

Romeo and Juliet Knowledge Organiser

Plot Summary:

Act 1 The houses of Capulet and Montague start a public fight. Both are warned by the Prince that if it happens again, the heads of the houses will be killed as a consequence. We meet Romeo, who is sad that his love, Rosaline, does not love him back. His friends convince him to attend a party at the house of Capulet. They are not supposed to go because the Capulet's and Montague's are enemies. Romeo sees Juliet for the first time and it is love at first sight for them both.

Act 2 Romeo refuses to leave the party which annoys his friends. He waits in Juliet's garden and she appears on the balcony. The two declare their love for one another and depart. Romeo goes to find Friar Laurence, who eventually agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet because he believes it will bring the families together. However, Romeo doesn't realise that Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, has seen him at the party and has challenged him to a duel. He and Juliet marry in secret.

Act 3 When Romeo returns to his friends after the wedding, Tybalt arrives and demands to fight. Romeo refuses, and Mercutio is angry that Romeo won't fight – not knowing that Romeo has just married Tybalt's cousin. Mercutio fights on Romeo's behalf and is killed by Tybalt. In a rage, Romeo then kills Tybalt and flees the scene. The Prince, Montague's and Capulet's arrive and all are told that Romeo must be exiled from the city of Verona otherwise he will be killed. During his final night in the city, Romeo sneaks to see Juliet. They spend the night together. The Friar makes arrangements for Romeo to leave the city and hide out until he can sort it out for him.

Meanwhile, Juliet's mother wants to cheer Juliet up and arranges for her to marry the most desirable man in Verona – Paris. Juliet refuses, and goes to Friar Laurence for help.

Act 4 Friar Laurence then provides Juliet with a potion that will make it seem as though she is dead and tell Romeo, who will collect her and take her to exile with him. The next morning, everyone believes Juliet is dead.

Act 5 Unfortunately, the message on the plan has not reached Romeo. His servant Balthasar greets him with the news that Juliet is really dead.

Distraught, Romeo heads back to Verona in order to kill himself next to Juliet so they can be together one final time. On the way there, Romeo meets Paris and kills him. When he gets to Juliet, he drinks the poison to kill himself, just as she is waking up. Devastated, she takes Romeo's knife and kills herself.

The Friar tells both families what has happened, and both decide to end their hatred as enough damage has already been caused.

Key Characters:

Romeo – handsome, romantic sixteen year old. Son of Montague.

Lord and Lady Montague – Romeo's mother and father.

Bitter enemies of Capulet.

Mercutio – Romeo's friend. A hot-headed and witty character.

Benvolio – Romeo's cousin. He tries to defuse any conflicts.

Friar Lawrence – A Friar who is a friend to both Romeo and Juliet. He wants to bring peace to Verona.

Juliet – A beautiful thirteen year old girl who grows up quickly during the play.

Lord and Lady Capulet – Juliet's father and mother. Enemies of the Montagues.

Tybalt – Juliet's cousin. He loathes the Montagues.

The Nurse – Juliet's nanny who Juliet confides in.

Paris – suitor of Juliet

Context:

Patriarchy: In Elizabethan England, society was dominated by men. Men were considered strong and violence was considered masculine.

Women: Women had no rights in Elizabethan England. They were regarded as property of their fathers until they were passed on to their husband's and then became property of them. It was up to a woman's father to decide who she would marry. They were not allowed to own possessions, property or even seen out in public if they were from a wealthy family.

The Theatre: The theatre was the main form of entertainment in Elizabethan England. People of all social classes would attend. They enjoyed watching violent scenes that featured betrayal, jealousy, love and death. It was common for plays in this era to feature a prologue that tells the audience what is going to happen in the play before it really begins. This allows the audience to maintain their interest in the play and ensured people of all classes and levels of intelligence could enjoy the performance.

Key Themes:

Conflict
Love
Fate
Gender
Masculinity
Revenge
Death
Love
Family
Rivalry



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Key Quotes:

'From ancient grudge break to new mutiny' Prologue

'Death marked love' Prologue

'What, drawn and talk of peace? I hate the word, as I hate hell, all Monagues, and thee' Tybalt

'O brawling love! O loving hate!' Romeo

'A rose by any other word would smell as sweet' Juliet

'Turn and draw, turn and draw!' Tybalt

'A plague on both your houses' Mercutio

'Fire-eyed fury be my conduct now!' Romeo

'Either thou or I or both must go with him!' Romeo

'I am fortune's fool!' Romeo

'Hang thee young baggage, disobedient wretch!' Capulet

'Happy dagger' Juliet

'For there never was a story of more woe than that of Juliet and her Romeo' Prince

'A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life' Prince

Methods:

Noun – A word for a person, place or thing.

Pronoun – A word used when referring to someone or something.

Verb – A word used to describe an action, state or occurrence.

Adjective – A word to describe a noun.

Adverb – A word used to describe a verb.

Simile – A phrase comparing one thing to another, using *as* or *like*.

Metaphor – A phrase comparing one thing to another, without using *as* or *like*.)

Personification – A phrase giving human characteristics to a non-human object.

Imagery – Words or phrases that create visual images.

Emotive language – Words that create feeling and emotion.

Pun – a play on words

Semantic field – A group of words that follow the same theme.

Rhetorical question – A question that does not require an answer.

Alliteration – Words close together that begin with the same sounding letter.

Assonance – Words close together that begin with a vowel sound.

Sibilance – Words close together that begin with an 's' sound.

Oxymoron – A phrase using contradictory words.

Onomatopoeia – Words that create a sound.

Symbolism – The representation of ideas in images or motifs.

Punctuation – Marks used to separate or express meaning.

Repetition – A word or phrase that is repeated.

Dialogue – Words that are spoken by a character.

Perspective – A point of view. Text can be written from a first (I), second (you) or third person (he/she/they) perspective.

Sentence structures – The way that sentences are put together.

Sentences can be simple (main clause), compound (main clauses joined with a conjunction, comma or semi colon) or complex (main and subordinate clauses).

Foreshadowing – A hint or a warning of something in the future.

Juxtaposition – Two concepts, themes, ideas or characters that are contrasting or opposite.

Stage directions – an instruction indicating the movement, position, or tone of an actor, sound effects and lighting.

Prologue – An introductory section of a play outlining the plot

Soliloquy – Thoughts spoken aloud by a character alone on stage

Aside - Thoughts spoken aloud by a character whilst others are on stage

Dramatic irony – A technique where the audience knows more than a

Sentence Starters:

Shakespeare presents...

Quote (embedded)

This suggests to the audience...

Shakespeare is revealing... (his ideas/context)

In particular, Shakespeare's use of (method) implies ...

Key Words:

Conflict – a serious disagreement or argument

Fate – development of events outside a person's control

Inevitable – certain to happen

Tragedy – a play with a sad ending, usually the death of the main character

Grudge – An ongoing argument

Fatal – leads to death
Unrequited – a feeling that is not returned

Deception – the act of deceiving or tricking someone

Fickle – changing frequently

Control – the power to influence or direct people's behaviour

Patriarchy – a society dominated by men

