

Romeo and Juliet



Characters

Lord and Lady Montague: heads of a wealthy household. Romeo is their only son

Lord and Lady Capulet: heads of a wealthy household. Juliet is their only daughter

Romeo: son of the Montagues. Falls in love with Juliet

Juliet: daughter of the Capulets. She falls in love with Romeo

The Nurse: has looked after Juliet since she was born

Tybalt: Juliet's cousin; he has a fiery temper

Benvolio: Romeo's best friend and he is trusted by the Montagues

Mercutio: Romeo's friend and he is related to the Prince

Friar Lawrence: he helps Romeo and Juliet to get married, helps Romeo to escape to Mantua and he gives Juliet the potion that makes her appear dead on her wedding day to Paris

Paris: a wealthy eligible bachelor who wants to marry Juliet

Key Quotations

- 'a pair of star-cross'd lovers'
- 'what sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?'
- 'my only love sprung from my only hate'
- 'my child is yet a stranger in the world'
- 'O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face'
- 'my bounty is as boundless as the sea'
- 'these violent delights have violent ends'
- 'a plague on both your houses'
- 'my fingers itch'
- 'if you had the strength of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight'
- 'her beauty makes this vault a feasting present full of light'

The Plot

1. The Montague and Capulet servants fight in the street
2. Prince Escalus gives the families their last warning
3. Romeo is sad because he loves Rosaline and she doesn't love him
4. Paris asks for Juliet's hand in marriage and Capulet says no – he says Juliet is too young, but he will let her decide
5. Romeo, Benvolio and Mercutio gate-crash the Capulet's ball and are spotted by Tybalt who is very annoyed
6. Romeo and Juliet fall in love with each other at first sight and then find out their families are enemies
7. Romeo asks Friar Lawrence to marry him and Juliet and the Friar agrees thinking it may stop the fighting
8. Tybalt, who is still annoyed that Romeo and his friends came to the Capulet party, kills Mercutio
9. In revenge Romeo murders Tybalt
10. Romeo, who is now married to Juliet, is banished to Mantua
11. Romeo spends his wedding night with Juliet before he goes
12. Capulet agrees for Paris to marry Juliet
13. Juliet refuses to marry Paris and Capulet threatens her
14. The Friar gives Juliet a potion to drink which will make her look dead
15. She takes the drug and is placed in the Capulet tomb
16. Romeo wrongly receives the information that Juliet has died
17. He is heartbroken and, having bought some poison, goes to Juliet's tomb
18. Romeo kills Paris
19. He then takes the poison and dies by Juliet
20. Juliet awakens and sees Romeo dead.
21. She then stabs herself and dies next to Romeo
22. The Capulets and Montagues make peace with each other

