

**Romeo and Juliet Knowledge Organiser**


Very Brief Plot Summary	Honour	Key Quotations
<p>Act 1: Set in Verona, we find two warring families – the Montagues and the Capulets. There is a ball and two young people meet and fall in love – Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet. Their families will never allow this.</p> <p>Act 2: Romeo and Juliet continue to see each other secretly. Romeo wishes he was not a Montague and they decide that they will secretly marry.</p> <p>Act 3: Tybalt (Juliet's cousin) tries to argue with Romeo, who refuses. Mercutio (Romeo's friend) goads Tybalt into a fight and is killed by Tybalt when Romeo attempts to stop them. Romeo then murders Tybalt in his anger.</p> <p>Act 4: Juliet asks for help from Friar Lawrence. He gives her a sleeping potion that will make her appear dead so that on her supposed wedding day to Paris she will be carried to the family vault, where Romeo will find her and whisk her away.</p> <p>Act 5: Romeo doesn't receive the letter about the plan. He hears Juliet has died and obtains a poison for himself. Romeo sees Juliet (assuming she is dead) and poisons himself. Juliet awakes and realising what has happened kills herself. The two families reconcile in the wake of the tragedy.</p>	<p><b>Gender</b></p> <p>Men controlled society. Women were seen as the weaker sex and were expected to be obedient to their families and husbands.</p> <p><b>Arranged Marriage</b></p> <p>Arranged marriages between wealthy families were never about love. They were arranged to improve status, power and wealth.</p> <p><b>Catholicism</b></p> <p>Religion was very important at this time and set in Italy, the Catholic church had great influence. Marriage was sacred and could not be undone. There was a strong belief in 'damnation' for mortal sin. Suicide was considered a mortal sin.</p>	<p>"A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life" Prologue</p> <p>"My child is yet a stranger in the world" Act 1 Scene 2</p> <p>"It is too rough, Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn." Act 1, Scene 4</p> <p>"O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!" Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"Did my heart love till now?" Act 1 Scene 5</p> <p>"I will withdraw, but this intrusion shall, Now seeming sweet, convert to bitterest gall!" Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"If he be married, my grave is like to be my wedding bed." Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"My only love sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known too late!" Act 1, Scene 5</p> <p>"But, soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"Oh Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"Deny thy father and refuse thy name." Act 2, Scene 2</p> <p>"For this alliance may so happy prove To turn your households' rancour to pure love." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"Parting is such sweet sorrow." Act 2, Scene 1</p> <p>"These violent delights have violent ends." Act 2, Scene 5</p> <p>"A plague o'both your houses!" Act 3, Scene 1</p> <p>"Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill." Act 3, Scene 1</p> <p>"O deadly sin! O rude unthankfulness!" Act 3 Scene 3</p> <p>"Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! Here's drink: I drink to thee." Act 4, Scene 3</p> <p>My lady's dead! Oh curse the day that I was born! Act 4, Scene 5</p> <p>"O happy dagger, This is thy sheath: there rust, and let me die." Act 5, Scene 3</p> <p>"All are punished." Act 5, Scene 3</p> <p>"For never was a story of more woe, Than this of Juliet and her Romeo." Act 5, Scene 3</p>
<p><b>Characters</b></p> <p>Romeo Montague – Son of the Montague family.</p> <p>Juliet Capulet – Daughter of the Capulet family.</p> <p>Mercutio – Friend to Romeo – neither Capulet nor Montague.</p> <p>Tybalt – Juliet's Cousin, a prominent Capulet.</p> <p>Benvolio – Romeo's cousin.</p> <p>Friar Lawrence – A Franciscan monk and friend to both families.</p> <p>Nurse – Juliet's confidante, very close to her, motherly.</p> <p>Prince Escalus – Leader of Verona, trying to keep peace between the families.</p>	<p><b>Family and children</b></p> <p>Children were considered property of their parents. It was also common for children to have a 'nurse' and as a result, did not often have strong bonds with their parents.</p> <p><b>Courtly love</b></p> <p>Courtly love was all about behaviour and was supposed to be polite, restrained and courteous. Often gifts were exchanged but there was little contact. The notion of 'courtly love' strongly opposes the passion and emotion we associated with 'real love'.</p>	



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Themes		Key Vocabulary		Language and Techniques
<b>Love</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passionate, chaotic love is pitched against the 'order' of courtly love.</li> <li>• Love often leads to violence.</li> </ul>	<b>Fate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No matter what they do, the characters cannot escape their fate. It is the determination of Romeo and Juliet in the face of fate that conveys how fiery the love between them is.</li> </ul>	patriarchy Elizabethan character society violence conflict resolution civil unrest marriage catholic Catholicism Shakespeare	Verona conspire ambiguity predicament unease suicide brawl relationship adversity provoke mutiny adversary	prologue foreshadowing dramatic irony bawdy humour monologue soliloquy oxymoron metaphor simile imagery iambic pentameter juxtaposition tragedy antagonist blank verse sonnet sonnet form suspense
<b>Individuals V Society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forbidden love forces Romeo and Juliet to turn against the conformity of the society their live in.</li> </ul>	<b>Language and Word Play</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant play on language, using pun, rhyme and double-entendre.</li> <li>• Romeo and Juliet seem to use word play to escape from the world, their act of rebellion.</li> </ul>			
<b>Violence and Conflict</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driving force in the play.</li> <li>• Occurs between several characters.</li> <li>• Opens the play and concludes it with the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.</li> </ul>	<b>Death</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Society was much more comfortable with the idea of death than we are now.</li> <li>• Death is mentioned and referenced throughout the play.</li> </ul>			
<b>Symbols and Motifs</b> <p>Poison; Night; light/dark imagery; thumb-biting; Dreams/Queen Mab; opposing points of view.</p>				

