stands beneath Juliet's balcony. He sees Juliet leaning over the railing, hears her calling out his name & wishes that he wasn't a Montague. He reveals his presence & they resolve, after a passionate exchange, to be married secretly. Romeo confesses his love to the Friar, who sees a chance to end the feud if he agrees to marry the two lovers Juliet sends the Nurse to see Romeo. M and B tease her. The Nurse returns with Romeo's message- the Friar is to marry them! R&J visit the Friar in secret and marry
Act Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo returns from his recent marriage to Juliet and encounters Tybalt, who challenges Romeo to a duel. Romeo refuses Mercutio is livid with Romeo's refusal and fights with Tybalt who underhandedly kills Mercutio. Romeo kills Tybalt and runs away. The Nurse tells Juliet what has happened. J is more upset about R being banished than Tybalt's murder Romeo, also upset about banishment, visits the Friar. The Friar tells Romeo to leave Verona and await a message Capulet brings forward the date of Juliet's marriage to Paris. Juliet refuses to marry so Capulet threatens to cut her off
Act Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In despair, Juliet seeks Friar Lawrence's advice. He gives her a sleeping potion, which for a time will cause her to appear dead. Thus, on the day of her supposed marriage to Paris, she will be carried to the family vault. By the time she awakens, Romeo will be summoned to the vault and take her away to Mantua. Juliet takes the potion and is found 'dead' on her wedding day.
Act Five	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Friar's letter fails to reach Romeo. When he hears of Juliet's "death", Romeo buys poison from an apothecary and secretly returns to Verona Romeo returns to the tomb, where he sees Paris. He kills him. He goes into the tomb, takes the poison and dies. When Juliet awakens from her deep sleep, she realises Romeo's error and kills herself with his dagger. The Capulets and Montague decide to reconcile as a result of the deaths of their children.

**MY ONLY LOVE
SPRUNG FROM MY
ONLY HATE**



Context	
Duelling, honour and feuds	<p>Maintaining the honour of your family name was hugely important at the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you were challenged to a duel and you refused, you would be deemed a coward, thus damaging your honour and the status of your family. Most Elizabethan gentlemen carried swords in public and many did fight in the streets.
Patriarchal society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabethan England was a society in which virtually all positions of power were held by men Women were seen as the weaker sex & were expected to be meek & mild, and most importantly, obedient to their fathers & later their husbands. Upper class women were educated at home by tutors. There was a large increase in literacy among women (still low numbers overall) There were some women in positions of power, for example Elizabeth I
Arranged marriages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marriages amongst the wealthy arranged by parents to match or improve social standing. In practice, parents did try to choose someone their child liked and was happy to marry. Secret marriages such as that between the young Romeo and Juliet would have been illegal, but may have elicited audience sympathy The fourth commandment in the Bible is 'Honour thy father and thy mother'
The Italian setting and Catholicism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play is set in Italy. It was fashionable to set plays in Italy as it was land of "culture". The Italian Renaissance, a flowering of culture, took place in C15th Italy was not a single unified country ; instead it consisted of several rival feuding states. It is was a Catholic country (the audience in London would have been Protestant); religion was extremely important and marriage vows were seen as sacred and unbreakable The Dissolution of the Monasteries took place about 50 years before the play was written, meaning there were no monks (friars) left in England. The Protestant English audience would have been suspicious of monks and seen them as potentially evil



**THESE VIOLENT DELIGHTS
HAVE VIOLENT ENDS AND
IN THEIR TRIUMPH DIE,
LIKE FIRE AND POWDER,
WHICH AS THEY KISS
CONSUME.**

**What greater punishment is there
than life when you've lost
everything that made it worth
living ?**

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
www.bookquoteshub.com

What's in a name?
That which we call a rose,
by any other name would
smell as sweet

Shakespeare

Form and Structure: General Dramatic Terminology

Antagonist	A character or force against which another character struggles.
Anticlimax	An arrangement of ideas in which an unimpressive item is put at the end
Aside	Words spoken by an actor directly to the audience, which are not "heard" by the other characters on stage, and which voice their inner thoughts
Chorus	A group of characters in Greek tragedy (and in later forms of drama), who comment on the action of a play without participation in it.
Climax	The turning point of the action in the plot of a play or story. The climax represents the point of greatest tension in the work.
Conflict	A struggle between opposing forces in a story or play, usually resolved by the end of the work. The conflict may occur within a character as well as between characters.
Convention	A customary feature of a literary work, such as the use of a <u>chorus</u> in Greek tragedy.
Denouement	The resolution of the <u>plot</u> , after the <u>catastrophe</u> . From French for 'to undo the knot'.
Dramatic Irony	When the audience knows or understands more than one or more of the characters
Exposition	The first stage of a plot, in which necessary background information is provided.
Falling action	In the plot of a story or play, the action following the climax of the work that moves it towards its denouement or resolution.
Foil	A character who contrasts and parallels the main character in a play or story.
Foreshadowing	Hints of what is to come in the action of a play or a story.
Monologue	A speech by a single character without another character's response. See also <u>Soliloquy</u> .
Protagonist	The main character of a literary work
Rising action	A set of conflicts and crises that constitute the part of a plot leading up to the <u>climax</u> .
Soliloquy	A speech in that is heard by the audience, not other characters. Voices thoughts
Suspension of disbelief	When the audience 'agrees' to believe the events of the play are 'real' during the performance
Prose	Lines of a play that are not written in verse (poetry)

Features of a Tragedy in Romeo and Juliet

Tragic hero	- a main character cursed by fate and possessed of a tragic flaw (Romeo, and to an extent Juliet).
Hamartia	- the fatal character flaw of the tragic hero (his passion and impulsiveness).
Catharsis	- the release of the audience's emotions through empathy with the characters.
Internal conflict	- the struggle the hero engages in with his/her fatal flaw.

