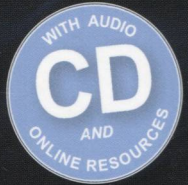




# ROMEO & JULIET

William Shakespeare



 SCHOLASTIC

# CONTENTS

PAGE

**Romeo and Juliet**

**4-57**

**People and Places**

**4-5**

**Shakespeare's language / Acting the play**

**6**

**Character list**

**7**

**Prologue**

**8**

**Act One**

**8**

**Act Two**

**18**

**Act Three**

**28**

**Act Four**

**41**

**Act Five**

**46**

**Fact File: William Shakespeare**

**58-59**

**Self-Study Activities**

**60-63**

**New Words**

**64**





### THE CAPULETS

JULIET is 13 years old and has never been in love.

A man in a dark, fur-lined coat and a black cap, looking towards the right.

LORD CAPULET is Juliet's father.

A woman in a black gown with a white cross necklace, looking towards the right.

LADY CAPULET is Juliet's mother.



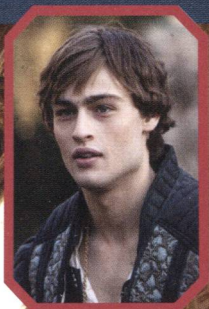
NURSE works for the Capulets. She has always looked after Juliet.



TYBALT is Lord Capulet's nephew. He likes to fight.



PARIS is a friend of the Prince and an important man. He wants to marry Juliet.



**ROMEO** is always falling in love and then he meets Juliet ...

## PLACES

The story takes place in Verona and Mantua, in Italy.

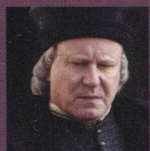


## THE MONTAGUES

**BENVOLIO** is Lord Montague's nephew.

**LADY MONTAGUE** is Romeo's mother.

**LORD MONTAGUE** is Romeo's father.



**PRINCE ESCALUS** is the Prince of Verona.



**FRIAR LAURENCE** is a church man. He also makes medicines.

**MERCUTIO** is Romeo's friend.

**THE APOTHECARY** makes and sells medicines and poisons.



## Shakespeare's language

Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* in 1594–5 in the time of Queen Elizabeth I. His language is very beautiful and clever, but it is difficult to understand now. It is different from the English that people speak today.

This book uses today's English to tell the story of the teenage lovers. You can read some of Shakespeare's own words in this book too. In the **red boxes**, you will find some of the most famous lines from *Romeo and Juliet*, exactly as Shakespeare wrote them.

In Shakespeare's time, people called an important woman 'my lady'. They called an important man 'my lord'. When they spoke to a man of the church, like Friar Laurence, they called him 'Father'.

## Acting the play

You can read *Romeo and Juliet* to yourself. It is a story with a beginning, a middle and an end. But Shakespeare wrote it as a play for actors and for people to watch. So it works better if you read it with a group of people. And it works best of all if you act it with a group of people.

If you are reading it alone, try to listen to the audio CD while you read. Different actors read the parts. You can hear how a person is feeling from their voice.

If you are in a group of people, read a different part each. Show how you are feeling when you say the words.

It is fun to act *Romeo and Juliet*. There are fights, dances and scenes with lots of people. Bring newspapers for the fighting scenes and masks for the party scene.

# Character list

Romeo

Lord Montague

Lady Montague

Benvolio

Balthasar, Romeo's servant

Juliet

Lord Capulet

Lady Capulet

Tybalt

Nurse

Peter, Lord Capulet's servant

Prince Escalus

Mercutio

Paris

Paris's servant

Friar Laurence

Friar John

The Apothecary

Officers (1-2)

Servants (4-5)



# ROMEO & JULIET

## PROLOGUE

Our story takes place in Verona, in Italy. Escalus is the Prince of the city.

There are two important families in Verona – the Montagues and the Capulets. For hundreds of years the Montagues have hated the Capulets and the Capulets have hated the Montagues. When a Montague meets a Capulet in the town, they fight. There is always blood on the streets of this beautiful Italian city.

And then a Montague boy and a Capulet girl fall in love. Can they bring the families together? Can their love end the fighting?

This is their story.

## ACT ONE

### Act One ♦ Scene One

*The year is 1526. It is autumn in Verona. There is a fight in the street. Two Capulet servants are fighting two Montague servants. Benvolio takes out his sword and runs between them.*

**BENVOLIO** Stop fighting! Put your swords down!

*Tybalt arrives.*

TYBALT     Benvolio! It is time to die!

BENVOLIO   I am trying to keep the peace, Tybalt! I am trying to stop them.

TYBALT     Peace? I hate the word 'peace'. I hate all Montagues and I hate you!

*Tybalt points his sword at Benvolio and they fight. The other men join in again. Lord Montague arrives and he joins in too.*

LORD MONTAGUE   Tybalt! I am here too. Fight me!

*Lord and Lady Capulet arrive.*

LORD CAPULET    Bring me my sword.

*Lady Capulet takes his arm.*

LADY CAPULET    Don't be stupid. The Prince will be angry.

LORD CAPULET    Montague is here and he's fighting. Get me a sword!

*A servant gives a sword to Lord Capulet. He tries to join the fight. Lady Capulet tries to stop him. The Prince of Verona arrives on his horse.*

PRINCE ESCALUS   Men! Dogs! Stop! Put down your swords!

*The fighting stops.*

PRINCE ESCALUS   Listen to me. I am very angry. Capulet and Montague, your families are always fighting in our streets. This is the last time I will do nothing. Next time, you will pay with your lives. I want peace in Verona. Capulet, come with me now. Montague, I will speak to you later. And now, you others, if you love life, go home!

*The Prince leaves and the Capulets follow him.*



LADY MONTAGUE Who started this fight?  
LORD MONTAGUE Benvolio, were you here when it began?  
BENVOLIO No, my lord. When I arrived, the servants were fighting. I wanted to stop them, but then Tybalt joined in. Tybalt is always angry and he tried to kill me. And then the Prince arrived.  
LADY MONTAGUE I am happy that Romeo is not part of this. Do you know where he is?  
BENVOLIO I saw your son early this morning, my lady. He was walking near the woods, looking sad.  
LORD MONTAGUE He often walks there at night. Then he shuts himself in his room all day.  
BENVOLIO What's wrong with him?  
LADY MONTAGUE He won't tell us.  
BENVOLIO Look, here he comes. Perhaps he'll tell me.  
LORD MONTAGUE Come, my lady, let's leave Benvolio with Romeo.

*Romeo arrives. Lord and Lady Montague go home.*

BENVOLIO Good morning, cousin Romeo.  
ROMEO Is it still morning? The sad hours pass so slowly.  
BENVOLIO Why are you sad? Are you in love?  
ROMEO I *am* in love.  
BENVOLIO Who with?  
ROMEO A woman.  
BENVOLIO I guessed that.  
ROMEO A woman ... who doesn't love me. Her name is Rosaline.  
BENVOLIO Rosaline! But she's a Capulet!  
ROMEO I know.  
BENVOLIO You must forget her.  
ROMEO How can I forget her?  
BENVOLIO Verona is full of beautiful women.

ROMEO     When I look at other women, I only see that  
              Rosaline is more beautiful than them.

BENVOLIO  I'll teach you to forget, you'll see!

## Act One ♦ Scene Two

*Inside the Capulet house, Lord Capulet is talking to Paris.*

PARIS       So, my lord, what is your answer? Will you  
              allow Juliet to be my wife?

LORD CAPULET  She is only thirteen. You must wait, Paris.  
              Perhaps when she is fifteen.

