

Knowledge Organiser– ROMEO AND JULIET Year 9



Events Time Line

Act I

On a hot summer's day, the young men of each household fight until the Prince of Verona intercedes and threatens to banish them. Soon after, the head of the Capulet family plans a feast. His goal is to introduce his daughter Juliet to a Count named Paris who seeks to marry Juliet.

Montague's son Romeo and his friends (Benvolio and Mercutio) hear of the party and decide to go in disguise. Romeo hopes to see his beloved Rosaline at the party. Instead, while there, he meets Juliet and falls instantly in love with her. Juliet's cousin Tybalt recognises the Montague boys and forces them to leave just as Romeo and Juliet discover one another.

Act II

Romeo lingers near the Capulet house to talk with Juliet when she appears in her window. The pair declare their love for one another and intend to marry the next day. With the help of Juliet's Nurse, the lovers arrange to marry when Juliet goes for confession at the cell of Friar Laurence. There, they are secretly married.

Act III

Following the secret marriage, Juliet's cousin Tybalt sends a challenge to Romeo. Romeo refuses to fight, which angers his friend Mercutio who then fights with Tybalt. Mercutio is accidentally killed as Romeo tries to stop the fight. In anger, Romeo pursues Tybalt, kills him, and is banished by the Prince. Juliet is anxious when Romeo is late to meet her and learns of the brawl, Tybalt's death, and Romeo's banishment. Friar Laurence arranges for Romeo to spend the night with Juliet before he leaves for Mantua. Meanwhile, the Capulet family grieves for Tybalt, so Lord Capulet moves Juliet's marriage to Paris to the next day. Juliet's parents are furious when Juliet doesn't want to marry Paris — but they don't know about her secret marriage to Romeo.

Act IV

Friar Laurence helps Juliet by providing a sleeping potion that will make her *seem* dead. When the wedding party arrives to greet Juliet the next day, they believe she *is* dead. The Friar sends a messenger to warn Romeo of Juliet's plan and bids him to come to the Capulet family monument to rescue his sleeping wife.

Act V

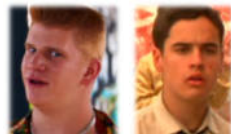
The vital message to Romeo doesn't arrive in time because an outbreak of plague stops the messenger. Hearing from his servant that Juliet is dead, Romeo buys poison from an Apothecary in Mantua. He returns to Verona and goes to the tomb where he surprises and kills the mourning Paris. Romeo takes his poison and dies, while Juliet awakens from her drugged coma. She learns what has happened from Friar Laurence, but she refuses to leave the tomb and stabs herself. The deaths of their children lead the families to make peace, and they promise to erect a monument in Romeo and Juliet's memory.

Key Characters

THE MONTAGUES



Romeo Lord Montague Lady Montague



Benvolio Balthasar

THE CAPULETS



Juliet Lord Capulet Lady Capulet



Tybalt Nurse

OTHER CHARACTERS



Friar Laurence County Paris Prince Escalus Mercutio

Some Key Themes

love	violence
hate	fate
youth	honour
death	conflict

Some Context

- Shakespeare wrote the play in the mid 1590s.
- The play is set in Verona in **Italy**. Italy was a traditionally Catholic society with a strong belief in damnation for mortal sin. Suicide and bigamy were both considered to be mortal sins.
- In Elizabethan society, the **father** was the head of the household in this patriarchal society.
- **Women** had no rights or authority in law: they could not own property or money but could influence their husbands.
- Children were regarded as property and could be given in **marriage** to a suitable partner. This was often a political or financial transaction to secure and retain wealth. It was not unusual to be married very young.
- In high society, children were often raised by a 'wet **nurse**' and might not have a strong bond with their parents.
- Courtly **love** (like royalty) should be polite, ceremonious, restrained, intellectual, courteous and those involved should be in love with the idea of being in love.
- Family **honour** was important to the Elizabethans. There was a strong belief that the slightest wrong or insults must be avenged as a matter of personal pride or to protect reputation.
- Most Elizabethans believed in the ideas of **fate** and astrology; rich people often paid for horoscopes for their children, and before major decisions such as marriage or travel, one would often consult an astrologer to see if the stars favoured it.
- Many people believed that they had no free will: that they had no choice to change their **destiny**