Themes – a theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.

Love	- love is an overpowering force that supersedes all other values, emotions and loyalties. Through their love, R&J conspire to go against the forces of their entire social world. Romeo returns to visit Juliet at points, even though he is well aware of the threat of death. At times, love is presented as fickle (Mercutio's speeches, Romeo and Rosaline).
Individual vs. society	- R&J are forced to undermine the oppressive rules of society at the time. For example, rules of the patriarchal family force Juliet to be subservient to her parents, rules of religion mean they must marry in haste and rules of masculinity force Romeo into conflict with Tybalt.
Violence	- Extreme violence takes place sporadically throughout the day. The feud between the two families is so bitter that the mere sight of each other can be the cause of a fight to the death. Unchecked violence is personified through the character of Tybalt. The violence culminates in Act 3, Scene 1, in which Mercutio and Tybalt are murdered.
Fate	- In the first address to the audience, the Chorus states that Romeo and Juliet are 'star-cross'd lovers', meaning that fate has intended for their paths to cross, and that fate controls their actions. A series of unfortunate accidents towards the end of the play thwart Friar Laurence's plan and eventually manifest in both R&J committing suicide, thus adding to the sense of fate.

CHARACTERS

Juliet Capulet

1:2 (with Lady Capulet and Nurse)	Shy, innocent, docile, respectful, modest, traditional, tongue-tied
1:5 (at ball with Romeo), 2:2 (balcony scene), & 3:2 (first night with Romeo)	Flirtatious, articulate, romantic, poetic, amorous, intelligent, playful
2:6 (marriage) and 3:5 (fight with parents)	courageous, independent, determined, rebellious, principled, outspoken, quick-witted, equivocating
4:1 (the Friar's plan)	wreckless, brave, determined, death-wish
5:3 (suicide)	fearless, resolved, unwilling to live without Romeo



Romeo Montague

1:1 (in love with Rosaline)	Brooding, petulant, melancholy, Petrarchan lover, rejected, immature
1:2, 1:4 and 2:4 (with Mercutio and Benvolio)	Banter, joking, playful, sad, withdrawn, tragic hero
2:3 (with Friar) and 2:6 (marriage)	Hasty, impetuous, impulsive
3:1 (the fight)	Respectful, calm, vengeful, enraged, lack of
3:3 (with Friar)	Emotionally childlike, distraught, lacking self-control, hysterical
5:1 (in Mantua), 5:2 (apothecary), 5:3 (suicide)	Impulsive, resolved to kill himself, reckless, mature in commitment to Juliet



Benvolio

- Name echoes 'benevolent' (kind). Confidant to Romeo
- Does not appear after 3:1 (replaced as Romeo's helper/ confidant by Balthasar)
- Peacekeeper, empathetic, wise, weak, cares little for male honour



Mercutio

- Name echoes 'mercurial' (subject to unpredictable mood changes)
- Dies in 3:1- the point when the play turns from a Comedy into a tragedy
- Complex character, entertainer, clever, witty, coarse, banter, playful with language, imaginative, creative, strong sense of male honour



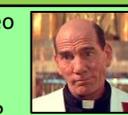
Tybalt

- Nicknamed 'The Prince of Cats'
- Dies in 3:1- principal antagonist no longer in play
- Aggressive, strong sense of male honour, vicious



Nurse compared with Friar Lawrence

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother figure to Juliet, confidant to Juliet Wise or foolish? Loyal or treacherous? Sympathetic or heartless? Typical character type from Greek drama: long winded and rude servant Bawdy sexual humour, rambling language. Comic character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Father figure to Romeo, confidant to Romeo Wise or foolish?, Cunning or bungling?, Hasty and impulsive or efficient and brave?
	Paris Formal language, awkward, presumptuous (acts as if he and Juliet are already married), respected



Lord Capulet: Z

- 1:5- hospitable, jolly, generous, friendly, peacekeeper
- 1:1 and 3:5 short-tempered, belligerent, tyrannical, violent, furious
- 4:5: heartbroken with grief

Lady Capulet

- 1:2: distant mother, not maternal
- 3:1 distraught, vengeful
- 3:5 lacks sympathy, weak
- 4:5 heartbroken, grieving

Montagues:

Concerned for Romeo but not close to Romeo

Other characters:

The Prince, Sampson, Gregory, Peter, Petruchio, Balthasar, Abram, Apothecary, Page, Friar John, Watchmen, Musicians

Romeo and Juliet – Knowledge Organiser

Plot summary

Prologue: A sonnet, recited by the chorus, outlines the play.