PARIS       Some girls are already mothers at thirteen.

LORD CAPULET  And they are old women when they are  
              twenty. Juliet is my only child. She carries all my  
              hopes for the future. You can talk to her and try  
              to win her heart, Paris. But she will decide.  
              Tonight we're having a big party. I hope you will  
              come, Paris.

*He calls his servant, Peter.*





LORD CAPULET Peter! Come here.

*Peter comes in and Capulet gives him a piece of paper.*

LORD CAPULET Here are some names. Go into the city, find each person and invite them to the party tonight.

\*\*\*

*Peter goes into the centre of Verona. Benvolio and Romeo are there.*

PETER Find these people, he says. But I cannot read! I must ask someone for help.

*He sees Romeo.*

PETER Excuse me, sir. Can you read?

*Peter gives the piece of paper to Romeo.*

ROMEO Signor Martino and his wife, Lord Anselm and his beautiful sisters. Uncle Capulet, his wife and their daughter, Rosaline. Where are you inviting these people?

PETER To a dance tonight, at Lord Capulet's house. A dance with masks. You are welcome too, sir, as long as you are not a Montague! Thank you for your help.

*Peter goes to find the guests.*

BENVOLIO So Rosaline will be at Capulet's party tonight. Why don't we go too? You will see all the young women of Verona. Then you will discover that Rosaline is not the most beautiful.

ROMEO No girl is more beautiful than my Rosaline. But I'll go, just to look at her lovely face.

## Act One ♦ Scene Three

*Juliet is in her bedroom with Lady Capulet and Nurse.*

LADY CAPULET Juliet, I must speak to you.

JULIET What is it, Mother?

LADY CAPULET Have you thought about marriage?

JULIET I never think about it.

LADY CAPULET Well, think about it now. Here in Verona,  
many girls of your age are already married. I  
was already a mother at your age.

JULIET I know.

LADY CAPULET Lord Paris has spoken to your father. He  
wants you to be his wife.

NURSE Lord Paris! He's a good-looking man.

LADY CAPULET What do you think, Juliet? Can you love  
him?

JULIET I have only spoken a few words to him. I don't  
know him.

LADY CAPULET He will be at the party tonight. Get to know  
him.

JULIET I will try to like him, Mother. I want to please  
you.

LADY CAPULET Good! Now, let's put on our masks and join  
our guests.

## Act One ♦ Scene Four

*Outside the Capulet House, Romeo, Benvolio and Mercutio are watching guests arrive at the party. The three young men are wearing masks.*

BENVOLIO Ready? Let's go in, have a dance and then leave.

ROMEO I will not dance.



MERCUTIO Romeo! We must see you dance.

ROMEO I am too sad to dance.

MERCUTIO Most people are happy when they are in love.  
But not you, Romeo!

BENVOLIO Come on, or the party will be over.

*Romeo stops for a moment to look at the night sky.*

ROMEO I have a strange feeling about this night.  
Something bad is going to happen. I feel I am  
going to die soon. Oh, why do I think such  
stupid things! Let's go, friends!

### Act One ♦ Scene Five

*Inside, the guests are eating and drinking. As the three friends come in, Lord Capulet speaks to his guests.*

LORD CAPULET Welcome to my house ladies and lords!  
Let's have music and dancing.





*The music begins and the guests dance. Romeo sees a girl dancing, but she is not Rosaline. He cannot take his eyes off her. She looks back at him.*

ROMEO     Who is that girl dancing over there? She is too beautiful for this earth. I am in love and I know now that I have never been in love before. **I have never seen a beautiful woman until now.**

**For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.**  
*ne'er = never; till = until*

*Tybalt is standing near Romeo. He has heard his voice.*

TYBALT     I know that voice. That man is a Montague. Has he come here to laugh at us in our own house? He insults us and I will kill him!

LORD CAPULET     Tybalt, stop! Why are you so angry?

TYBALT     A Montague is here, Uncle!

**LORD CAPULET** Ah, yes, he wears a mask but I know him – it is young Romeo. Everyone in Verona speaks well of him. Leave him alone, Tybalt. He is safe in my house. Remember the Prince's words? Now, Tybalt, smile! This is a party!

**TYBALT** I will not forget this.

*Tybalt leaves the party angrily. Romeo crosses the room to Juliet. He sees nobody in the room except her. She feels the same. He takes her hand.*

**ROMEO** I am sorry that my hand is not soft. My lips are softer. Can I kiss you?

**JULIET** If you hold your hand against mine, it is like a kiss.

**ROMEO** And this is a real kiss.

*Romeo kisses Juliet. Nurse comes up to them.*



NURSE Juliet, your mother wants to speak to you.

*Juliet looks for a long time into Romeo's eyes and then goes.*

ROMEO Who is her mother?

NURSE Her mother is Lady Capulet.

ROMEO She is a Capulet? My life is in the hands of my enemy!

*Benvolio joins Romeo.*

BENVOLIO Let's join the party before it finishes!

*Benvolio and Romeo leave. Nurse finds Juliet.*

JULIET Nurse, come here. Who was that man?

NURSE I will find out.

*Nurse goes to find out. She comes back quickly.*

NURSE His name is Romeo and he's a Montague. He's the son of your father's enemy.

JULIET **The only man I love is the son of the only man I hate!** When I first saw him, I did not know his name. Now it is too late because I am in love. Oh, love is cruel! I have fallen in love with my worst enemy.

**My only love sprung from my only hate!**  
*to spring from (phr v) = to be the son of*



# ACT TWO

## Act Two ♦ Scene One

*Romeo has forgotten Rosaline. Now he loves Juliet and she loves him. Their love must be secret because their families are enemies.*

*Romeo is outside the garden wall of the Capulet house.*

**ROMEO** How can I go home when she is here?

*He jumps over the wall and into the garden. At that moment, Juliet comes onto her balcony. She doesn't see Romeo.*

**ROMEO** It is Juliet. It is my love!

*Romeo moves closer to the balcony as Juliet begins to speak. She doesn't see him.*



**JULIET** **Oh Romeo, Romeo, why is your name Romeo?**  
A rose is beautiful and smells sweet. If we call it by a different name, it smells just as sweet. If you change your name, Romeo, you are still the man I love.

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?  
wherefore = *why*; art = *are*; thou = *you*

- ROMEO If you love me, I can change my name.  
JULIET Oh! Who is there?  
ROMEO I cannot say my name. It is a word you hate.  
JULIET I know that voice. I have only heard it say a hundred words, but I know it. Are you Romeo and a Montague?  
ROMEO I am not Romeo or a Montague if you dislike those names.

*Romeo climbs up to Juliet's balcony.*



- JULIET How did you reach my balcony? The walls are high and hard to climb.  
ROMEO Walls cannot stop love.  
JULIET Why are you here? My family must not see you here – they will kill you.

ROMEO If you love me, I am not afraid of their swords. If you do not love me, they can kill me. I cannot live without your love.

JULIET I was speaking to the moon. I didn't know you were listening. Please don't think badly of me. I don't fall in love with every good-looking man I see. I have never felt like this before. Please believe that my love is real.

ROMEO And I love you.

JULIET We are moving too quickly.

NURSE (*from inside*) Juliet! Where are you?

JULIET Good night, my love. Our love will grow while we sleep.

ROMEO Don't leave me like this!

JULIET What do you mean?

ROMEO I want to tell you that I love you.

JULIET I showed you my heart before I was ready.

ROMEO Do you want to take back your words?

JULIET No. I want to tell you again. My love for you is deeper than the deepest sea.

NURSE (*from inside*) Juliet!

