# **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

orn

**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

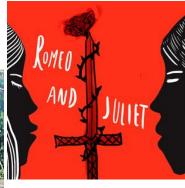
Prince

**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. Rome 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

## Themes

**Love:** this includes romantic love as well as love for family

**Fate:** the Elizabethans believed that an individual's destiny had already been decided for them and they could do very little to change it.

**Death:** Tybalt, Mercutio, Paris, Romeo and Juliet all die

**Time:** time influences all of the major events: Capulet rushes Juliet's marriage to Paris; the sleeping potion lasts a certain time; Juliet awakens moments after Romeo's death

Family and Marriage: Juliet rebels against her family; Capulet arranges Juliet's marriage to Paris for money—it wasn't about love; Romeo and Juliet's love conflicts with their families

**Conflict (fighting):** no one can escape the feud between the two families and it has far-reaching consequences



### Context

- William Shakespeare was born in Stratford in 1564.
- he is the most famous writer of all time
- he had two daughters and a son (who died aged 11).
- Romeo and Juliet is a tragedy
- In England Elizabeth I was queen
- the play is set in the northern Italy in Verona
- we do not know why the Capulets and the Montagues were enemies
- Women and girls were only in the home.
- The men worked and were responsible for the money.
- Girls were expected to listen to their fathers.
- Marriages were arranged for money not always love; parents wanted to get their children a good husband / wife.

# **Key Terminology**

Soliloquy
Dramatic Irony
Light/dark imagery
Puns / wordplay
Metaphor
Stage Directions
Oxymoron
Prologue
Blank Verse
Tragedy
Aside

Nature Imagery

Sonnet

Foreshadow

Antithesis