Act 1

Act I, Scene 1: Capulet and Montague servants fight in the streets. Benvolio tries to break them up, but Tybalt arrives and challenges him. The Prince arrives and declares that any further fighting will be punished with death. After this, the Montagues discuss Romeo's melancholy state and Benvolio learns Romeo is in love with Rosaline.

Act I, Scene 2: Paris seeks Capulet's permission to marry his daughter Juliet. Capulet says she is too young, but Paris should try to win her affections at his banquet. Capulet's invitation list is intercepted by Benvolio and Romeo, who decide to attend the event.

Act I, Scene 3: The Nurse and Lady Capulet tell Juliet about Paris, and she agrees to consider him as a potential suitor.

Act I, Scene 4: Romeo, Benvolio, and Mercutio arrive at the banquet, and Mercutio banters with Romeo.

Act I, Scene 5: Romeo and Juliet see each other and fall in love immediately. Tybalt sees Romeo and wants to fight him, but Lord Capulet stops him.

Act 2

Act II, Scene 1: Romeo separates himself from his friends as they leave the party.

Act II, Scene 2: Romeo listens to Juliet at her balcony, and they exchange vows to marry. Juliet says she will send a messenger to Romeo the next day to arrange the wedding.

Act II, Scene 3: Romeo goes to see Friar Lawrence to ask for his help with marrying Juliet. The Friar agrees, hoping that their alliance will end their families' feuding.

Act II, Scene 4: Benvolio and Mercutio discuss Tybalt, who has challenged Romeo to a duel. Romeo arrives and the friends banter about his love. The Nurse appears; Romeo's friends depart. Romeo gives the Nurse a message for Juliet: she is to go to Friar Lawrence that afternoon, and they shall be married. He arranges for the Nurse to receive a rope-ladder for Juliet to lower for him that night.

Act II, Scene 5: The Nurse returns to an impatient Juliet. She teases her charge by withholding the message but then tells her the good news.

Act II, Scene 6: Juliet comes to Romeo in Friar Lawrence's cell, and they greet each other joyfully. The Friar prepares to marry them.

Act 3

Act III, Scene 1: Benvolio and Mercutio encounter Tybalt, and Mercutio mocks him. Romeo arrives and refuses to accept Tybalt's challenge to a duel (due to his secret marriage to Juliet). Mercutio thinks this is cowardly so fights on his behalf. Romeo tries to intervene and Mercutio is killed under his arm, cursing the families as he dies. Romeo fights and kills Tybalt to get revenge. At Benvolio's urging, Romeo flees. The Prince appears and interrogates Benvolio. Judging Tybalt to be guiltier than Romeo, he spares the latter the death sentence but banishes him from Verona.

Act III, Scene 2: Juliet longs for night, when Romeo is to come. The Nurse brings her word of Tybalt's death and Romeo's banishment, and volunteers to bring Romeo to the distraught girl.

Act III, Scene 3: Romeo is in a state of anger and disbelief, hiding with the Friar. The Nurse arrives with word of Juliet's distress. The Friar chastises Romeo for behaving so foolishly and proposes that, after a night with Juliet, Romeo should flee to Mantua until everything is cleared up. Romeo agrees and leaves.

Act III, Scene 4: Capulet decides to marry Juliet to Paris in three days to cheer her up.

Act III, Scene 5: Romeo and Juliet awake after spending the night together and Romeo leaves. Lady Capulet arrives and tells Juliet about her impending marriage. Juliet refuses and her parents fly into a rage. The Nurse advises that Juliet ignore her marriage to Romeo, which no one else knows about, and marry Paris.

Act 4

Act IV, Scene 1: Juliet interrupts Paris talking to Friar Lawrence and, when he leaves, threatens to kill herself if the Friar doesn't help her. He agrees to provide her with a potion that will make her seem to be dead, until Romeo collects her from the family crypt.

Act IV, Scene 2: Juliet apologizes to her father, promising to obey him and marry Paris. Capulet moves the wedding up a day to the next morning.

Act IV, Scene 3: Juliet drinks the potion.

Act IV, Scene 4: Capulet sends the Nurse to awaken Juliet on the morning of her wedding day.

Act IV, Scene 5: The Nurse finds Juliet dead and the family grieve for her.

Act 5

Act V, Scene 1: Balthasar arrives in Mantua and tells Romeo that Juliet has died. Romeo immediately plans to join her and buy a poison from an apothecary.

Act V, Scene 2: Friar John reports to Friar Lawrence that he has been unable to deliver Lawrence's letter to Romeo. Lawrence sends John to fetch a crow bar, planning to open the vault and take Juliet into hiding in his own cell until Romeo can be summoned.

Act V, Scene 3: Paris visits Juliet's tomb at night. Romeo appears with Balthasar, whom he sends away with a letter to Montague. Paris steps forth to challenge him. They fight, and Romeo kills Paris. Romeo then enters the crypt, drinks the poison, and dies. Friar Lawrence arrives tells Juliet what has happened and begs her to flee. She refuses and stays. She kisses her dead lover and stabs herself with his dagger. The watchmen appear, arresting Balthasar and the Friar as the Prince arrives, followed by both families. The Friar explains what has happened, and his tale is confirmed by Balthasar and by Romeo's letter to his father. Montague and Capulet make peace and vow to erect golden statues of the two lovers.

