



# Mind the Gap!

English First Additional Language Paper 2: Literature

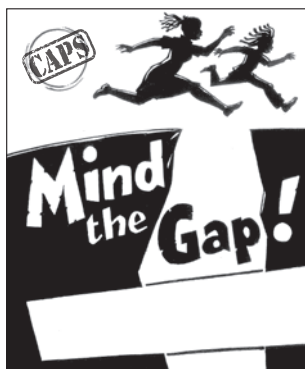
## Romeo and Juliet Study Guide

Grade  
**12**



**basic education**

Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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**Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) Grade 12 English First Additional Language Mind the Gap study guide for the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare**  
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The first edition of the series published in 2012 for the Revised National Curriculum Statement (RNCS) Grade 12 Mind the Gap study guides for Accounting, Economics, Geography and Life Sciences; the second edition of the series, published in 2014, aligned these titles to the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) and added more titles to the series, including the CAPS Grade 12 English First Additional Language **Mind the Gap study guide for the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.**

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# Ministerial foreword

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has pleasure in releasing the second edition of the *Mind the Gap* study guides for Grade 12 learners. These study guides continue the innovative and committed attempt by the DBE to improve the academic performance of Grade 12 candidates in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination.

The study guides have been written by teams of experts comprising teachers, examiners, moderators, subject advisors and coordinators. Research, which began in 2012, has shown that the *Mind the Gap* series has, without doubt, had a positive impact on grades. It is my fervent wish that the *Mind the Gap* study guides take us all closer to ensuring that no learner is left behind, especially as we celebrate 20 years of democracy.

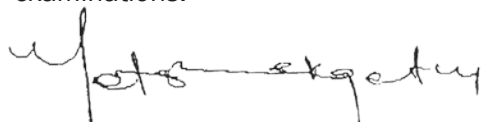
The second edition of *Mind the Gap* is aligned to the 2014 Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). This means that the writers have considered the National Policy pertaining to the programme, promotion requirements and protocols for assessment of the National Curriculum Statement for Grade 12 in 2014.

The *Mind the Gap* CAPS study guides take their brief in part from the 2013 National Diagnostic report on learner performance and draw on the Grade 12 Examination Guidelines. Each of the *Mind the Gap* study guides defines key terminology and offers simple explanations and examples of the types of questions learners can expect to be asked in an exam. Marking memoranda are included to assist learners to build their understanding. Learners are also referred to specific questions from past national exam papers and examination memos that are available on the Department's website – [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za).

The CAPS editions include Accounting, Economics, Geography, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy and Physical Sciences. The series is produced in both English and Afrikaans. There are also nine English First Additional Language (EFAL) study guides. These include EFAL Paper 1 (Language in Context); EFAL Paper 3 (Writing) and a guide for each of the Grade 12 prescribed literature set works included in Paper 2. These are Short Stories, Poetry, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *A Grain of Wheat*, *Lord of the Flies*, *Nothing but the Truth* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Please remember when preparing for Paper 2 that you need only study the set works you did in your EFAL class at school.

The study guides have been designed to assist those learners who have been underperforming due to a lack of exposure to the content requirements of the curriculum and aim to mind-the-gap between failing and passing, by bridging the gap in learners' understanding of commonly tested concepts, thus helping candidates to pass.

All that is now required is for our Grade 12 learners to put in the hours required to prepare for the examinations. Learners, make us proud – study hard. We wish each and every one of you good luck for your Grade 12 examinations.



Matsie Angelina Motshekga, MP  
Minister of Basic Education  
2015



Matsie Angelina Motshekga, MP  
Minister of Basic Education



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# Dear Grade 12 learner

This *Mind the Gap* study guide helps you to prepare for the end-of-year Grade 12 English First Additional Language (EFAL) Literature exam.

There are three exams for EFAL: Paper 1: Language in Context; Paper 2: Literature; and Paper 3: Writing.

There are nine great EFAL *Mind the Gap* study guides which cover Papers 1, 2 and 3.

Paper 2: Literature includes the study of novels, drama, short stories and poetry. A *Mind the Gap* study guide is available for each of the prescribed literature titles. Choose the study guide for the set works you studied in your EFAL class at school.

This study guide focuses on William Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, one of the set works in Paper 2: Literature.

## How to use this study guide

In the introduction to the guide (pages 1 to 15), you find out about the author and the current events that influenced him. There is also an overview of how the story is told.

From page 17 to 103 you can work through each act in the play to understand:

- The characters;
- What happens and who is involved;
- The themes;
- The symbols; and
- Diction and figurative language.

You can test your understanding of each act by completing the activities, and using the answers to mark your own work. The activities are based on exam extracts.



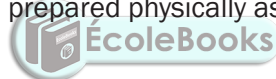
	Pay special attention		Activities with questions for you to answer
	Hints to help you remember a concept or guide you in solving problems		





## Top 7 study tips

1. Break your learning up into manageable sections. This will help your brain to focus. Take short breaks between studying one section and going onto the next.
2. Have all your materials ready before you begin studying a section – pencils, pens, highlighters, paper, glass of water, etc.
3. Be positive. It helps your brain hold on to the information.
4. Your brain learns well with colours and pictures. Try to use them whenever you can.
5. Repetition is the key to remembering information you have to learn. Keep going over the work until you can recall it with ease.
6. Teach what you are learning to anyone who will listen. It is definitely worth reading your revision notes aloud.
7. Sleeping for at least eight hours every night, eating healthy food and drinking plenty of water are all important things you need to do for your brain. Studying for exams is like exercise, so you must be prepared physically as well as mentally.



# On the exam day

- 1.** Make sure you bring pens that work, sharp pencils, a rubber and a sharpener. Make sure you bring your ID document and examination admission letter. Arrive at the exam venue at least an hour before the start of the exam.
- 2.** Go to the toilet before entering the exam room. You don't want to waste valuable time going to the toilet during the exam.
- 3.** You must know at the start of the exam which two out of the four sections of the Paper 2 Literature exam you will be answering. Use the 10 minutes' reading time to read the instructions carefully.
- 4.** Break each question down to make sure you understand what is being asked. If you don't answer the question properly you won't get any marks for it. Look for the key words in the question to know how to answer it. You will find a list of question words on page xiv of this study guide.
- 5.** Manage your time carefully. Start with the question you think is the easiest. Check how many marks are allocated to each question so you give the right amount of information in your answer.
- 6.** Remain calm, even if the question seems difficult at first. It will be linked with something you have covered. If you feel stuck, move on and come back if time allows. Do try and answer as many questions as possible.
- 7.** Take care to write neatly so the examiners can read your answers easily.



# Overview of the English First Additional Language Paper 2: Literature Exam

In the **Paper 2 Literature** exam, you need to answer questions from two sections. Choose the two sections that you know best:

- Section A: Novel
- Section B: Drama
- Section C: Short stories
- Section D: Poetry

A total of **70 marks** is allocated for Paper 2, which means **35 marks for each section you choose**.

You will have **two hours** for this exam.

**Here is a summary of the Paper 2 Literature exam paper:**

Question number	Title of novel	Type of question	Number of marks
<b>Section A: Novel</b> If you choose Section A, answer ONE question. Choose the question for the book you have learnt.			
1	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	Contextual	35
2	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	Contextual	35
3	<i>A Grain of Wheat</i>	Contextual	35
<b>Section B: Drama</b> If you choose Section B, answer ONE question. Choose the question for the play you have learnt.			
4	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Contextual	35
5	<i>Nothing but the Truth</i>	Contextual	35
<b>Section C: Short stories</b> If you choose Section C, answer BOTH questions. You will not know exactly which short stories are included until the exam. TWO stories will be set. Answer the questions set on BOTH short stories.			
6.1	Short story	Contextual	17 or 18
6.2	Short story	Contextual	17 or 18
<b>Section D: Poetry</b> If you choose Section D, answer BOTH questions. You will not know exactly which poems are included until the exam. TWO poems will be set. Answer the questions set on BOTH poems.			
7.1	Poem 1	Contextual	17 or 18
7.2	Poem 2	Contextual	17 or 18



- You don't have to answer all the sections in Paper 2.
- Before the exam starts you must know which two sections you are going to answer.
- When the exam starts, find your two chosen sections.
- Make sure to number your answers correctly – according to the numbering system used in the exam paper – for the two sections you've chosen.
- Start each section on a new page.