JULIET Goodbye, my love. I'm coming, Nurse! Romeo, stay there a moment.

*Juliet goes inside.*

ROMEO Is this a dream? It's too sweet to be real.

*Juliet comes back onto the balcony.*

JULIET Dear Romeo, listen. If you really love me, let's marry. I'll send Nurse to you tomorrow. Tell her the time and place for the wedding. Then I'll come to you and stay with you until we die.

NURSE (*from inside*) Juliet! Come in! It's cold out there.



**JULIET** One moment, Nurse! Romeo, good night, my love.

*Juliet goes inside.*

**ROMEO** The world goes dark when she leaves me.

*Juliet comes back onto the balcony again.*

**JULIET** Romeo! What time do you want to see Nurse tomorrow?

**ROMEO** At nine o'clock.

**JULIET** It feels like twenty years until nine o'clock tomorrow. I've forgotten why I called you back!

**ROMEO** I will stay here until you remember.



JULIET      Then I will never remember. But it's almost morning. You must go. Good night until tomorrow! **It is very sad to say goodbye. But I am happy that we will soon meet again.**

**Parting is such sweet sorrow.**

parting (n) = *leaving someone*; such = *very*;

sorrow (n) = *sadness*

ROMEO      Sleep well, my love.

*Romeo climbs down from the balcony.*

ROMEO      I won't sleep tonight. I'll go to Friar Laurence and tell him my happy news. I will ask him to help us.

## Act Two ♦ Scene Two

*Friar Laurence is alone in his garden. He is collecting flowers to make into medicines.*

FRIAR LAURENCE      There is good and bad in this flower. If you smell it, you feel better. If you eat it, your heart stops. There is good and bad in men too.

*Romeo comes into the garden.*

ROMEO      Good morning, Father.

FRIAR LAURENCE      Romeo! You are up very early this morning. Or perhaps you have not been to bed?

ROMEO      You're right. I didn't go to bed last night.

FRIAR LAURENCE      Were you with Rosaline?

ROMEO      Rosaline? Who is she?

FRIAR LAURENCE Ah! You've forgotten Rosaline. So where have you been?

ROMEO I've been to a party at the house of my enemy.

FRIAR LAURENCE Tell me more.

ROMEO I have fallen in love with Juliet – daughter of Lord Capulet. And she has fallen in love with me. We want to marry quickly and we need your help. It must be a secret.

FRIAR LAURENCE Yesterday you loved Rosaline. Today you love Juliet. How is this possible? Young men love with their eyes, then, not with their hearts.

ROMEO Rosaline did not love me.

FRIAR LAURENCE She knew your love was not real.

ROMEO Juliet loves me.

FRIAR LAURENCE Come inside, Romeo. I'll help you. Perhaps this wedding between a Montague and a Capulet can turn hate into love in our city of Verona.

*They go into Friar Laurence's church.*

## Act Two ♦ Scene Three

*Benvolio and Mercutio meet in the street.*

BENVOLIO Mercutio! I have bad news. Tybalt saw Romeo at Lord Capulet's party last night and now he wants to fight him.

MERCUTIO That's the end of Romeo then.

BENVOLIO What do you mean?

MERCUTIO Tybalt is strong and Romeo has gone soft with love – he has forgotten how to fight!

*Romeo appears.*



BENVOLIO Here comes Romeo.

ROMEO Good morning to you both.

MERCUTIO We lost you after the party last night, Romeo.

ROMEO I had important things to do last night. I'm sorry.

MERCUTIO You've changed! You look like the real Romeo!  
Where's the Romeo who looks sadly at the moon  
all night?

*Before Romeo can answer, Nurse appears. Mercutio laughs at her because she is old.*

NURSE Good morning, my lords, can you tell me where  
I can find Romeo?

MERCUTIO What does an old lady want with a young man  
called Romeo?

BENVOLIO She wants to invite him to dinner with her.

*Benvolio and Mercutio laugh.*

MERCUTIO Romeo, are you coming to your father's for  
dinner?

ROMEO Yes, I'll see you there.

MERCUTIO Goodbye, old lady.

*Mercutio and Benvolio leave.*

NURSE Who are those men, sir?

ROMEO Don't worry about them. They like to make  
jokes.

NURSE Well, they have upset me. Now, sir. Do you  
really love Juliet or are you playing with her  
heart? She is a young lady and knows very little  
about the world.

ROMEO Good Nurse, I truly love her.

NURSE Good! I will tell her.

- ROMEO Ask her to meet me at Friar Laurence's church this afternoon.
- NURSE I will give her your message. Goodbye.

## Act Two ♦ Scene Four

*Juliet is waiting for Nurse in her bedroom.*

- JULIET Where is she? I sent her at nine o'clock and she promised to come back in half an hour. That was three hours ago!

*Nurse appears. She is very tired after her morning's work.*

- JULIET Good, sweet Nurse! Why do you look sad? Is it bad news?
- NURSE Let me sit down. My old body is tired. I have run all over town this morning and I cannot speak.



JULIET You speak to tell me you cannot speak! Is the news good or bad?

NURSE Romeo is very good-looking and kind, but I don't like his friends. Now, have you had lunch?

JULIET Nurse! Is there going to be a wedding?

NURSE Oh, my poor head! My poor back!

JULIET Sweet Nurse. Please tell me what Romeo said.

NURSE He's waiting for you at Friar Laurence's.

JULIET Oh, thank you, Nurse.

*Juliet kisses Nurse and runs happily from the room.*

## Act Two ♦ Scene Five

*Friar Laurence is talking to Romeo in his church.*

FRIAR LAURENCE I hope this wedding will not have a sad ending.

ROMEO If Juliet is mine, then I am not afraid of dying.

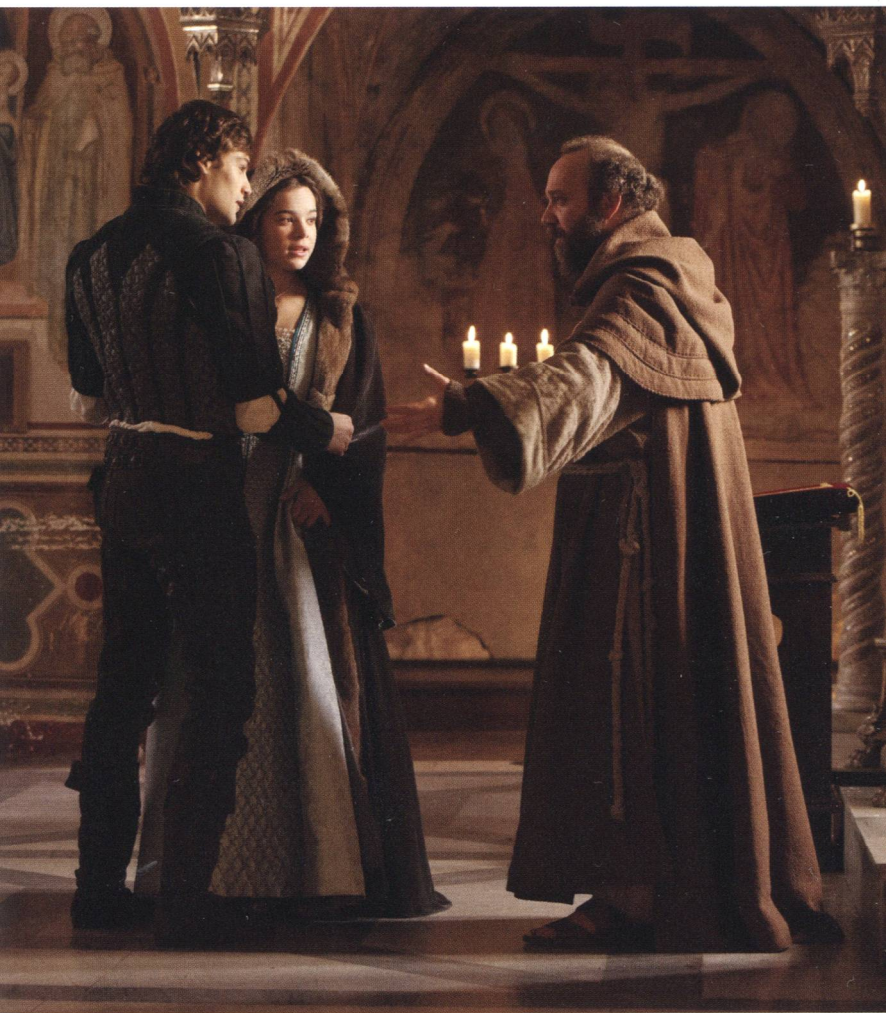
FRIAR LAURENCE Here she comes. Look at her – she is like a young rose. Life is a long, hard road. Is she strong enough?