Historical context

Queen Elizabeth I – She was queen while Shakespeare was writing, and supported him. Elizabeth I made Protestantism the official religion of England, which angered many Catholics, and led to much conflict. Shakespeare may be referencing this in 'Romeo and Juliet', with the two warring families.

Patriarchy – patriarchal societies are ones where men are dominant, and have control over women e.g. by choosing who they would marry.

Nurses – employed by wealthy families to feed and care for their children.

The Humours – Elizabethans believed the body contained four 'humours': blood, phlegm, yellow bile and black bile. The amount you had of each determined your personality. People with too much phlegm are emotional. People with too much blood are irresponsible and gluttonous. People with too much yellow bile are violent and vengeful. People with too much black bile are depressed and self-centred.

Fate - the belief that your life is mapped out for you, or 'written in the stars'. Many Elizabethans believed God decided your fate, and that astrology could help you identify your course in life.

Bubonic Plague/Black Death – a plague that killed many people. Sufferers were quarantined in their houses, with a red 'X' painted on the door, and left to die.

Techniques and Terminology

Prologue – sets up the story and foreshadows events.

Foreshadowing – when an author drops hints about what will happen through language or symbolism.

Dramatic irony – when an audience knows something the characters do not.

Symbolism – when an image represents an idea, e.g. light symbolises happiness, flowers symbolise youth etc.

Double meaning – when a word can be read to mean two things e.g. 'grave' = serious or grave stone.

Personification – when an object is given human qualities

Rhyming Couplets – two lines next to each other that rhyme with each other, often used for dramatic impact.

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Critical Vocabulary		Key Themes
<p>Shakespeare presents the Montagues and their supporters as...</p> <p><u>Romeo</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Melancholic – someone who is prone to moping and being depressed. Quixotic – extremely idealistic: unrealistic and impractical. Ardent – enthusiastic and passionate. <p><u>Benvolio</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Appeasing - someone who tries to pacify others. Sincere - honest and genuine. Stalwart – loyal and reliable. <p><u>Mercutio</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Anarchic – unruly and chaotic. Impulsive – someone who acts on a whim, without thinking. Precocious – someone who ‘shows off’ their intelligence arrogantly. 	<p>Shakespeare presents the Capulets and their supporters as...</p> <p><u>Juliet</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Idealistic – someone who believes whole-heartedly in something, even if it is unrealistic. Ingenuous – innocent, naïve and unworlly. Resolute – someone who has made their mind up and whose opinion cannot be changed. <p><u>Tybalt</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Volatile – someone who could explode at any moment. Tempestuous – someone who is unpredictable and has many conflicting emotions. Righteous – someone who believes what they are doing is morally justifiable. <p><u>Nurse</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maternal – motherly. Submissive – will bend to a dominant authority and ‘do what they are told’ Uncouth – uncivilised and uncultured, potentially vulgar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict Power Fate Loyalty Family Religion Love Hatred Violence Death
<p>Key Quotations</p> <p><u>Prologue</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Two households, both alike in dignity’ ‘Ancient grudge’ ‘A pair of star-cross’d lovers’ with a ‘death-mark’d love’ <p><u>Act 1</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Benvolio: ‘I do but keep the peace’ (Sc. 1) Lord Capulet, to Paris: ‘let two more summers wither in their pride’ (Sc. 2) Tybalt, about Romeo: ‘To strike him dead I hold it not a sin’ (Sc. 5) Romeo, about Juliet: ‘she doth teach the torches to burn bright’ (Sc. 5) Juliet, about Romeo: ‘if he be married, /My grave is like to be my wedding bed.’(Sc. 5) <p><u>Act 2</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet, about Romeo: ‘Tis but thy name that is my enemy’ (Sc. 2) Friar Lawrence: ‘This alliance may so happy prove to turn your household rancour to pure love’ (Sc. 3) Friar Lawrence: ‘These violent delights have violent ends’ (Sc. 6) 	<p><u>Act 3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tybalt, to Romeo: ‘thou art a villain’ (Sc. 1) Mercutio: ‘a plague o’ both your houses’ (Sc. 1) Mercutio: ‘ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man.’ (Sc. 1) Romeo: ‘O, I am fortune’s fool!’ (Sc. 1) Lord Capulet, about Juliet: ‘I think she will be ruled in all respects by me’ (Sc. 4) Lady Capulet, about Juliet: ‘I would the fool were married to her grave’ (Sc. 5) Lord Capulet, about Juliet: ‘Hang thee young baggage, disobedient wretch!’ (Sc. 5) The Nurse, to Juliet, about Paris: ‘I think it best you married with the County’ (Sc. 5) <p><u>Act 4</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet, to Friar Lawrence: ‘I long to die if what thou speak’st speak not of remedy’ Lord Capulet, about Juliet: ‘Death is my son-in-law, Death is my heir’ Lord Capulet: ‘with my child my joys are buried’ <p><u>Act 5</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo: ‘here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes/ This vault a feasting presence full of light.’ Prince: ‘all are punish’d’ Capulet: ‘O brother Montague, give me thy hand’ 	<p>Key characters</p> <p><u>Montagues</u></p> <p>Romeo – age unknown, anywhere between 16 and 21</p> <p>Benvolio – Romeo’s cousin</p> <p>Lord and Lady Montague – Romeo’s parents.</p> <p>Abraham - servant</p> <p>Balthasar – servant</p> <p><u>Capulets</u></p> <p>Juliet –age 13 in the play</p> <p>Tybalt – Juliet’s cousin</p> <p>Lord and Lady Capulet – Juliet’s parents</p> <p>Gregory – servant</p> <p>Sampson – servant</p> <p><u>Others</u></p> <p>Rosaline – a nun, Romeo is in love with her before Juliet.</p> <p>Prince Escalus – ruler of Verona</p> <p>Mercutio – related to Prince, friends with Romeo</p> <p>Count Paris – related to Prince, betrothed to Juliet</p> <p>Friar Lawrence – friends with Romeo</p> <p>The Nurse – works for the Capulets, Juliet’s confidante</p>