## What is a contextual question?

In a contextual question, you are given an extract (about 25–30 lines) from the novel. You then have to answer questions based on the extract. Some answers you can find in the extract. Other questions will test your understanding of other parts of the novel: its story, characters, symbols and themes. Some questions ask for your own opinion about the novel.

## What are the examiners looking for?

Examiners will assess your answers to the contextual questions based on:

- Your understanding of the **literal** meaning of the play. You need to identify information that is clearly given in the play.
- Your ability to **reorganise** information in the play. For example, you may be asked to summarise key points, or state the similarities or differences between two characters.
- Your ability to provide information that may not be clearly stated in the text, using what you already know about the play. This process is called **inference**. This may include explaining how a figure of speech affects your understanding of the play, explaining themes or comparing the actions of different characters.
- Your ability to make judgements about aspects of the play, and make your own opinions based on information given in the play. This process is called **evaluation**. For example, you may be asked if you agree with a statement, or to discuss a character's motive for doing something.
- Your ability to respond to the characters in the play and how it is written on an emotional level. This is called **appreciation**. For example, you may be asked how you think a certain character feels, or what you would have done if you were in their situation. You may be asked to discuss how the writer's style helps to describe what a character is feeling.

# Question words

Here are examples of question types found in the exam.

Question type	What you need to do
<b>Literal:</b> Questions about information that is clearly given in the text or extract from the text	
<b>Name</b> characters/places/things ...	Write the specific names of characters, places, etc.
<b>State</b> the facts/reasons/ideas ...	Write down the information without any discussion or comments.
<b>Give</b> two reasons for/why ...	Write two reasons (this means the same as 'state').
<b>Identify</b> the character/reasons/theme ...	Write down the character's name, state the reasons.
<b>Describe</b> the place/character/what happens when ...	Write the main characteristics of something, for example: What does a place look/feel/smell like? Is a particular character kind/rude/aggressive ...
<b>What</b> does character x do when ...	Write what happened – what the character did.
<b>Why</b> did character x do ...	Given reasons for the character's action according to your knowledge of the plot.
<b>Who</b> is/did ...	Write the name of the character.
<b>To whom</b> does xx refer ...	Write the name of the relevant character/person.
<b>Reorganisation:</b> Questions that need you to bring together different pieces of information in an organised way.	
<b>Summarise</b> the main points/ideas ...	Write the main points, without a lot of detail.
<b>Group</b> the common elements ...	Join the same things together.
<b>Give</b> an outline of ....	Write the main points, without a lot of detail.
<b>Inference</b> Questions that need you to <b>interpret</b> (make meaning of) the text using information that may not be clearly stated. This process involves thinking about what happened in different parts of the text; looking for clues that tell you more about a character, theme or symbol; and using your own knowledge to help you understand the text.	
<b>Explain</b> how this idea links with the theme x ...	Identify the links to the theme.
<b>Compare</b> the attitudes/actions of character x with character y ...	Point out the similarities and differences.
<b>What</b> do the words ... suggest/reveal about /what does this situation tell you about ...	State what you think the meaning is, based on your understanding of the text.
<b>How</b> does character x react when .... <b>Describe how</b> something affected ... <b>State how</b> you know that character x is ...	Write down the character's reaction/what the character did/felt.
<b>What</b> did character x mean by the expression ...	Explain why the character used those particular words.
Is the following statement <b>true or false</b> ?	Write 'true' or 'false' next to the question number. You must give a reason for your answer.
<b>Choose</b> the correct answer to complete the following sentence (multiple choice question).	A list of answers is given, labelled A–D. Write only the letter (A, B, C or D) next to the question number.
<b>Complete</b> the following sentence by filling in the missing words ...	Write the missing word next to the question number.
<b>Quote</b> a line from the extract to prove your answer.	Write the relevant line of text using the same words and punctuation you see in the extract. Put quotation marks (" " inverted commas) around the quote.

<b>Evaluation</b> Questions that require you to make a judgement based on your knowledge and understanding of the text and your own experience.	
<b>Discuss</b> your view/a character's feelings/a theme ...	Consider all the information and reach a conclusion.
<b>Do you think that</b> ...	There is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer to these questions, but you must give a reason for your opinion based on information given in the text.
<b>Do you agree with</b> ...	
<b>In your opinion, what</b> ...	
<b>Give your views on</b> ...	
<b>Appreciation</b> Questions that ask about your emotional response to what happens, the characters and how it is written.	
<b>How would you feel if you were</b> character x when ...	There is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer to these questions, but you must give a reason for your opinion based on information given in the text.
<b>Discuss your response to</b> ...	
<b>Do you feel sorry for</b> ...	
<b>Discuss the use of the writer's style, diction and figurative language, dialogue</b> ...	To answer this type of question, ask yourself: Does the style help me to feel/imagine what is happening/what a character is feeling? Why/why not? Give a reason for your answer.





## words to know

# Vocabulary for *Romeo and Juliet*

## Understanding Shakespeare's Language

Shakespeare wrote his plays in the English that was spoken over 400 years ago. No wonder it is sometimes difficult for us to understand! Many of the unfamiliar words in the play will be explained in the notes, or glossary, in your copy of the play.

It is also very important that you have a dictionary and that you use it to look up unfamiliar words which may not be in the glossary.

But there are some typical words, used every day by the Elizabethans in Shakespeare's time, which may not be explained. We have given you an alphabetical list of many of these words, below. You may notice that some words which we use now had different meanings in Elizabethan times. Do not worry – you will get used to many of these words, as you read the play.

First of all, some of the basic differences between Shakespeare's English and ours:

### Order of Words

Sometimes the Elizabethans put their words in a different order from the order we use today. For example:

**Elizabethan:** 'Hold me not...' (Act 1, Scene 1, line 68)

**Modern:** 'Do not hold me.' (Notice addition of 'do' and position of 'not' and verb 'hold', swapped around.)

Another example is:

**Elizabethan:** 'Why call you for a sword?' (Act 1, Scene 1, l.63)

**Modern:** 'Why are you calling for a sword?' (Notice addition of 'are' and 'you' and 'calling' swapped around.)

And another example:

**Elizabethan:** '...tell me not ...' (Act 1, Scene 1, l.161)

**Modern:** 'Do not tell me.'

This sounds very complicated, but do not worry; as you read the play, you will get used to it.

## Verbs

A reminder: verbs are the 'doing' or 'being' words in a sentence, like sit, stand, walk, be, have.

The Elizabethans often put 'st' or 't' at the end of verbs:

**Elizabethan:** I hadst; **Modern:** I had

**Elizabethan:** Wouldst thou?;  
**Modern:** Would you?

**Elizabethan:** He wilt; **Modern:** He will

They also often inserted the verb 'do' in front of a verb, where we would not:

**Elizabethan:** "I do remember ..." (Act V, Scene 1, l.38); **Modern:** I remember

**Elizabethan:** "Where the infectious pestilence did reign." (Act V, Scene 2, l.10);

**Modern:** "Where the infectious disease reigned (or was widespread)."

## Thee/thou/thy/thine and you

### You

In modern English, we use the word 'you' when speaking directly to someone else, or when speaking to many people.

The Elizabethans used 'you' when speaking to someone older, higher in society or rank: in other words, it was more formal than thee/thou. It was also used when speaking to several people.

For example: Apothecary: "Put this in any liquid thing you will ..." (Act 5, Scene 1, l.78) The Apothecary is speaking to Romeo, his social 'superior'.