*Juliet runs up to Romeo and they kiss.*

ROMEO Do you love me as much as I love you? Tell me how you feel.

JULIET True love doesn't need words.

FRIAR LAURENCE Come with me. We have a wedding to go to!





# ACT THREE

## Act Three ♦ Scene One

*Mercutio and Benvolio walk along a Verona street with some of their men.*

**BENVOLIO** Let's go home, Mercutio. It's hot and the Capulets are on the streets. We don't want a fight.

**MERCUTIO** But I love a fight!

**BENVOLIO** Fight less, Mercutio, and live longer.

*Tybalt and his men appear.*

**BENVOLIO** Oh no! Here come the Capulets.

**MERCUTIO** And why do I care?

**TYBALT** My lords, can I have a word with you?

**MERCUTIO** A word? How about a fight?

**TYBALT** I'm always ready for that, Mercutio. But I'm looking for your friend Romeo.

**BENVOLIO** Let's talk somewhere quieter. People are watching us.

**MERCUTIO** Let them watch. I'm not moving from here.

**TYBALT** I don't want to fight you, Mercutio.

*Romeo comes along the street.*

**TYBALT** Ah! Here comes Romeo. He's the man I want. Romeo! You have insulted my family! Take out your sword and fight!

**ROMEO** I have not insulted you. In fact, I love you and your family. I love the name Capulet as much as Montague.

**MERCUTIO** Romeo, what are you saying? You love a Capulet? You've gone soft! Stand to the side, Romeo. Tybalt, fight me!

TYBALT I will!

*They start to fight. Romeo takes out his sword.*

ROMEO Benvolio, we must stop them! There must be no fighting on the streets of Verona.

*Romeo steps between Tybalt and Mercutio. Tybalt pushes his sword under Romeo's arm and into Mercutio, who is now behind Romeo. Mercutio cries out.*

MERCUTIO Help! His sword has found my heart. I am dying.

BENVOLIO Are you joking, Mercutio?

MERCUTIO Yes, it's nothing. Call a doctor!

*Mercutio's servant runs off for a doctor.*

ROMEO Get up, man! Is it bad?

MERCUTIO Call me tomorrow and I will not answer. I will be dead. Why did you come between us, Romeo? I didn't see his sword until it was too late.

ROMEO I wanted to stop the fight.



MERCUTIO Benvolio, carry me inside. **I hate all Capulets and all Montagues.**

**A plague o' both your houses!**

plague (n) = a terrible illness that killed many people in Shakespeare's time; o' = on; house = family

*Benvolio carries Mercutio into a house nearby.*

ROMEO This is my fault. Only one hour ago, I married Juliet and became Tybalt's cousin. I am always thinking of love and forgetting my family.

*Benvolio runs out of the house.*

BENVOLIO Romeo, Mercutio is dead.

ROMEO This is a black day.

BENVOLIO And here is the angry Tybalt, back again.

ROMEO What! With Mercutio dead! Before I was soft and I wanted peace. Now I am angry and I want to kill Tybalt.

*Romeo goes after Tybalt*



ROMEO Tybalt! I am ready to fight. Mercutio is dead. You or I must join him.

TYBALT He was your friend so you can go with him.

ROMEO We'll see!

*They fight and Romeo kills Tybalt.*

BENVOLIO Romeo! Run away! The Prince will kill you.

ROMEO The sun, the moon and the stars are against me!

*Romeo runs away. The Prince's officers quickly arrive at the scene.*

OFFICER Who killed Mercutio? Where is Tybalt? Which way did he run?

BENVOLIO He's lying there, dead.

*The Prince arrives with the Capulets and Montagues.*

PRINCE ESCALUS What has happened?

BENVOLIO My lord, I saw everything. Tybalt killed Mercutio. And then Romeo killed Tybalt.

LADY CAPULET Tybalt, my brother's child! Prince Escalus, look at the Capulet blood on the street. The Montagues must pay.

PRINCE ESCALUS Benvolio, who started this fight?

BENVOLIO Tybalt, my lord. He killed Mercutio and ran away. Romeo was trying to make peace. But then Tybalt came back and Romeo was angry. They fought hard and fast. Romeo killed Tybalt and now he has run away.

LADY CAPULET This man is a Montague and he is lying. Prince, don't listen to him. Romeo must die.

LORD MONTAGUE No, Prince. Romeo was Mercutio's friend. When a man kills another man for nothing, the law says he dies. The law says Tybalt had to die. So Romeo was right to kill him.



PRINCE ESCALUS    Romeo does not decide the law. And for that, I am sending him out of Verona. He must leave now. If he comes back to the city, he dies. You Capulets and Montagues will pay for this day.

### Act Three ♦ Scene Two

*Juliet is waiting for Romeo, her new husband, to come to her room. She hasn't heard about Mercutio and Tybalt.*

JULIET        The hours are passing so slowly. Hurry up, night time! Bring me my Romeo.

*Nurse comes into Juliet's bedroom. Her face is white.*

JULIET        Nurse, what is the news? What's wrong?

NURSE        Oh, my lady, it is a sad day! He's dead, my lady!  
Oh, Romeo!

JULIET        What? Is Romeo dead?

*Nurse is crying and doesn't answer.*

JULIET        If he is dead, say 'yes'. I will poison myself and join him. If he is not dead, say 'no'.

NURSE        I saw his white face and his red blood! I saw his dead body on the street!

JULIET        My heart is breaking! Romeo is dead.

NURSE        Oh, Tybalt! He was always kind to me. I can't believe he's dead.

JULIET        What? Is Romeo dead? And Tybalt too? My kind cousin, and the husband who I love?

NURSE        Tybalt is dead and Romeo has left Verona. Romeo killed Tybalt and the Prince has sent Romeo out of the city.

**JULIET** Is there a cruel heart in that beautiful body? I can't believe it.



**NURSE** All men are cruel and that includes Romeo.

**JULIET** Nurse! Do not speak of Romeo in that way! He is a good man.

**NURSE** So now you speak well of the man who killed your cousin!

**JULIET** Yes, I speak well of my husband. I have been his wife for three hours. But the Prince has sent him out of the city. This is the worst news. Where are my father and mother, Nurse?

**NURSE** They are with Tybalt's dead body. Will you go to them?

**JULIET** They can cry for Tybalt. I will cry for Romeo. I'm going to bed, Nurse. I will die there.

**NURSE** Wait in your room, my lady, and I'll find Romeo. I know where he is.

JULIET      Oh, that is good news, Nurse! Ask him to come to me and say goodbye.