Themes – A theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.

Love – In Romeo and Juliet, love is an extremely overpowering force that supersedes all other values, emotions, and loyalties. Through their love, Romeo and Juliet conspire to go against the forces of their entire social world. Romeo returns to visit Juliet at night, even though he is well aware of the threat of death. At times, love is presented as fickle (Mercutio's speeches, Romeo + Rosaline). 

Individual vs Society – Romeo and Juliet are forced to undermine the oppressive rules of society at the time. For example, rules of the patriarchal family force Juliet to be subservient to her parents, rules of religion mean that they must marry in haste, and rules of masculinity force Romeo into conflict with Tybalt.

Violence – Extreme violence takes place sporadically throughout the play. The feud between the two families is so bitter that the mere sight of each other can be the cause of a fight to the death. Unchecked violence is personified through the character of Tybalt. The violence culminates in Act 3 Scene 1, in which both Mercutio and Tybalt are murdered. 

Fate – In the first address to the audience, the Chorus states that Romeo and Juliet are 'star-cross'd' lovers, meaning that fate had intended for their paths to cross, and that fate controls their actions. A series of unfortunate accidents towards the end of the play thwart Friar Laurence's plan and eventually manifest in both Romeo and Juliet committing suicide, thus adding to the sense of fate.

Dramatic

Dramatic Irony

Soliloquy

Aside

Foreshadowing

'Romeo and Juliet': Knowledge Organiser		Characters	Key words
Plot breakdown		Romeo (Montague) Young man. Falls in love with Juliet. Kills himself at the end of the play. <i>"Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night"; "Thus with a kiss I die"</i>	tragic – describes something as being very sad, or as part of a tragedy.
P	The Prologue outlines the main conflict in the play and warns the audience of the tragic fate of Romeo and Juliet.		prologue – the introduction to a book, film, or play.
1.1	The Montagues and Capulets fight in the streets of Verona. Prince Escalus swears that any further fighting will be punished by death.	Juliet (Capulet) 13-year old girl. Falls in love with Romeo. Kills herself at the end of the play. <i>"Wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name"; "O happy dagger, This is thy sheath; there rust, and let me die"</i>	sonnet – a type of love poem. It has 14 lines, a strict rhyme scheme and 10 syllables per line.
1.2	Paris asks Lord Capulet about marrying his daughter Juliet. Capulet tells Paris to wait as she is too young.		feud – a serious argument and sometimes violent argument between two people or groups that continues for a long time.
1.3	Lady Capulet advises Juliet to agree to marry Paris.		shrine – a holy place that people go to pray.
1.5	At the Capulet's masked ball, Romeo sees Juliet and falls in love with her. They talk, kiss, and fall in love. As they depart, they learn they are from feuding families.	Lord Capulet (Capulet) Head of the Capulet family. Juliet's father. Orders her to marry his friend, Paris. <i>"She will be ruled In all respects by me"</i>	status quo – the situation that exists now, without any changes.
2.2	In the balcony scene, Romeo and Juliet fall deeper in love. They agree to get married.	Paris (no family) Nobleman of Verona. Wants to marry Juliet. Killed by Romeo at the end of the play.	obstacle – a problem that must be overcome.
2.3	Romeo asks Friar Lawrence to marry him and Juliet. Lawrence agrees, thinking it will unite the warring families.	Friar Lawrence (no family) Religious leader in Verona. Agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet, thinking it will bring peace to the city. <i>"For this alliance may prove To turn your households' rancour to pure love"</i>	soliloquy – a speech in a play where the character speaks to himself or herself.
2.6	Friar Lawrence marries Romeo and Juliet.		hyperbole – exaggeration.
3.1	Montagues and Capulets fight in the streets. Tybalt kills Mercutio; Romeo kills Tybalt. Prince Escalus decides to banish Romeo from Verona.	Mercutio (Montague) Romeo's friend. Killed by Tybalt. <i>"A plague a'both your houses!"</i>	tragic flaw - a character has a tragic flaw when what makes them so special also brings about their downfall.
3.4	Lord Capulet tells Paris that he can marry Juliet in three days' time.		exile (vb.) – to force them from their home and live in another place.
3.5	After their wedding night, Romeo leaves Juliet for the last time. They have a vision of the other's death. After Romeo leaves, Lord Capulet orders Juliet to marry Paris, threatening to disown her if she disobeys.	Prince Escalus (no family) Ruler of Verona. Wants to bring peace to the city. <i>"If ever you disturb our streets again, Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace"</i>	foreshadow – to show or warn that something bigger, worse, or more important is coming.
4.1	Friar Lawrence comes up with a plan: Juliet must pretend to be dead and then escape Verona with Romeo. She agrees to the plan.	Structure of Shakespearean tragedy (Bradley)	catastrophe – a terrible accident.
5.3	Romeo does not learn of Friar Lawrence's plan. He sneaks back into Verona and visits Juliet's tomb. He thinks she is dead, and kills himself with poison. Moments later, Juliet wakes up. She finds Romeo's body and kills herself with his dagger. The two families agree to end their feud.	Exposition Introduces the main characters and the obstacles they will overcome in the play. Rising tension The heroes try to overcome the obstacles they face. They suffer. Catastrophe The play ends with the deaths of the heroes.	thesis – the main idea that you want to discuss throughout an essay.
			Features of Shakespearean tragedy (Bradley)
			The characters are 'high-status' – they are important people.
			The tragic hero acts : they try to do things . They don't just let things happen to them.
			Whatever they try to do, it always puts them in a worse situation .
			They are exceptional – there is something that makes them special.