### Thee/thou

The Elizabethans used 'thou' when speaking to one person who was either a friend, a child, or to someone of lower social rank. In other words, it was more informal. 'Thou' was used when the



## words to know

person was the subject (the person 'doing' the verb) of the sentence:

Gregory: "Thou art moved ..." (Act 1, Scene 1, l.9) Gregory is speaking to Sampson, his social 'equal'.

If the person they were speaking to was the object (the person the verb is being 'done to') of the sentence, they would have used 'thee':

"I will back thee."

Another example, is when Romeo is speaking to Balthazar, his servant towards the end of the play, at the tomb:

Balthazar: "I will be gone, sir and not trouble you."

Romeo: "So shalt thou show me friendship ..." (Act V, Scene 3, l.40-41)

### Thy/thine

These were the Elizabethan's possessive pronouns (our modern day 'yours'). They would have used 'thy' before a word beginning with a consonant, and 'thine' before a vowel.

"Turn thy back and run." (Act 1, Scene 1, l.30)

"Were not I thine only Nurse ..." (Act 1, Scene 3, l.54)

### Elizabethan contractions

You will notice many words such as 'tis, e'en, ne'er, is't, th', stol'n, oe'r.

These are simply Elizabethan contractions. Just as we say 'don't' instead of 'do not' and 'I'll' instead of 'I will', they too left out certain letters and used an apostrophe ( ' ) to show where the missing letter was. So, 'tis' mean 'it is', 'e'en' means 'even', 'oe'r' means 'over'. If you say these words out loud, and in context, you will get their meanings.

For example: "... 'tis not hard, I think..." (Act 1, Scene 2, l.2)

And: 'The all-seeing sun/Ne'er saw her match...' (Act 1, Scene 2, l.93-4)

### Some common Elizabethan words

#### A

**aye:** yes

**art:** are

**alas or alack:** how sad

**apparelled:** dressed

**anon:** soon

**at odds:** enemies with

**adieu:** good-bye

**anon:** in a moment

#### B

**be** (I/he/she/we/you/they): am, is, are

**bid/bade:** ask/tell/asked

**bliss:** happiness

**behold:** see

**beseech:** ask, beg

**beget:** get

**b'yr lady:** by mary (mother of jesus)

**befits:** suits

**bawd:** brothel-keeper

**besrew:** a curse

**bosom:** usually means heart

#### C

**coz:** cousin

**cheerly:** enthusiastically

**cock-a-hoop:** fight

**choler:** anger

**crave:** want

**chinks:** money, wealth

**conjure:** create, as in conjure up

**clout:** dishcloth

**commend me to ... :** remember me to ...

#### D

**dignity:** social rank/standing

**drave:** drove

**doth:** does

**doff:** cast off

**divers:** several

## words to know

### E

**ere:** before  
**e'en:** even or evening  
**even so?:** is it true?

### F

**fray:** fight  
**fled:** ran away  
**forsworn:** have taken an oath  
**forth:** out of  
**faith:** in truth  
**foe:** enemy  
**fair:** beautiful  
**fain:** willing  
**forsaken:** given up  
**fiel:** exclamation of disapproval  
**fiend:** devil  
**forbear:** be patient

### G

**grudge:** quarrel  
**go to!:** let it go!  
**gall:** vinegar

### H

**hadst:** had  
**hath:** has  
**heavy:** sad  
**hence:** away, go there  
**how now?:** what's going on?  
**humours:** Elizabethans believed that fluids, or humours, in the body, affected your personality.  
**hie:** go

### I

**ill:** bad or wrong  
**i'faith:** truthfully

### K

**knave:** a cheeky young man  
**kin:** relations

### L

**list:** listen or like  
**lest:** in case  
**livery:** uniform

### M

**mutiny:** fight  
**marry:** indeed, well. (refers to mary, mother of jesus)  
**marred:** spoilt  
**mine:** my  
**maidenhead:** virginity  
**mark:** give, notice, listen to  
**misgive:** worry  
**measure:** dance  
**matched:** compared  
**mickle:** great, much  
**methinks:** i think

### N

**nought:** nothing  
**ne'er:** never  
**nay:** no

### O

**of an age:** the same age  
**oft:** often  
**orisons:** prayers

### P

**pray:** ask  
**peace:** be quiet  
**princox:** cheeky person  
**profane:** disrespect something sacred, holy  
**purged:** removed  
**posterity:** future generations  
**prolixity:** long speeches  
**prate:** chatter  
**perchance:** perhaps  
**pray:** ask  
**perforce:** by force  
**privy:** to know a secret



## words to know

### Q

**quoeth:** said

### R

**rood:** Christ's cross or crucifix

**rude:** rough

**rite:** ceremony

### S

**strive:** try

**shalt:** shall

**shun:** avoid

**sought:** looked for

**shrift:** Christian confession

**soft:** be quiet (verb)

**suit:** request

**sirrah:** young man

**slain:** killed

**sojourn:** stay

### T

**traffic:** performance

**toil:** work

**'tis:** it is

**thrice:** three times

**tut** or **tush:** shows impatience

**thither:** there

**tetchy:** cross, angry

**'twas:** it was

**throw:** think, believe

**twain:** two

### U

**unto:** up to or into

### V

**vault:** tomb

**vial:** a small bottle used for medicine or poison

**visage:** face

**visor:** mask

**vexed:** annoyed

### W

**wilt:** will

**withal:** with or by

**ware:** aware

**whence:** where

**wert:** were

**would:** wish

**whereto:** to which or to where

**writ:** written

**whither:** from where

**wit:** intelligence

**warrant** (verb): guarantee

**wanton:** loose woman

**weal:** good fortune

**woe:** sadness

**what ho!:** hey!

### Y

**ye:** you (polite)

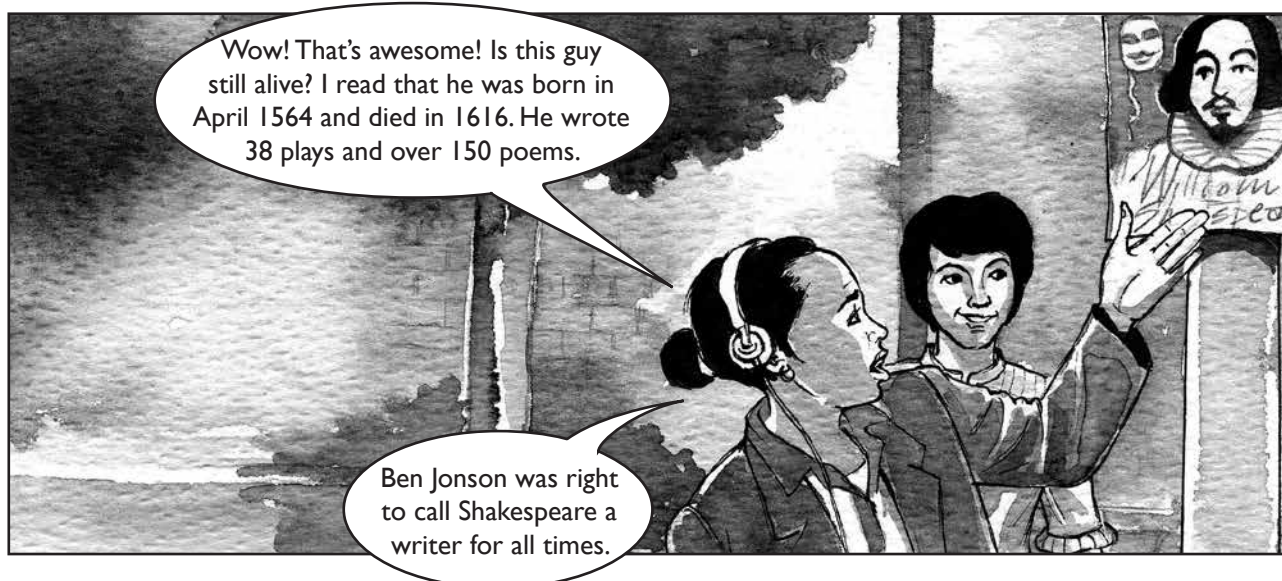
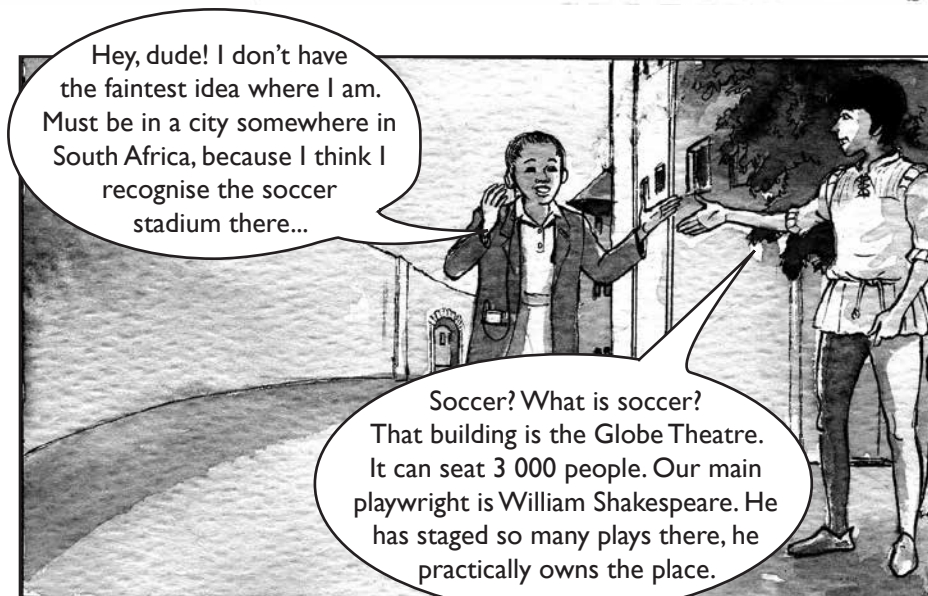
**yea:** yes