### Act Three ♦ Scene Three

*Friar Laurence comes into his church. Romeo is waiting for news in a dark corner.*

FRIAR LAURENCE    Romeo, where are you? Come out.

ROMEO      Father, what is the news? What terrible future has the Prince decided for me?

FRIAR LAURENCE    The news is good. The Prince is letting you live. He is sending you out of Verona.

ROMEO      Out of the city? I will die!

FRIAR LAURENCE    But you can go anywhere else in the world.

ROMEO      There is no world for me outside the walls of Verona.

FRIAR LAURENCE    You have killed a man and the law says you must die. But the Prince is being kind to you. Can't you see that?

ROMEO      This is cruel, not kind. Without Juliet, I will die slowly.

FRIAR LAURENCE    Think for a moment, Romeo. Things are not so bad.

*Romeo falls to the floor.*

ROMEO      You are not young and in love. You have no idea how I feel.

*There is a sound at the church door.*

FRIAR LAURENCE    Romeo! Run to my study. Someone is coming.

*Romeo doesn't move.*

FRIAR LAURENCE    Who's there?

*Nurse enters.*

NURSE        Father, I have come from Lady Juliet.

FRIAR LAURENCE    Welcome, then.

NURSE        Where is my lady's husband?

FRIAR LAURENCE    Here, on the floor. He's crying.

NURSE        She is just the same. Stand up, Romeo. Be a man!  
                  For Juliet, stand up!

ROMEO        Nurse!

*He stands up.*

                  What does Juliet say? Does she know that I have  
                  her cousin's blood on my sword?

NURSE        She cries for Tybalt and she cries for you, sir.

ROMEO        Let me kill myself.

*He picks up a knife but Nurse takes it from his hand.*

FRIAR LAURENCE    Stop and think, man! Juliet is alive, that's  
                  good. Tybalt wanted to kill you, but instead you  
                  killed him; that's good again. The Prince has  
                  saved your life; that's good again. Go to your  
                  wife tonight. But leave her before the sun comes  
                  up. Then you must escape to the city of Mantua.  
                  Live there until we find the right time to tell  
                  the world about your marriage to Juliet. Your  
                  friends and the Prince will be happy with the  
                  good news.

NURSE        I will go first and tell my lady that Romeo is  
                  coming.

*Nurse leaves and Romeo follows.*



## Act Three ♦ Scene Four

*Lord and Lady Capulet are at home with Paris.*

LORD CAPULET    Lord Paris, Juliet is very upset about Tybalt. She will not come downstairs again tonight.

PARIS            This isn't the right time to talk about a wedding. Goodnight, Lady Capulet.

LADY CAPULET    Goodnight. I'll speak to her about you in the morning.

*Paris walks to the door to leave, but Lord Capulet calls him back.*

LORD CAPULET    Lord Paris, I think my daughter will do as I say. We need some happy news after this terrible day. Let's agree a day for the wedding – Wednesday, perhaps? What day is it today?

PARIS            It is nearly Tuesday.

LORD CAPULET    Wednesday is too soon, then. We must wait two days after Tybalt has died. Thursday will be fine. Wife, tell Juliet in the morning – she will marry Lord Paris on Thursday. Or is Thursday too soon for you, sir?

PARIS            An hour from now is not too soon for me, Lord Capulet.

LORD CAPULET    Very well, then. Go now. Goodnight.

## Act Three ♦ Scene Five

*Romeo and Juliet are on the balcony. It is the early morning and the sun is coming up.*

JULIET          Don't go. It's hours until daytime.

ROMEO     Look at the sky, my love. Look to the east, where  
              red lines are breaking up the dark blue night.

JULIET     That isn't daylight – a star has fallen from the  
              sky. It will light your way to Mantua. You don't  
              need to go yet.

ROMEO     I will stay then. Let them take me and kill me.  
              I'm happy to stay because you want me to stay.  
              Let's sit and talk together. It isn't daytime.

JULIET     No, it is daytime! You must go.

*Nurse appears at the door to the balcony.*

NURSE     My lady, your mother is on her way to your  
              bedroom. The sun is up.

*Romeo kisses Juliet and climbs down from the balcony.*



JULIET My love, my husband, my friend – have you gone?

ROMEO Goodbye! I will write to you every day.

JULIET Will we ever meet again?

ROMEO Yes. And we will look back at these bad times from a happier place.

*Juliet looks down at Romeo below her.*

JULIET This will not end well.

ROMEO Goodbye, my love.

*Romeo jumps over the garden wall and disappears. At the same moment, Lady Capulet comes into Juliet's bedroom.*

LADY CAPULET Juliet, you are awake.

JULIET Mother, I am not well.

LADY CAPULET Are you still crying for your cousin Tybalt?  
You cannot bring him back to life, so stop now.

JULIET He was my friend and I loved him.

LADY CAPULET Are you crying because Romeo lives?

JULIET Yes, you are right – I am crying because of Romeo.

LADY CAPULET Romeo killed Tybalt, but Romeo lives. The Prince is too soft. The Capulets are not soft and this is not over for us. We will send a man to Mantua. He will find Romeo there and poison him. Will you be happy then?

JULIET Mother, let me make the poison myself, while you find a man to take it to Mantua. Then I will feel better.

LADY CAPULET Very well. But now I have some good news. Your father has planned a happy day for you.

JULIET What day is that?

LADY CAPULET A wedding day. On Thursday, you will marry Lord Paris.

JULIET But this is too soon. I have only spoken a few words to Lord Paris. Please tell my father that I will not marry yet. I prefer to marry Romeo than Lord Paris and you know how I feel about Romeo!

LADY CAPULET You can tell him yourself – here he comes.

*Lord Capulet and Nurse come into the room.*

LORD CAPULET My lovely daughter, why are you still crying? Wife, have you told her the news?

LADY CAPULET I have, my lord, but she does not want to marry. She says 'No!'

LORD CAPULET She says 'No'? But Lord Paris is good-looking, young and rich. She is lucky to have him.

JULIET Thank you for finding him, Father. But I cannot marry someone I hate.

LORD CAPULET You will go to the church with Lord Paris on Thursday, Juliet, or I will pull you there by your hair!

JULIET Father ...

LORD CAPULET No! Do not speak! Get to the church on Thursday, or never look at me again.

NURSE Please, sir, do not shout at your daughter.

LORD CAPULET Shut up, old woman! This is not your business.

LADY CAPULET Don't be so angry!

LORD CAPULET Why can't I be angry? Day and night I think only about my daughter's future. Now I have found a good man for her and she says 'No'! If she is not at the church on Thursday, she can die on the streets.



*Lord Capulet goes out.*

JULIET     Mother, please help me. Let's have the wedding in a month, or a week. If not, I will join Tybalt in his tomb.

LADY CAPULET   Do what you like. I have nothing to say to you.

*Lady Capulet leaves.*

JULIET     Nurse, how can we stop this? What can I do?

NURSE     Well, I think the best thing is to marry Paris. He's a lovely man! He's much nicer than Romeo. Romeo can never come back, so there's nothing he can do about it.

JULIET     Do you really believe that?

NURSE     Yes, my lady.

JULIET     Perhaps you are right. Tell my mother that I am going to Friar Laurence.

NURSE     Yes, my lady. You have made the right choice.

*Nurse believes that Juliet agrees with her and will now marry Paris. She leaves.*

JULIET     What a bad woman! Before she had only good words for my husband Romeo. But she forgets him as soon as there is trouble. Perhaps the Friar can save us.