'Romeo and Juliet': Knowledge Organiser		Characters	Key words
Plot breakdown		Romeo (Montague) Young man. Falls in love with Juliet. Kills himself at the end of the play. <i>"Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night"; "Thus with a kiss I die"</i>	tragic – describes something as being very sad, or as part of a tragedy.
P	The Prologue outlines the main conflict in the play and warns the audience of the tragic fate of Romeo and Juliet.		prologue – the introduction to a book, film, or play.
1.1	The Montagues and Capulets fight in the streets of Verona. Prince Escalus swears that any further fighting will be punished by death.	Juliet (Capulet) 13-year old girl. Falls in love with Romeo. Kills herself at the end of the play. <i>"Wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name"; "O happy dagger, This is thy sheath; there rust, and let me die"</i>	sonnet – a type of love poem. It has 14 lines, a strict rhyme scheme and 10 syllables per line.
1.2	Paris asks Lord Capulet about marrying his daughter Juliet. Capulet tells Paris to wait as she is too young.		feud – a serious argument and sometimes violent argument between two people or groups that continues for a long time.
1.3	Lady Capulet advises Juliet to agree to marry Paris.		shrine – a holy place that people go to pray.
1.5	At the Capulet's masked ball, Romeo sees Juliet and falls in love with her. They talk, kiss, and fall in love. As they depart, they learn they are from feuding families.	Lord Capulet (Capulet) Head of the Capulet family. Juliet's father. Orders her to marry his friend, Paris. <i>"She will be ruled In all respects by me"</i>	status quo – the situation that exists now, without any changes.
2.2	In the balcony scene, Romeo and Juliet fall deeper in love. They agree to get married.	Paris (no family) Nobleman of Verona. Wants to marry Juliet. Killed by Romeo at the end of the play.	obstacle – a problem that must be overcome.
2.3	Romeo asks Friar Lawrence to marry him and Juliet. Lawrence agrees, thinking it will unite the warring families.	Friar Lawrence (no family) Religious leader in Verona. Agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet, thinking it will bring peace to the city. <i>"For this alliance may prove To turn your households' rancour to pure love"</i>	soliloquy – a speech in a play where the character speaks to himself or herself.
2.6	Friar Lawrence marries Romeo and Juliet.		hyperbole – exaggeration.
3.1	Montagues and Capulets fight in the streets. Tybalt kills Mercutio; Romeo kills Tybalt. Prince Escalus decides to banish Romeo from Verona.	Mercutio (Montague) Romeo's friend. Killed by Tybalt. <i>"A plague a'both your houses!"</i>	tragic flaw - a character has a tragic flaw when what makes them so special also brings about their downfall.
3.4	Lord Capulet tells Paris that he can marry Juliet in three days' time.		exile (vb.) – to force them from their home and live in another place.
3.5	After their wedding night, Romeo leaves Juliet for the last time. They have a vision of the other's death. After Romeo leaves, Lord Capulet orders Juliet to marry Paris, threatening to disown her if she disobeys.	Prince Escalus (no family) Ruler of Verona. Wants to bring peace to the city. <i>"If ever you disturb our streets again, Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace"</i>	foreshadow – to show or warn that something bigger, worse, or more important is coming.
4.1	Friar Lawrence comes up with a plan: Juliet must pretend to be dead and then escape Verona with Romeo. She agrees to the plan.	Structure of Shakespearean tragedy (Bradley)	catastrophe – a terrible accident.
5.3	Romeo does not learn of Friar Lawrence's plan. He sneaks back into Verona and visits Juliet's tomb. He thinks she is dead, and kills himself with poison. Moments later, Juliet wakes up. She finds Romeo's body and kills herself with his dagger. The two families agree to end their feud.	Exposition Introduces the main characters and the obstacles they will overcome in the play. Rising tension The heroes try to overcome the obstacles they face. They suffer. Catastrophe The play ends with the deaths of the heroes.	thesis – the main idea that you want to discuss throughout an essay.
			Features of Shakespearean tragedy (Bradley)
			The characters are 'high-status' – they are important people.
			The tragic hero acts : they try to do things . They don't just let things happen to them.
			Whatever they try to do, it always puts them in a worse situation .
			They are exceptional – there is something that makes them special.