**yonder** (or **yond**): over there

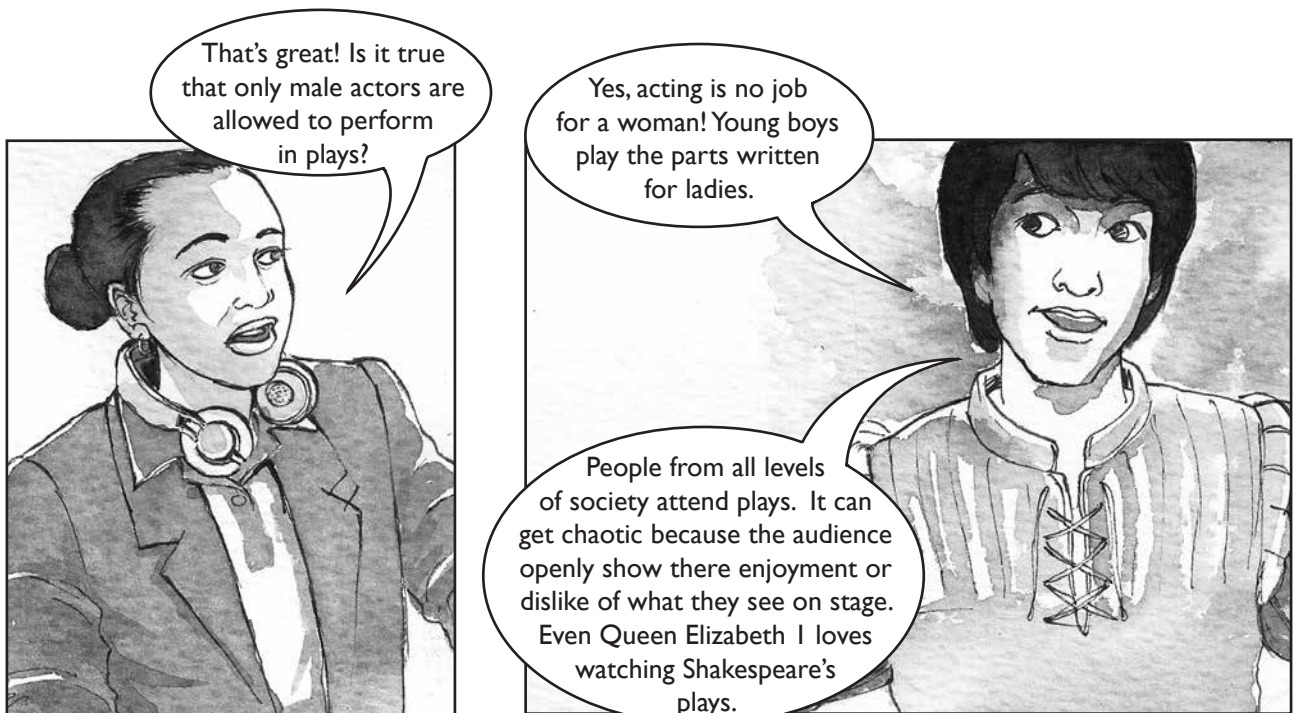
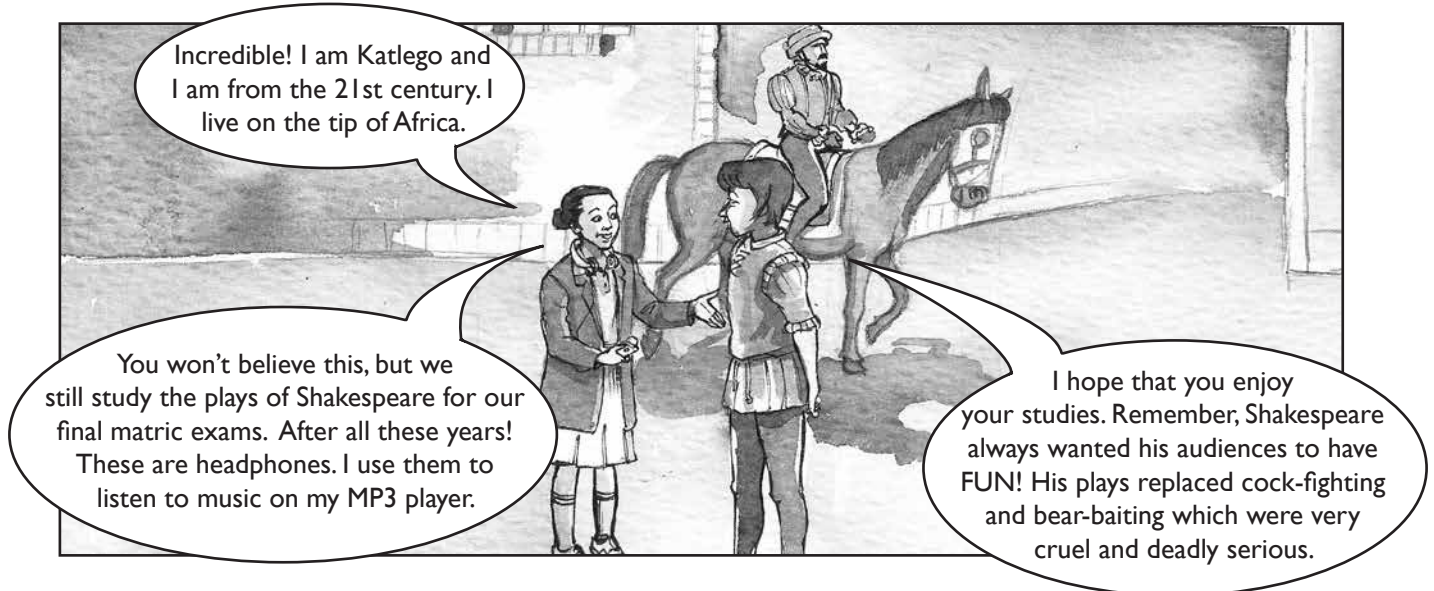


# Back to the Past

Katlego took her Science Expo experiment a bit too far and before she could figure out what was happening, she was standing in a street in London, in the year 1600. She approached a boy of her own age...