# ACT FOUR

## Act Four ♦ Scene One

*Lord Paris has come to see Friar Laurence in his church.*

**FRIAR LAURENCE** Thursday, sir? That is very soon.

**PARIS** Lord Capulet has chosen the day.

**FRIAR LAURENCE** But has anybody asked Juliet about this?  
I don't like it.

**PARIS** She is very sad about Tybalt and I have not been able to talk to her about love. Her father is worried about her and thinks a wedding will help her.

*Juliet comes in.*

**PARIS** I am happy to see you, my lady and my wife!



JULIET I am not your wife, sir.

PARIS Not yet, but you will be on Thursday. You have come to see Friar Laurence? Tell him that you love me.

*Juliet does not answer him.*

JULIET Father, have you got time for me now? I can come back this evening.

FRIAR LAURENCE No, this is a good moment. Sir, we need some time alone.

PARIS Of course. Goodbye until Thursday.

*Paris kisses Juliet and leaves the church.*

JULIET Father, come and cry with me. There is no hope for me now.

FRIAR LAURENCE Juliet, I can do nothing to stop this wedding.

*There is a knife on a table and Juliet takes it.*

JULIET Then I will kill myself with this knife.

FRIAR LAURENCE Wait. Let me think. Yes, I have an idea. But it is dangerous.

*Friar Laurence goes into his workshop and Juliet follows. He finds a small bottle.*

JULIET I will do anything to escape this wedding and join my real husband. I will jump from the highest building. I will sleep in a tomb full of dead bodies. Anything!

FRIAR LAURENCE Good! Then listen to my plan. Tomorrow is Wednesday. Tomorrow night, when you are alone and in bed, drink this sleeping medicine. You will fall into a deep sleep. Your body will

lie still. Your friends will think you are dead. The next day they will carry your body to the Capulet tomb and leave you there. I will write to Romeo. I will tell him to go to the tomb two nights later. At the same time, forty-two hours after you drink this, you will wake up. Then Romeo will take you with him to Mantua.

JULIET Oh yes, give the medicine to me, Father.

FRIAR LAURENCE Go! I'll send Friar John with a letter, to Romeo in Mantua.

JULIET Goodbye, Father.

## Act Four ♦ Scene Two

*In a large room in the Capulet house, everyone is busy. There's going to be a wedding.*

LORD CAPULET Where is Juliet?

NURSE She has gone to speak to Friar Laurence.

LORD CAPULET Perhaps she will listen to him.

*Juliet comes in and speaks to her father.*

JULIET I am sorry, Father, for the things I said. From now on, I will do as you say.

LORD CAPULET This is good news. We will not wait until Thursday. We'll go to the church tomorrow.

JULIET I must choose my wedding clothes. I am going to my room. Goodnight.

*Juliet leaves the room.*

LORD CAPULET And I will walk over to visit Lord Paris and tell him the news. My daughter has come back to me and my heart feels light.

## Act Four ♦ Scene Three

*Juliet is alone in her bedroom. Lady Capulet comes in.*

LADY CAPULET Juliet, can I help you?

JULIET No, Mother, I am ready for tomorrow. I'd like to be alone. I'm sure that you have a lot to do.

LADY CAPULET Go to bed and rest. You need to sleep.

*Lady Capulet leaves the room. Juliet is holding Friar's sleeping drink.*

JULIET I feel cold and afraid and I would like to call my mother back. But she cannot help me now. I have Friar Laurence's bottle here. Perhaps it will not work and I will have to marry tomorrow. I will kill myself with this knife before that happens. Perhaps it is poison. Perhaps Friar Laurence is afraid because he married me to Romeo. But I don't believe that – he is a good man and my friend. Perhaps I will wake up in the tomb too early! I will be with Tybalt's dead body. There will be a horrible smell, Tybalt's ghost will touch me! No, Tybalt, no! Romeo! I drink to you!

*Juliet drinks from the bottle and lies still on her bed.*

## Act Four ♦ Scene Four

*A few hours have passed. It is early morning, the house is awake and the cooks are making food for the wedding. Nurse comes into Juliet's room. She cannot wake Juliet.*

NURSE My lord! My lady! Come quickly.



*Lady and Lord Capulet come into the room.*

LADY CAPULET    What's wrong, Nurse?

LORD CAPULET    Paris is here! Juliet, get up.

NURSE            She is dead.

LADY CAPULET    My child! My life! Open your eyes or I will  
die with you.

LORD CAPULET    Let me see her. *My child, she is dead too  
soon. She was the sweetest flower in the field.  
She is so cold.*

*Death lies on her like an untimely frost  
Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.  
untimely = before its time;  
frost = ice on the ground in the early morning*

# ACT FIVE

## Act Five ♦ Scene One

*Romeo is in a street in Mantua. Balthasar, Romeo's servant, appears.*

ROMEO     Do you have news from Verona, Balthasar?  
              Have you brought me a letter from the Friar?

BALTHASAR   No, my lord. I bring you bad news. Juliet lies  
              dead in the Capulets' tomb. I am sorry, my lord.

ROMEO     Can this really be true? Get me pen and paper,  
              and then find some horses. I am going to Verona  
              tonight.

*Balthasar goes. Romeo starts walking through the streets of Mantua.*

ROMEO     Juliet, my wife! I will lie next to you tonight  
              and I will end my life. But how? I remember an  
              apothecary in this street. He sells poisons. I will  
              find his shop.

*Soon he is standing outside the Apothecary's shop.*

ROMEO     Hello! Apothecary!

*The shop door opens.*

APOTHECARY   Who is there?

ROMEO     I need a poison that can kill a man. Here, take  
              this money.

APOTHECARY   I have a poison. But I am not allowed to sell  
              it.

ROMEO     I can see that you are poor and hungry. Here,  
              take the money.

APOTHECARY   I will do as you ask.

*The apothecary goes into his shop and comes back with a small  
bottle of poison.*

APOTHECARY This poison will kill twenty strong men.

ROMEO Here is your money.

*Romeo leaves the shop and starts his journey to Verona.*

ROMEO Money kills more people in this terrible world than poison.

## Act Five ♦ Scene Two

*Friar Laurence is in his church. Friar John appears.*



FRIAR LAURENCE Ah, Friar John. Welcome from Mantua. Did Romeo give you a letter for me?

FRIAR JOHN A terrible thing happened. I went to find Friar Stephen to come with me to Mantua. He was visiting a poor man who was ill. Then some officers came from the hospital. "We think this man has the plague\*," they said. "You cannot leave this house for twenty-four hours." So I could not go to Mantua.

FRIAR LAURENCE Who took my letter to Romeo, then?

\* In Shakespeare's time, the plague was a terrible illness that killed thousands of people. It moved very quickly from house to house.

FRIAR JOHN I could not send it. Here it is.

FRIAR LAURENCE Luck is against us! I must go to the tomb. I must be there when Juliet wakes up. She will be angry with me. But first, I will write again to Romeo in Mantua. Then I will bring Juliet here to the church until Romeo comes. Poor child, lying in a dead man's tomb!

### Act Five ♦ Scene Three

*Paris is outside the Capulet tomb with his servant.*

PARIS Wait over there. If you hear anything, call me.

*The servant goes. Paris stands outside the tomb.*

PARIS Juliet, I will come every night to talk to you.

PARIS'S SERVANT (*calling to Paris*) Someone is coming.

PARIS Who can this be? I will watch from the dark.

*Paris stands in the dark. He watches as Romeo and Balthasar come to the tomb.*

ROMEO Take this letter to my father, Balthasar. I am going to open up the tomb. I want to see Juliet's face. Go! Do not stay to watch.