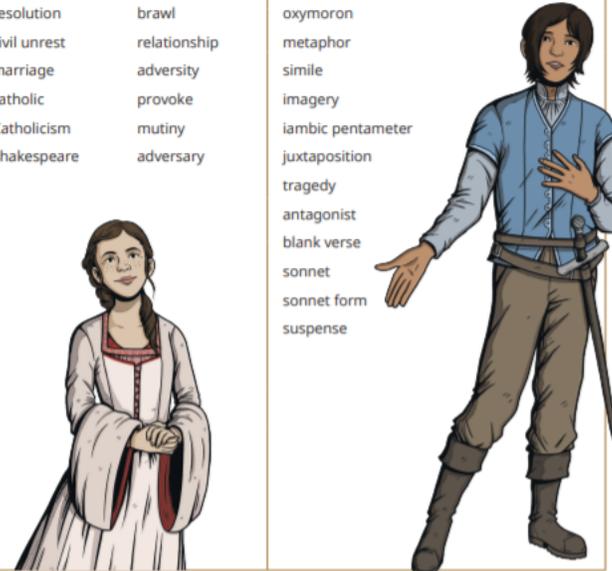
BEYOND ENGLISH

Romeo and Juliet Knowledge Organiser



Very Brief Plot Summary	Honour	Key Quotations
<p>Act 1: Set in Verona, we find two warring families - the Montagues and the Capulets. There is a ball and two young people meet and fall in love - Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet. Their families will never allow this.</p> <p>Act 2: Romeo and Juliet continue to see each other secretly. Romeo wishes he was not a Montague and they decide that they will secretly marry.</p> <p>Act 3: Tybalt (Juliet's cousin) tries to argue with Romeo, who refuses. Mercutio (Romeo's friend) goads Tybalt into a fight and is killed by Tybalt when Romeo attempts to stop them. Romeo then murders Tybalt in his anger.</p> <p>Act 4: Juliet asks for help from Friar Lawrence. He gives her a sleeping potion that will make her appear dead so that on her supposed wedding day to Paris she will be carried to the family vault, where Romeo will find her and whisk her away.</p> <p>Act 5: Romeo doesn't receive the letter about the plan. He hears Juliet has died and obtains a poison for himself. Romeo sees Juliet (assuming she is dead) and poisons himself. Juliet awakes and realising what has happened kills herself. The two families reconcile in the wake of the tragedy.</p>	<p>Honour</p> <p>Maintaining family honour was seen as of great importance. If you were challenged to a duel and refused, your family would be seen as cowardly and this would dishonour their status and power. This strong regard for honour could often lead to violence and unrest.</p> <p>Gender</p> <p>Men controlled society. Women were seen as the weaker sex and were expected to be obedient to their families and husbands.</p> <p>Arranged Marriage</p> <p>Arranged marriages between wealthy families were never about love. They were arranged to improve status, power and wealth.</p> <p>Catholicism</p> <p>Religion was very important at this time and set in Italy, the Catholic church had great influence. Marriage was sacred and could not be undone. There was a strong belief in 'damnation' for mortal sin. Suicide was considered a mortal sin.</p>	<p>"A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life" Prologue</p> <p>"My child is yet a stranger in the world" Act 1 Scene 2</p> <p>"It is too rough,</p> <p>Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn." Act 1, Scene 4</p> <p>"O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!" Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"Did my heart love till now?" Act 1 Scene 5</p> <p>"I will withdraw, but this intrusion shall, Now seeming sweet, convert to bitterest gall" Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"If he be married, my grave is like to be my wedding bed." Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"My only love sprung from my only hate!</p> <p>Too early seen unknown, and known too late!" Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"But, soft, what light through yonder window breaks?</p> <p>It is the east, and Juliet is the sun." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"Oh Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"Deny thy father and refuse thy name." Act 2, Scene 2</p> <p>"For this alliance may so happy prove</p> <p>To turn your households' rancour to pure love." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"Parting is such sweet sorrow." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"These violent delights have violent ends." Act 2, Scene 5</p> <p>"A plague o'both your houses!" Act 3, Scene 1</p> <p>"Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill," Act 3, Scene 1</p> <p>"O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!" Act 3 Scene 3</p> <p>"Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! Here's drink: I drink to thee." Act 4, Scene 3</p> <p>My lady's dead! Oh curse the day that I was born! Act 4, Scene 5</p> <p>"O happy dagger,</p> <p>This is thy sheath: there rust, and let me die." Act 5, Scene 3</p> <p>"All are punished." Act 5, Scene 3</p> <p>"For never was a story of more woe, Than this of Juliet and her Romeo." Act 5, Scene 3</p>
<p>Characters</p> <p>Romeo Montague - Son of the Montague family.</p> <p>Juliet Capulet - Daughter of the Capulet family.</p> <p>Mercutio - Friend to Romeo - neither Capulet nor Montague.</p> <p>Tybalt - Juliet's Cousin, a prominent Capulet.</p> <p>Benvolio - Romeo's cousin.</p> <p>Friar Lawrence - A Franciscan monk and friend to both families.</p> <p>Nurse - Juliet's confidante, very close to her, motherly.</p> <p>Prince Escalus - Leader of Verona, trying to keep peace between the families.</p>	<p>Family and children</p> <p>Children were considered property of their parents. It was also common for children to have a 'nurse' and as a result, did not often have strong bonds with their parents.</p> <p>Courtly love</p> <p>Courtly love was all about behaviour and was supposed to be polite, restrained and courteous. Often gifts were exchanged but there was little contact. The notion of 'courtly love' strongly opposes the passion and emotion we associated with 'real love'.</p>	