That sounds familiar.  
Back in South Africa, fans also go wild when a famous celebrity performs. Is it true that people in Shakespeare's time are very superstitious? Do you have any strange beliefs?

Ha, what is strange to you is not strange to us! We believe that 'humours', which are substances in the body, control one's character. The position of the stars at one's birth also determines one's life. Most people are Catholics and go to church to confess their sins.



Edward, do you know that Shakespeare is helping to develop the English language through his plays?

Gee whizz! I didn't know he would become that famous.

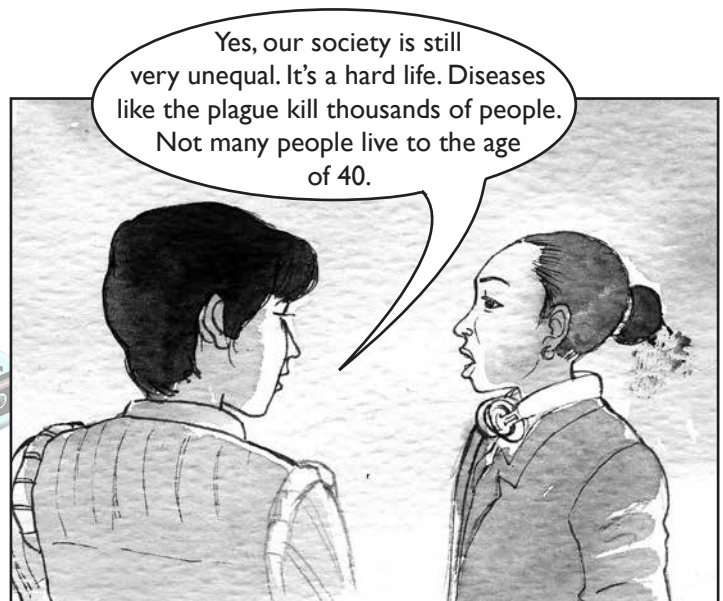
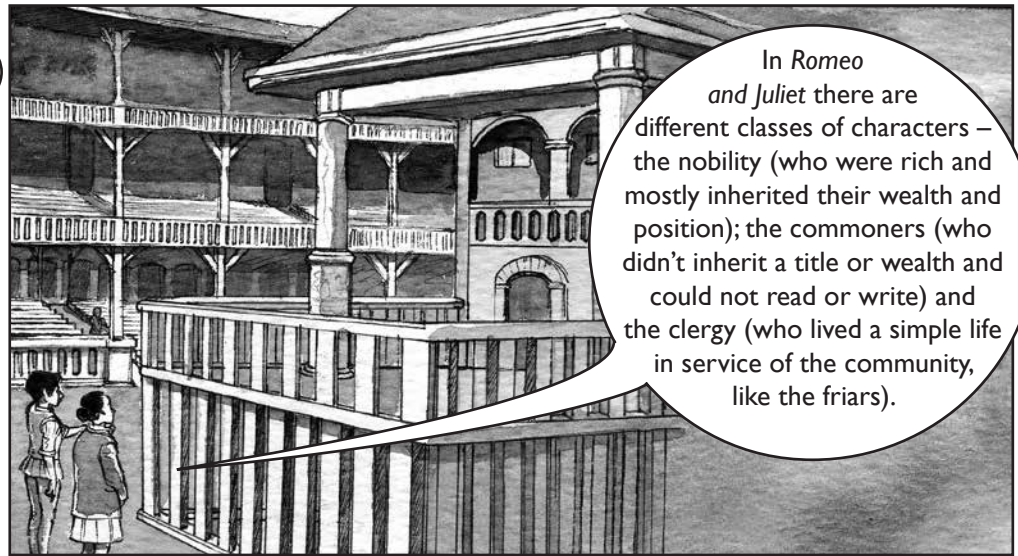
You perhaps don't realise it now, but he invented over 2 000 English words. These expressions were all used by him for the first time: "tower of strength", "cruel to be kind", "vanish into thin air", "flesh and blood"... We still use those expressions today!



We don't even study English as a subject at school. Only a privileged few learners are able to have private teachers who teach a bit of English. Our subjects are all taught in Latin.











# Overview

Romeo  
and  
Juliet

## Introduction

*Romeo and Juliet* was written by **William Shakespeare**. He was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in England.

His plays were written about 400 years ago, but they are still popular today. They have been performed in hundreds of countries and translated into nearly every language. By the time he died in 1610, he had written about 38 plays and over 150 poems.



# 1. Background

Four hundred years ago the world was very different from today. For example, in 1564 in South Africa, many African groups had only recently moved southwards to join the San and Khoi-Khoi in the area that was to become South Africa. London, where Shakespeare mostly lived and worked, was also very different from the city it is today. Knowing what life was like in Shakespeare's time helps us to understand his plays.

For most of Shakespeare's life, Elizabeth I was Queen of England. During the Elizabethan times, English explorers sailed to countries that they had not known about before, bringing back new types of fruit, vegetables, spices and other resources. During this time, London was the fastest-growing city in the world. People from rural areas in England as well as from other countries went to London to find work. Shakespeare met different types of people from many places and he wrote about them in his plays.

## Elizabethan society

In Shakespeare's time, England had a very unequal society. Some people were very rich, but most were poor, although a middle class was developing. The powerful people were wealthy landowners. Mostly these were the nobles, with titles like 'Lord' and 'Lady'. They inherited their wealth and high position in society. There was no democracy, like we have today, and ordinary people could not vote for their rulers.

Women did not have equal rights to men. They could not inherit titles from their fathers, and there were restrictions about women inheriting money. Only women from very wealthy families were educated. Women were usually expected to be domestic servants or housewives. Unlike many poor people, rich men were usually educated and could read and write.

Most people were Christians and attended church regularly. The Church played an important part in people's lives.

People did not live as long then as they do today – a person was old at 40. Terrible diseases were common, like the plague, which was spread by rats and killed thousands of people. Doctors did not have the skills or knowledge to cure many diseases.

## Shakespeare's English

Four hundred years ago the English language was very different from what it is today. For example, a person would refer to a good friend or child as "thee" rather than "you", as we do today.

In Shakespeare's time, the English language was mostly spoken, not written down. Most books were written in Latin. There were no English dictionaries and no one studied English in schools. By writing his popular plays in English, Shakespeare helped to develop the language.

Shakespeare's London sounds like cities in South Africa today – people from around the world lived there.



Languages change all the time. We use many words today that Shakespeare had never heard of. Like cell phone, internet or bling!



# Shakespeare's theatre

In Shakespeare's time, people went to the theatre like people today go to the movies or a soccer match. It was popular entertainment for both poor and rich people. Even Queen Elizabeth I went to see Shakespeare's plays. The plays were performed in different theatres around London. A famous theatre was the Globe Theatre. It could seat 3000 people.

The audience did not watch quietly, they showed how they felt about the play. They cheered and clapped at what they liked, and shouted and threw rotten vegetables if they didn't like it! Plays were also used to comment on issues in society.

People enjoyed listening to clever, funny language in the theatre. Often this language was poetic and sometimes it was sexual, which would have delighted, not shocked, the audience. Just as people today enjoy comedy shows and television soaps, so would people in Shakespeare's time have loved the jokes and drama in his plays.

*To understand this play, we need to know about Shakespeare's world, what is the same and what is different in our world today.*



## 2. How the play is told

### 2.1 Setting

The setting is where and when the story in the play takes place. The story of Romeo and Juliet took place in a town called Verona in Italy during the 1400s (fifteenth century). Italy wasn't a united country at the time. It was divided up into small city-states which would fight between themselves for control of cities like Verona. The people were governed by nobles, such as a prince.

Most people in Italy at that time were Roman Catholic and attended church regularly. There are many references to religious images and symbols in the play, for example, shrines, saints and pilgrims.

#### Did you know?

Three thousand English words were first written down by Shakespeare. About 1 700 of these words were used for the first time by Shakespeare! Some of Shakespeare's new words include: bedroom; excitement; champion; gossip; and lonely.