BALTHASAR I am going, sir.

ROMEO Take this money, Balthasar. You have been a good friend.

*Balthasar doesn't go. He stands behind a tree and watches Romeo. Romeo begins to open the tomb. Paris comes into the light.*

PARIS Stop, Montague! You killed my love's cousin and the Prince sent you out of Verona. Now you must die.

ROMEO I do not know you but I am here to die. I do not want to fight you.

PARIS Don't speak, sir. Take out your sword!

*They fight. Paris's servant runs to call the Prince's officers. Romeo wins the fight.*

PARIS I am dying. Please, open the tomb. Put my body next to Juliet.

*Paris dies. Romeo looks closely at his face.*

ROMEO Oh, this man is Paris, cousin of Mercutio. He loved Juliet. Balthasar told me about the wedding on the journey from Mantua. I will do as Paris asked.

*He carries the dead Paris into the tomb and there he sees Juliet.*

ROMEO Juliet, my wife! You are dead, but there is colour in your face.





*He sees Tybalt's dead body.*

ROMEO Tybalt, are you there? I will kill the man who killed you. I am sorry, cousin.

*Romeo touches Juliet's face.*

ROMEO Juliet, you are still so beautiful. I will stay with you, and never leave this dark place. I will sleep forever next to you. Let me look at you for the last time. Let me hold you for the last time. Let me kiss you for the last time. I drink to you, my love.

*Romeo kisses Juliet and then drinks the poison.*

ROMEO Apothecary, your poison is quick. With a kiss I die.



*Romeo dies. Friar Laurence is outside the tomb.*

FRIAR LAURENCE (*calling*) Romeo!

*He sees the swords and blood, and enters the tomb.*

FRIAR LAURENCE Romeo! And Paris too? What is all this blood? What terrible luck is this?

*Juliet wakes up.*

FRIAR LAURENCE My lady! Hurry, we must go.

JULIET Friar Laurence, the plan has worked! Is Romeo here?

FRIAR LAURENCE Your husband lies dead beside you. Luck has worked against us. Come with me. I will find a place for you to stay.

JULIET I will not come with you.

*There are noises outside the tomb.*

FRIAR LAURENCE People are coming. I cannot stay.



*The Friar leaves the tomb.*

JULIET      What is this in Romeo's hand? Poison. He has killed himself. Romeo, you have left none for me! Perhaps there is still some on your mouth. I will kiss you.

*Juliet kisses Romeo.*

JULIET      Oh, you are still warm.

*She hears shouting outside. It is the Prince's officers.*

JULIET      Here is Romeo's knife.

*She pushes Romeo's knife into her heart.*

JULIET      Let me die.



*One of the Prince's officers comes into the tomb.*

**OFFICER** Go to the Prince. Run to the Capulets. Call the Montagues. Look for any man in this area.

*Soon, men bring Balthasar and Friar Laurence. The Prince arrives and the Capulets follow.*



**PRINCE ESCALUS** Why have you called us in the middle of the night, Officer?

**LORD CAPULET** Why are people running here, to our tomb?

**LADY CAPULET** Why are they shouting 'Romeo' and 'Juliet'?

**OFFICER** Sir, Lord Paris is dead. Romeo is dead and Juliet is dead. But Juliet was not dead before – her blood is still warm.

**PRINCE ESCALUS** How have these terrible things happened?

**OFFICER** Here is the Friar and Romeo's man. We caught them near the tomb.



*Lord Montague arrives.*

PRINCE ESCALUS Montague, this is a sad night.

LORD MONTAGUE My lord, my wife died a few hours ago.  
She could not live without Romeo. Is there even  
more bad news?

PRINCE ESCALUS Look in the tomb.

*The Capulets and Montagues visit the tomb. Then the Prince orders  
his men to close it.*

PRINCE ESCALUS Friar, tell us what you know.

FRIAR LAURENCE I know that it looks bad for me. Romeo  
and Juliet married in my church. I was there.  
Then Romeo killed Tybalt and he had to leave  
town. Juliet was crying for Romeo, not for  
Tybalt. When she heard about the plans for her  
wedding to Paris, she came to me for help. I  
gave her a sleeping medicine. After she drank  
it, she looked dead. But she was not dead. I  
wrote to Romeo to tell him the plan. My letter  
never arrived. I came here to tell Juliet, when  
she woke. But Romeo was already here. He was  
already dead and Paris too. I don't know how  
this happened. I asked Juliet to leave with me.  
Instead, she killed herself. My Lord, I know that  
I must die for my part in this.

PRINCE ESCALUS We know you are a good man, Friar. What  
do you say, Balthasar?

BALTHASAR I went to Mantua to tell Romeo that Juliet was  
dead. I didn't know that she was only sleeping.  
He came here to the tomb and gave me this  
letter for his father.



PRINCE ESCALUS Let me read the letter. Where is Lord Paris's servant? Why was Lord Paris here?

PARIS'S SERVANT Lord Paris came to visit his lady's tomb. He told me to stand over there. A man – Romeo – came and he fought with Lord Paris. Then I ran to call your men, my lord.

*The Prince reads Romeo's letter.*

PRINCE ESCALUS This letter agrees with the Friar's story. Romeo bought the poison from an apothecary. He brought it here, to die with his love. Where are the enemies? Capulet, Montague? These young people have died because of hate between your families, and Tybalt too. And I have lost two good men from my family – Mercutio and Lord Paris. All are dead because of you.

LORD CAPULET Brother Montague, give me your hand.



LORD MONTAGUE    The city of Verona will always remember  
                                 Juliet.

LORD CAPULET    And Romeo too.

PRINCE ESCALUS    This day brings a sad peace to Verona.  
                                 The sun will not shine on our city this morning.  
                                 **Nothing could be more sad than this story of  
                                 Romeo and Juliet.**



For never was a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.  
woe (n) = = *something sad*

## THE END





# William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is the most famous writer in the English language. He wrote thirty-seven plays and 154 poems, but we know almost nothing about him or his life.

## Early life

Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, a town in the middle of England. His family wasn't rich, but he was able to go to school. In 1552, when he was eighteen, he married Anne Hathaway. They soon had three children, so he needed a job.

## The 'lost years'

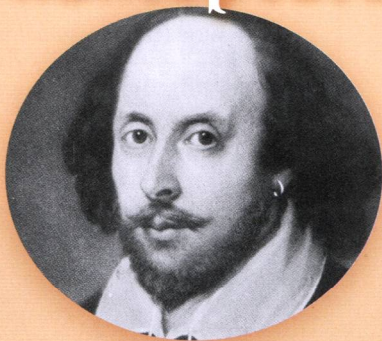
Nobody knows where Shakespeare was between 1586 and 1592. There are no letters or other information about him. We call these the 'lost years'. Many people think he was a schoolteacher in a town near Stratford.

## London

In 1592, Shakespeare appeared in London. He had a job as an actor and he was writing poems. He soon started writing plays and acting in them himself. Nobody knows which play he wrote first.

By the time he wrote *Romeo and Juliet*, he was making lots of money. In 1597 he bought the second biggest house in Stratford for his family.