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Romeo and Juliet Knowledge Organiser		
Themes	Key Vocabulary	Language and Techniques
<p>Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passionate, chaotic love is pitched against the 'order' of courtly love. Love often leads to violence. 	<p>Fate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No matter what they do, the characters cannot escape their fate. It is the determination of Romeo and Juliet in the face of fate that conveys how fiery the love between them is. 	<p>prologue foreshadowing dramatic irony bawdy humour monologue soliloquy oxymoron metaphor simile imagery iambic pentameter juxtaposition tragedy antagonist blank verse sonnet sonnet form suspense</p> 
<p>Individuals V Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forbidden love forces Romeo and Juliet to turn against the conformity of the society they live in. 	<p>Language and Word Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constant play on language, using pun, rhyme and double-entendre. Romeo and Juliet seem to use word play to escape from the world, their act of rebellion. 	
<p>Violence and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driving force in the play. Occurs between several characters. Opens the play and concludes it with the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. 	<p>Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Society was much more comfortable with the idea of death than we are now. Death is mentioned and referenced throughout the play. 	
<p>Symbols and Motifs</p> <p>Poison; Night; light/dark imagery; thumb-biting; Dreams/Queen Mab; opposing points of view.</p> 		
<p>Key Vocabulary</p> <p>patriarchy Elizabethan character society violence conflict resolution civil unrest marriage catholic Catholicism Shakespeare</p> <p>Verona conspire ambiguity predicament unease suicide brawl relationship adversity provoke mutiny adversary</p>		

'Romeo and Juliet' Knowledge Organiser



1. Verona	14 th century Medieval Italy was Christian and Catholic.	Act 1: forbidden	Brawl; ban on fighting; Romeo meets Juliet.
2. London	16 th century Elizabethan England was Christian and Protestant.	Act 2: secret	Balcony scene; Romeo and Juliet marry in secret.
3. Plague	In 1592, 10,000 Londoners died of the plague and theatres closed.	Act 3: banishment	Tybalt kills Mercutio, Romeo kills Tybalt, Prince banishes Romeo.
4. Hierarchy	Noble, wealthy families dominated politics and royal society.	Act 4: potion	Juliet threatens Friar with suicide; Juliet takes potion to fake her death.
5. Fights	Riots, brawls and bloodshed were common, and strictly punished.	Act 5: suicides	Romeo hears Juliet is dead and goes to her tomb; he poisons himself. Juliet stabs herself. Friar explains; families reconcile.
6. Marriage	Arranged by parents not for love but for family wealth and status.	D: Themes	
7. Patriarchy	Women had a duty to obey men, especially elders.	1. Love	Idealised, macho, young, family.
8. Gender	Women were not allowed to own property or act in theatres.	2. Conflict	Family feud, disobedience.
9. 1558-1603	Reign of Queen Elizabeth I	3. Death	Mercutio, Tybalt, Romeo and Juliet die.
10. 1562	Arthur Brooke's source poem published.	4. Fate	Inevitability: tragic suicides are fated from the prologue onwards.
11. 1595	'Romeo and Juliet' first performed.		
Characters			
1. Romeo Montague	In love with Juliet, daughter of family's enemy, commits suicide in her tomb when thinking she is dead.		
2. Juliet Capulet	In love with Romeo, son of her family's enemy, fakes her death when Romeo is exiled, wakes tragically late.	E: Stagecraft and techniques	
3. Lord Montague	Enemy of Capulet, Romeo's father	1. Tragedy	A play ending in death and sadness.
4. Lady Montague	Romeo's Mother, commits suicide on his exile.	2. Foreshadowing	A pre-echo of what is to come.
5. Mercutio	Romeo's friend, thinks romantic love is delusion, fights Tybalt and is killed by him.	3. Soliloquy	One actor speaking alone on stage to an audience.
6. Benvolio	Romeo's friend, who tries but fails to prevent street fights.	4. Stage directions	Instructions for actors.
7. Friar Lawrence	Verona Friar who marries the lovers and whose plan fails.	5. Oxymorons	Using opposite terms to describe each other.
8. Lord Capulet	Juliet's father who arranges her marriage and disowns her for her disobedience.	6. Props	Objects for actors (e.g. swords, potion, poison, dagger).
9. Lady Capulet	Juliet's mother, who has no sympathy for her in the conflict.	7. Imagery	Visual description (religious, spiritual, celestial, death).
10. Tybalt Capulet	Capulet who fights and kills Mercutio and is killed by Romeo.	1. Curse	Invokes a supernatural power for harm ('a plague on both your houses!').
11. Prince	Embodies law and order; bans fights, banishes Romeo.		
12. Paris	Betrothed to Juliet, killed by Romeo.		