Some Key Techniques

- **soliloquy**: when a character speaks on their own, expressing their deepest thoughts for the audience
- **foreshadowing**: when an event/detail hints forward in the play to a later event/detail
- **irony**: when the outcome is the opposite to what was expected
- **dramatic irony**: when the audience understands more about what is happening than the characters on stage
- **symbolism**: when an image stands for a key idea or theme
- **turning point**: the moment in the play when things begin to change—perhaps

Some Useful Words

- **predestined**: *adj* the idea that your life/death is all decided in advance by a higher power
- **acrimony**: *noun* bitterness, sharpness
- **illicit**: *adj* not permitted, forbidden
- **animosity**: *noun* dislike, violent hatred
- **enmity**: *noun* dislike, deep-seated hatred
- **infatuation**: *noun* silly, over-hasty love
- **deference**: *noun* showing submission to someone you see as above you socially
- **impetuous**: *adj* over-hasty, impulsive
- **coercive**: *adj* compelled by force or intimidation
- **turbulent**: *adj* unstable, stormy

Knowledge Organiser– ROMEO AND JULIET Year 9



Plot Questions

Act 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Who breaks up the fight and threatens to banish people? <input type="radio"/> Which family holds the feast/party? ⊕ Who accuses the two families of being “enemies to peace”? ⊕ Who “doth teach the torches to burn bright”?
Act 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Which Capulet servant helps Juliet organise her marriage with Romeo? <input type="radio"/> What is the name of the Friar who marries Romeo and Juliet? ⊕ What does Juliet want Romeo to <i>change</i> about himself? ⊕ Who warns “violent delights have violent ends”?
Act 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Who challenges Romeo to a duel? <input type="radio"/> Who is holding Mercutio when he is stabbed by Tybalt? ⊕ Who accuses Romeo of “calm, dishonourable, vile submission”?
Act 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Who is Juliet supposed to marry? <input type="radio"/> To whom does Friar Laurence send an important message of explanation? ⊕ Who complains to the Friar of being “past hope, past cure, past help”?
Act 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> What does Romeo buy before returning to see the “dead” Juliet? <input type="radio"/> What does Juliet do when she wakes up to see the dead Romeo? ⊕ Who does Romeo kill to get into Juliet tomb? ⊕ Who tells the two families, “See what a scourge is laid upon your hate”?

Character Questions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> To which family does Romeo belong? <input type="radio"/> To which family does Tybalt belong? <input type="radio"/> To which family does Benvolio belong? <input type="radio"/> To whom does Lord Capulet wish to marry Juliet? <input type="radio"/> Whose idea is it to give Juliet a potion which will make her appear dead? <input type="radio"/> How does Romeo kill himself?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Who tells Benvolio at the start, “What, drawn and talk of peace? I hate the word”? ⊕ Who begin the play complaining of “brawling love... loving hate... heavy lightness... serious vanity”? ⊕ Who is Romeo talking about: “the all-seeing sun / Ne’er saw her match since first the world begun”? ⊕ Who is Romeo talking about: “So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows”? ⊕ Who is “the Prince of Cats”? ⊕ Whom is Romeo talking to when he claims to “love thee better than thou canst devise”? ⊕ Who dies blaming Romeo for his death: “Why the dev’l came you between us? I was hurt under your arm”? ⊕ Who angrily calls Juliet “green-sickness carrion... baggage... tallow-face”? ⊕ Whose very last words are “Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet”?

Ideas Questions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Which word best describes the relationship between the families? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> animal animosity animated anodyne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Which word best describes Romeo at the start? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> infatuated flatulent fatuus informal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Which word best describes the ending? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fortuitous energised grief-stricken optimistic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Which idea is blamed by Romeo when he kills Mercutio? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> predestination prejudice procrastination prehistory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ What does Lord Capulet expect from his daughter? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> detergent deterrence derision deference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Which word could be used to describe meeting someone and marrying them almost immediately? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impecunious impunity impetuosity impasivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Which word best describes how <i>their</i> society would view the marriage between Romeo and Juliet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> illicit idealised idyllic illustrious



GETTING IT WRONG IS ABSOLUTELY OKAY.