### 2.2 Characters

There is a large cast of characters. The main characters appear most often and are known as the **protagonists**. In this play, the protagonists are Romeo and Juliet, as the play mainly involves them – their actions and the decisions they make.

Other characters in the play take the role of **antagonists** – they stand in opposition to the main characters. One of the roles of the antagonist characters is to help create tension or conflict in the plot and to keep the action of the play going. Examples of antagonists in the play are Paris and Tybalt.

The play has many **minor characters**, who appear less often. Their role is often to support the protagonists and to give us more information about them. For example, Mercutio often teases and mocks Romeo about his romantic love of Rosaline.



## Classes of characters

There are also different classes of characters, as Shakespeare placed his play in a social setting that the Elizabethan public would recognise.

### The nobility

The nobility were rich people whose wealth and position in society was inherited. They had political power and owned most of the land. The nobles in the play include the Prince, Count Paris and the Montague and Capulet families.

### The commoners

People who had no inherited title or wealth were called commoners. Most of them had little chance of improving their social status and could not read or write. Many worked as servants for a noble family. Juliet's nurse and the servants of the Montague and Capulet families would be known as commoners.

The servant characters are often used to provide humour and to comment on things the other characters are doing.

### Clergy

The clergy in Elizabethan times was given a special role in society. Representing the church, they were not commoners and were often in the service of the nobility.

In the play, the clergy is represented by the friars. Friars belong to the Catholic church and are like priests. They lived a simple life, in service to the community. People would make their "confessions" to a friar. This follows the Catholic belief that if you confess your sins, God will forgive you. The clergy is represented in the play by Friar Lawrence and Friar John.

Friar Lawrence has many dealings with the nobility. He is a friend to both Romeo and Juliet, and has a good reputation with Prince Escalus. His role in the play is complex as his well-meaning involvement with Romeo and Juliet's problem is, unfortunately, partly responsible for their deaths.

## Important characters

**The nobles:** These were rich people whose wealth and position in society was inherited. They had political power and owned most of the land.

**Prince Escalus, ruler of Verona:** He is a stern and strict ruler. He is able to take charge and stop the street fighting between the Montagues and Capulets. He is also merciful and just. For example, even though he says the next person caught fighting will be executed, when Romeo kills Tybalt he only exiles him, as he understands that Tybalt killed Mercutio.

### The Montagues

**Lord Montague, Romeo's father:** He is a nobleman in a feud with the Capulet family. He is stubborn and not willing to forgive.

**Lady Montague, Romeo's mother:** She does not like violence. She does not seem close to Romeo, but she dies of grief after Romeo's death.

**Romeo Montague:** He thinks he is in love with Rosaline at the beginning of the play, and appears to be very immature. His love for Juliet seems to make him more mature. Although he is sensitive and romantic, he can be over-dramatic about his feelings. He has a good reputation in Verona (even Lord Capulet thinks he is virtuous and well disciplined). However, he makes decisions too quickly and can be aggressive and quick to fight. It is because of this that he kills Tybalt and Paris.

**Mercutio, Romeo's friend:** He is clever with words and is very energetic and lively. He often makes fun of Romeo's romantic passions. He loves an argument and is quick to get angry and fight. He is also **cynical** and melancholic.

**Benvolio, Romeo's cousin:** He always tries to keep the peace and often tries to keep Romeo's thoughts away from Rosaline, even after Romeo is in love with Juliet. He is kind and gentle.

**Friar Lawrence:** He is a secret advisor to both Romeo and Juliet. He is a kind man who preaches self-control. He tries to help the couple, but his plans fail and end in tragedy. He is not only a victim of fate; the lies he tells are partly the cause of the tragic fate of the lovers.

**The apothecary:** This is a person who prepared and sold medicines and drugs. The apothecary in the play lives in Mantua, where Romeo was exiled. He is a poor man, and eager to sell poison to Romeo for money, despite the consequences.

**Commoners on Montague side:** These include Balthasar (Romeo's servant) and Abram.



## The Capulets

**Lord Capulet, Juliet's father:** He is a nobleman whose family hates the Montague family. Juliet is his only child. He is a controlling father. He gets angry easily, especially when he cannot have his own way or when his wishes are opposed. He is moody, **hypocritical** and selfish.

**Lady Capulet, Juliet's mother:** She is only about 28 years' old! She has not been very involved with her daughter and shows little understanding of Juliet.

**Juliet Capulet:** She is a privileged, sheltered young woman. Although she is only 13, she shows bravery, determination and more maturity than Romeo. She is practical and reasonable and often recognises the challenges of their situation. Sometimes, though, she shows her immaturity by making decisions too quickly.

**Tybalt, Juliet's cousin:** He is arrogant and a troublemaker. He picks a fight with Mercutio and Romeo. Tybalt kills Mercutio, Romeo's friend. Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge, and because of that Romeo is exiled from Verona.

**Juliet's nurse:** She is over-talkative and often uses coarse language. She has looked after Juliet since she was born and is closer to her than Juliet's mother. She is a faithful friend and confidante to Juliet but doesn't understand Juliet's love of Romeo.

**Count Paris, relative of Prince Escalus:** He is a very polite nobleman and does seem to love Juliet. Paris's role in the play helps to create conflict in

## vocab

**Cynical:** Distrustful of human kindness.

## vocab

**Hypocritical:** Behaving in a way that suggests one has higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case.





**Feud:** A long and violent argument between two groups, such as two families.

the plot, because Juliet's parents want him to marry her, but Juliet marries Romeo.

## 2.3 The plot

### ACT 1

*Romeo and Juliet meet and fall in love. Two things stand in the way of their love: the feud between their families; and Juliet's parents' wish for her to marry Paris.*

<b>PROLOGUE</b> The Chorus tells us that there is a feud between the families of the Montagues and the Capulets. The Chorus tells us that two young lovers will die and the feud will end.	<b>SCENE 1</b> Sunday morning <i>A street in Verona</i> There is a fight between young Montagues and Capulets in the streets of Verona. The Prince stops the fight and threatens to execute anyone who fights again. Romeo thinks he loves Rosaline.	<b>SCENE 2</b> Sunday morning <i>The Capulet mansion</i> Paris asks Lord Capulet if he can marry Juliet. Lord Capulet is planning a party that night. He invites Paris.	<b>SCENE 3</b> Sunday morning <i>The Capulet mansion</i> Lady Capulet and the nurse encourage Juliet to marry Paris because "he is a fine and worthy young man".	<b>SCENE 4</b> Sunday evening <i>A street outside the Capulet mansion</i> Romeo and his friends are on their way to the Capulet party. Romeo feels uneasy.	<b>SCENE 5</b> Sunday evening <i>A hall in the Capulet mansion</i> The Capulet party: Tybalt wants to fight the Montagues but is stopped by Lord Capulet. Romeo sees Juliet and is attracted to her. Romeo and Juliet meet and speak of their love.	
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### ACT 2