In 1599 he and his friends bought a theatre next to the River Thames. They

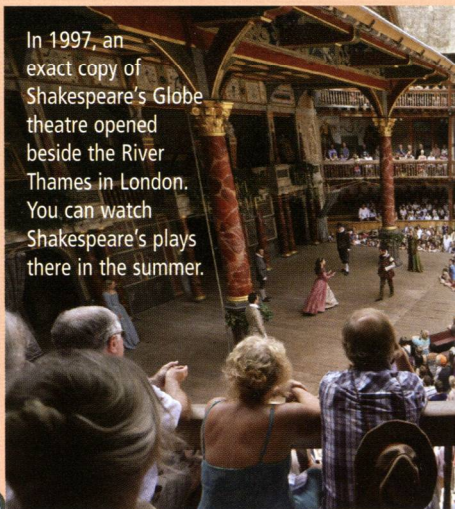


called it the Globe, but it burnt down in 1613. An actor used a gun during Shakespeare's play *Henry VIII* and the theatre caught fire.

## Back to Stratford

Shakespeare left London in around 1612. He was now rich and famous and he returned to live a quiet life with his family. He died in 1616.

In 1997, an exact copy of Shakespeare's Globe theatre opened beside the River Thames in London. You can watch Shakespeare's plays there in the summer.



# Romeo and Juliet



Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* in 1595-7 and he acted in it for Queen Elizabeth 1.

Shakespeare didn't invent the story of Romeo and Juliet. He borrowed it from a poem that Arthur Brooke wrote in 1562. Brooke's poem is a bit boring, but



# Four Facts about Shakespeare

- ◆ He was born and died on the same day: April the 23rd.
- ◆ He wore an earring in his left ear.
- ◆ He never went abroad.
- ◆ *Hamlet* is his most famous play. Shakespeare's son was called Hamnet and died in 1596 at age eleven.

Shakespeare's play is very exciting.

The first film of *Romeo and Juliet* came out in 1908, with more than forty films since then. Baz Luhrmann made *Romeo+Juliet* in 1996, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. He didn't change the words but his story takes place in Verona Beach, a modern day town in California, and the Montagues and Capulets fight with guns. The photographs in this book come from Carlo Carlei's film *Romeo & Juliet* (2013). Douglas Booth plays Romeo and Hailee Steinfeld plays Juliet. Hailee got the part when she was only fourteen, just a year older than Juliet.

**What do these words mean?**

**You can use a dictionary.**

**poem theatre to burn down  
to invent modern earring**



## ACT ONE

### Before you read

You can use a dictionary.

- 1 Choose the correct word.
  - a) The doctor gives you *medicine* / *poison* when you are ill.
  - b) If you take *medicine* / *poison*, you feel very ill.
  - c) If you wear a *sword* / *mask*, nobody can see your face.
  - d) A person can kill another person with a *sword* / *mask*.
  - e) Your *heart* / *peace* sends your blood around your body.
  - f) When there is *heart* / *peace*, there is no fighting.
  - g) If you *kiss* / *insult* a person, you like them.
  - h) If you *kiss* / *insult* a person, you want to upset them.
  - i) When you are *cruel* / *kind* to people, you are not nice to them.
  
- 2 Make sentences.
  - a) An **enemy** is ...
  - b) A **nephew** is ...
  - c) An **actor** is
  - d) A **servant** is
  - i) a person who works for you.
  - ii) a person who appears in a film or play.
  - iii) a person you hate.
  - iv) the son of your sister or brother.

### After you read

- 3 Answer the questions.
  - a) Who is always fighting in the city of Verona?
  - b) Who stops the fight at the beginning of the play?
  - c) In Act One Scene One, who is in love with a woman who doesn't love him?
  - d) Who wants to marry Juliet?
  - e) What happens when Romeo sees Juliet for the first time?
  - f) Why does Juliet say that Romeo is her "worst enemy"?
  
- 4 What do you think?
  - a) Romeo falls in love with Juliet the first time he sees her. She falls in love with him too. Does this really happen?
  - b) What will the two families say when they learn about Romeo and Juliet?

## ACT TWO

### Before you read

5 Complete the sentences with these words. Change the form if necessary.

**balcony marry rose wedding**

- a) People give ... to the person they love on Valentine's Day.
- b) We watched Prince William and Kate's ... on television.
- c) When a man ... a woman he becomes her husband.
- d) The hotel room had a ... where we could sit outside.

### After you read

6 Answer the questions.

- a) Why is Juliet worried when Romeo appears on her balcony?
- b) When do Romeo and Juliet plan to marry?
- c) Why is Friar Laurence surprised to hear that Romeo is in love with Juliet?
- d) Why does Mercutio think Tybalt will win a fight with Romeo?
- e) In Act Two Scene Four, why does Nurse take so long to give Romeo's message to Juliet?
- f) Why is Friar Laurence worried about Juliet?

7 What do you think?

"I hope this wedding will not have a sad ending," says Friar Laurence. Do you know what happens at the end of Romeo and Juliet? If you don't know, what do you think will happen?

## ACT THREE

### Before you read

8 Choose the correct word.

- a) The *law / tomb* says that you cannot drive a car in the UK until you are 17 years old.
- b) Shakespeare's dead body is in a large *law / tomb* in a church in Stratford-upon-Avon.

## After you read

- 9 All these things happen in Act Three Scene One. Put them in the correct order.
- Mercutio and Benvolio meet Tybalt on the street.
  - Mercutio and Tybalt fight.
  - Romeo and Tybalt fight.
  - Romeo kills Tybalt.
  - Romeo runs away.
  - Romeo says he loves the Capulets.
  - Romeo tries to stop the fight.
  - Tybalt kills Mercutio.
- 10 Answer the questions.
- Who says that Romeo must die?
  - Who decides to send Romeo out of Verona?
  - Who goes to fetch Romeo and bring him to the Capulet house?
  - Who tries to tell Romeo that things are not so bad?
  - Who plans a wedding between Juliet and Lord Paris for Thursday?
  - Who does Lady Capulet think Juliet is crying for in Act Three Scene Five?
  - Why is Juliet really crying?
  - Who is angry when Juliet says she will not marry Lord Paris?
  - Who does Juliet hope will help her?
- 11 What do you think Juliet will do? Here are some ideas:
- tell her parents that she has married Romeo
  - run away to Mantua
  - marry Lord Paris, as Nurse says

## ACT FOUR

## Before you read

- 12 What do you think?
- Will Romeo and Juliet live to a happy old age?
  - How will the Capulet and Montague parents feel when they learn about the wedding of Romeo and Juliet?

### After you read

- 13 Are these sentences true or false?
- a) Juliet is happy to find Lord Paris at the church.
  - b) Friar Laurence has a special medicine that sends a person to sleep for 42 hours.
  - c) Friar John goes to Mantua with poison for Romeo.
  - d) In Act Four Scene Two Juliet tells her father that she will never marry Paris.
  - e) Juliet is afraid that Friar Laurence's plan will go wrong.
  - f) Lord and Lady Capulet believe that their daughter is dead.
- 14 What do you think?  
Is Friar Laurence's plan a good plan or a dangerous one?

## ACT FIVE

### Before you read

- 15 What do you think?  
What will Romeo do when he thinks that Juliet is dead?

### After you read

- 16 Which of these things happen?
- a) Friar Laurence's letter reaches Romeo.
  - b) Balthasar tells Romeo that Juliet is dead.
  - c) The apothecary will not sell poison to Romeo.
  - d) Lord Paris visits Juliet's tomb.
  - e) Romeo tells Paris that he wants to fight him.
  - f) Juliet wakes up before Romeo drinks the poison.
  - g) Juliet kills herself when she sees that Romeo is dead.
  - h) The Prince says that Friar Laurence must die.
  - i) After Romeo and Juliet die, peace comes to Verona.
- 17 What do you think?
- a) Could this story happen today? Why / Why not?
  - b) Imagine Juliet wakes before Romeo drinks the poison. What happens?