*The lovers marry secretly with the help of Juliet's nurse and Friar Lawrence*

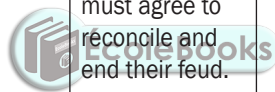
<b>PROLOGUE</b> The Chorus tells us that Romeo and Juliet are now in love – despite the feud between their families.	<b>SCENE 1</b> Sunday night <i>Outside the Capulet orchard</i> Romeo hides in the Capulet garden while his friends look for him. They make fun of his love for Rosaline.	<b>SCENE 2</b> Sunday night <i>The Capulet orchard</i> Juliet appears on her balcony. Unaware of Romeo's presence, she declares her love for him. Later she and Romeo declare their love and their intention to marry.	<b>SCENE 3</b> Monday morning <i>Friar Lawrence's cell</i> Romeo visits Friar Lawrence. Friar Lawrence is also a herbalist, gathering herbs and flowers to make medicines. Friar Lawrence agrees to help Romeo to marry Juliet in the hope of ending the feud.	<b>SCENE 4</b> Monday morning <i>A street in Verona</i> Romeo's friends make fun of him and Juliet's nurse. Romeo and the Nurse discuss the secret marriage.	<b>SCENE 5</b> Monday morning <i>The Capulet garden</i> Juliet waits impatiently for news of Romeo. The nurse eventually tells Juliet she will marry Romeo that afternoon.	<b>SCENE 6</b> Monday morning <i>Friar Lawrence's cell</i> Friar Lawrence is worried about Romeo and Juliet's rush to marry. He warns against unchecked passion (their wild, fiery emotions), but still marries them.
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<b>ACT 3</b> <b>Romeo kills Tybalt and is banished from Verona. A date is set for Juliet to marry Paris; Juliet refuses to marry him.</b>						
	<b>SCENE 1</b> Monday afternoon <i>A street in Verona</i> Tybalt (Juliet's cousin) fights Mercutio. Romeo tries to stop them, but Mercutio is killed. Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge. The Prince orders Romeo to leave Verona.	<b>SCENE 2</b> Monday afternoon <i>The Capulet mansion</i> Juliet waits impatiently. The Nurse tells her the bad news about Tybalt and Romeo. The nurse agrees to arrange for Romeo and Juliet to spend one night together before he leaves Verona.	<b>SCENE 3</b> Monday afternoon <i>Friar Lawrence's cell</i> Romeo is desperate and attempts suicide. Romeo asks Friar Lawrence for help. The nurse tells them that Juliet is very sad. Friar Lawrence says that Romeo can go to Juliet, but he must leave for Mantua before dawn. After being pardoned, he could perhaps return to Verona in the future.	<b>SCENE 4</b> Monday afternoon <i>The Capulet mansion</i> Paris asks Lord Capulet about his marriage to Juliet. Capulet decides the wedding should take place on Thursday.	<b>SCENE 5</b> Tuesday morning <i>The Capulet orchard</i> After spending the night together, Romeo and Juliet must part. He must go to Mantua. Lady Capulet says she will avenge Tybalt's death. She then tells Juliet of the plans for her marriage to Paris. Juliet tells her parents she will not marry Paris. Her father threatens to reject her as his daughter.	
<b>ACT 4</b> <b>Friar Lawrence suggests a plan for Juliet but it is destined to fail. Juliet's marriage to Paris is brought forward by a day.</b>						
	<b>SCENE 1</b> Tuesday morning <i>Friar Lawrence's cell</i> Juliet is in despair. She goes to Friar Lawrence, who suggests a plan: he gives Juliet a potion to drink to make her seem dead. Friar Lawrence will write a letter to Romeo to tell him to fetch Juliet from the tomb.	<b>SCENE 2</b> Tuesday morning <i>The Capulet mansion</i> Juliet goes home and pretends to apologise to her father. Lord Capulet says that the marriage to Paris will now happen on Wednesday – a day earlier than planned!	<b>SCENE 3</b> Tuesday evening <i>Juliet's bedroom</i> Juliet drinks the potion and falls into a deep sleep.	<b>SCENE 4</b> Wednesday morning <i>The Capulet mansion</i> The Capulets prepare for Paris and Juliet's wedding.	<b>SCENE 5</b> Wednesday morning <i>Juliet's bedroom</i> The nurse cannot wake Juliet up. She thinks Juliet is dead and calls the Capulets.	

**ACT 5**

***The plan fails: Romeo thinks Juliet is dead so he kills himself with poison. She wakes and kills herself when she sees Romeo is dead. The Prince blames their deaths on the family feud.***

	<p><b>SCENE 1</b> Thursday morning <i>A street in Mantua</i> Romeo waits in Mantua for news. He does not receive the letter from Friar Lawrence to say that Juliet has taken a sleeping potion. His servant, Balthasar, tells him that Juliet is dead. Romeo believes him so he gets poison from the apothecary. He will use it to kill himself when he goes to Juliet's tomb.</p>	<p><b>SCENE 2</b> Thursday night <i>Friar Lawrence's cell</i> Friar John was supposed to deliver Friar Lawrence's letter to Romeo explaining that Juliet is not dead, but he did not deliver it. Friar Lawrence writes another letter to Romeo, and goes to Juliet's tomb.</p>	<p><b>SCENE 3</b> Thursday night / Friday morning <i>The churchyard and Capulet tomb in Verona</i> Romeo goes to Juliet's tomb. Paris confronts him. They fight and Paris is killed. Romeo drinks the poison and dies. Juliet wakes, sees Romeo is dead and stabs herself. The Prince tells the Montagues and Capulets they have each lost a child and must agree to reconcile and end their feud. Two golden statues are to be erected in memory of their children.</p>			
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## The play in one page

### Act 1, Prologue

**Act 1, Scene 1:** A street in Verona

**Act 1, Scene 2:** Capulet mansion

**Act 1, Scene 3:** Capulet mansion

**Act 1, Scene 4:** Street outside the Capulet mansion

**Act 1, Scene 5:** Hall in the Capulet mansion

### Act 2, Prologue

**Act 2, Scene 1:** Outside the Capulet orchard

**Act 2, Scene 2:** Capulet orchard

**Act 2, Scene 3:** Friar Lawrence's cell

**Act 2, Scene 4:** A street in Verona

**Act 2, Scene 5:** Capulet garden

**Act 2, Scene 6:** Friar Lawrence's cell

**Act 3, Scene 1:** A public place in Verona

**Act 3, Scene 2:** Capulet mansion

**Act 3, Scene 3:** Friar Lawrence's cell

**Act 3, Scene 4:** Capulet mansion

**Act 3, Scene 6:** Capulet orchard

**Act 4, Scene 1:** Friar Lawrence's cell

**Act 4, Scene 2:** Capulet mansion

**Act 4, Scene 3:** Juliet's bedroom

**Act 4, Scene 4:** Capulet mansion

**Act 4, Scene 5:** Juliet's bedroom

**Act 5, Scene 1:** A street in Mantua

**Act 5, Scene 2:** Friar Lawrence's cell

**Act 5, Scene 3:** The churchyard and Capulet tomb in Verona





## Time in the play

**Sunday morning:** Fighting in streets (Act 1:1); the Prince says that the next to cause a fight will die.

**Mid-afternoon Sunday:** Paris asks Lord Capulet for Juliet's hand in marriage (Act 1:3).

**Before supper Sunday:** Lady Capulet informs Juliet of Paris's marriage proposal (Act 1:3).

**Early Sunday Evening:** Romeo goes to Capulet's party (Act 1:4).

**Sunday evening, after supper:** Romeo and Juliet fall in love; Tybalt swears revenge (Act 1:5).

**Sunday night, after feast:** Romeo is confused about his new love (Act 2:1).

**Late Sunday night:** The balcony scene; Romeo and Juliet arrange their marriage (Act 2:2).

**Monday, at daybreak:** Romeo goes to Friar Lawrence to ask him to marry Juliet and himself (Act 2:3).

**Later, Monday morning:** Tybalt challenges Romeo (Act 2:4).

**After 12 o'clock Monday:** Nurse gives Juliet Romeo's message (Act 2:5).

**Monday afternoon:** Romeo and Juliet get married (Act 2:6).

**Monday afternoon, after the wedding:** Mercutio and Tybalt are killed in a fight; Romeo is banished (Act 3:1).

**Mid-afternoon, Monday:** Juliet hears about the fighting (Act 3:2).

**Later afternoon, Monday:** Friar criticises Romeo; Romeo will visit Juliet that night (Act 3:3).

**Late Monday evening:** Arrangements are made for Juliet's marriage to Paris (Act 3:4).

**Tuesday, daybreak:** Romeo leaves for Mantua (Act 3:5).

**Early Tuesday morning:** Juliet goes to Friar Lawrence for help (Act 4:1).

**Late Tuesday afternoon:** The wedding date of Juliet and Paris is advanced (Act 4:2).

**Bedtime, Tuesday:** Juliet drinks Friar's potion (Act 4:3).

**03:00, Wednesday:** Preparations are made for Paris's and Juliet's wedding (Act 4:4).

**Daybreak, Wednesday:** Juliet is discovered 'dead' (Act 4:6).

**Thursday morning:** Romeo hears of Juliet's 'death' and plans his suicide (Act 5:1).

**Thursday evening:** Romeo doesn't receive Friar Lawrence's message (Act 5:2).

**Friday morning, very early:** Romeo and Juliet die; Paris dies; the feuding houses reconcile (Act 5:3).

## 2.4 Themes

A theme is a message that runs through a play or story. In *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare uses a number of themes to tell his story of the tragic lovers.

### Fate (destiny) and free will

The Elizabethans believed that everything that happens to a person is controlled by God. Everyone's fate, or destiny, has already been decided. Throughout the play, many of the characters refer to this belief.

Against this is the idea of free will, or being able to make one's own decisions and choices in life.

Many Elizabethans believed in the Chain of Being where everything had its place. God was at the head of the Chain of Being, then the angels, and then the stars. Under these came everything on the earth, beginning with the king and going down to ordinary men, women, animals and plants. To change the Chain of Being in any way, they believed, would result in disaster.

### Love and hate

There are many references to love and hate in the play. Two young people, from two families that hate each other, fall in love. Look out for other ways in which Shakespeare contrasts love and hate. For example, read Romeo's words to Tybalt and Paris before they fight. Romeo is secretly related to them through his marriage to Juliet, so he says he loves them, but they hate him.

### True love and romantic love

Shakespeare explores the difference between the true love that Romeo and Juliet feel for each other and romantic love – the obsessive passion that Romeo felt for Rosaline:

“... A madness, most discreet,  
A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.”

In contrast, when Romeo meets Juliet for the first time, he says:

“If I profane with my unworthiest hand  
This holy shrine ...”

### Passion and reason

Passion means having very strong emotions or feelings about something, without having much control over those feelings. Reason is the ability to think, consider and to make informed decisions. In our lives, passion and reason sometimes conflict with each other.

For example, Romeo has no control over his emotions when thinking about Rosaline: “O brawling love, O loving hate ...” (Act 1, Scene 1)



However, when Romeo wants Juliet to swear her love for him although they have only just met, she says:

“I have no joy of this contract tonight:

It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden ...” (Act 2, Scene 2)

She loves Romeo, but she still allows her reason to control her responses.

## Appearance and reality

Sometimes things are not what they first seem: we can be fooled by appearances. Some of the characters in the play are confused by appearances. For example, Juliet appears to be dead in Act 5, Scene 3, and Romeo is fooled. As readers, we know, of course, that she has taken a potion and is actually alive.

In *Romeo and Juliet*, the themes of appearance and reality can also be linked to the theme of secrecy and lies. Both Romeo and Juliet tell lies about their relationship. They keep their relationship and marriage a secret, which adds to the conflict in the plot and ultimately works against their happiness.

## Order and disorder

People who govern cities like things to be orderly. They like people to obey the rules and not cause trouble.

In *Romeo and Juliet*, feuding families represent disorder and can be harmful to the smooth running of the society. For example, at the beginning of the play, when the Montague and Capulet servants are fighting (disorder), Prince Escalus enters and says:

“Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,” (Act 1, Scene 1)

He attempts to restore order on the streets of Verona.

## Youth and old age: the ‘generation gap’

A breakdown in understanding between the young and their elders is known as a ‘generation gap’. The elders think that they know everything and want to control the young; the young rebel against this. Romeo and Juliet rebel against the custom of their society which says that parents decide who their children should marry. This conflict results, in part, in the death of the young lovers.

## Honour and reputation

A person who is honourable has firm values and always does what he or she believes is right. A person's reputation depends on what other people think of them.

For example, Tybalt insults Romeo by saying:

"Thou art a villain." (Act 3, Scene 1)

Tybalt then fights with and kills Romeo's friend, Mercutio. Romeo says:

"My reputation stained

With Tybalt's slander ..."

He then fights with and kills Tybalt to avenge Mercutio's death and to defend his honour. His family would have considered that to be the honourable thing to do, even though it results in Romeo's banishment.

## 3. Style

In a play, the conversation between characters tells the story. Their speech is called the **dialogue**.

Sometimes characters talk alone on stage to the audience about what they think or feel. This type of speech is called a **soliloquy**. For example, Act 5 Scene 1 begins with a soliloquy from Romeo. Only the audience knows what Romeo says in his soliloquy; the other characters in the play do not.



### 3.1 Poetry and prose

In *Romeo and Juliet* some lines are written like a poem. The place where the lines end depends on the rhythm of the words. Shakespeare used **poetry** for the dialogue of the nobles and elite, like Lord and Lady Capulet.

Other lines, usually with words said by servants and other ordinary people, are written in paragraphs that don't rhyme, which is called **prose**. However, sometimes when the nobles are joking they speak in prose, too. For example, the nobles Mercutio and Benvolio joke in prose with Romeo in Act 2, Scene 4.

### Blank verse

Most of *Romeo and Juliet* is written in a type of poetry called blank verse. The lines do not rhyme but the words have a regular rhythm, called iambic pentameter. The pattern for each line is one soft-sounding syllable followed by one strong-sounding syllable, repeated five times.



## Rhyming couplet

If the last words in two lines sound similar (rhyme), it is a rhyming couplet. Here is an example of a rhyming couplet, from the Prince's speech at the end of the play:

For never was a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo. (Act 5, Scene 3)

## Sonnet

A sonnet is a type of poem. It has 14 lines, made up of:

- Three quatrains. Each quatrain has four lines; and
- One rhyming couplet at the end.

There are three sonnets in *Romeo and Juliet*. Look at:

- Act 1, Prologue
- Act 1, Scene 5 when Romeo and Juliet first meet. They speak to each other in a sonnet. The sonnet begins with, "If I profane with my unworthing hand ..." and ends with the last line, "Then move not while my prayer's effect I take."
- Act 2, Prologue

Shakespeare uses the sonnet form when he wants to make us aware of the importance of what is being said. Using the sonnet also makes the mood of the scene and the tone of the words more serious.



## 3.2 Diction and figurative language

Shakespeare was very skilled at using language to describe things and to communicate his ideas in interesting ways:

- He used figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, personification.
- He played with the sound of the words, using alliteration, assonance and onomatopoeia.
- He used imagery and symbols to help us imagine what he describes. A symbol is something which represents something else. For example, a dove is a symbol of peace.
- He makes jokes, using words that sound the same, or similar, but which have different meanings. This type of joke is called a pun. For example, 'she walked on the souls of her feet'.
- He uses dramatic irony to increase the tension and involve the audience in the story.

### 3.3 Stage directions

*Romeo and Juliet* is a play to be performed on stage, as well as read. Stage directions are instructions in the play, usually written in italics and in square brackets. They tell us:

- Where each scene takes place, such as a street or a room in a house.
- When each character comes on to the stage (enters) and when they leave (exits).
- Objects that the actors need to hold or use on stage. These objects are called props.
- What a character has to do in certain parts of the play, for example, kiss another actor, or fight.
- When a character speaks so that the audience hears what is said but the other characters on stage do not. This is called an aside.

Shakespeare only wrote down a few stage directions to guide the actors. It is the job of the play's director to give more guidance. For example, the director decides where the actors stand on stage, how they move, and what the scenery and lighting should be like.

All these are important for creating the mood on stage and bringing the play to life. Each production of a Shakespeare play will be different because each director brings his or her own ideas about how the play should be performed on stage.

### 3.4 Tone and mood

In a play, **tone** is not only the feelings created by the language of the writer. Tone is also created by the sound of the actor's voice which expresses the emotion in the words. Does the actor's voice sound anxious, excited, happy or angry? Tone is important for expressing what the character feels.

In a play, the **mood** is the feeling, or atmosphere, that is created on stage. A combination of things can help to create the mood: the actors' expression of the characters feelings, or emotions, their costumes, the scenery and lighting.

For example, at the Capulet's party in Act 1 Scene 5, the mood is festive, with music, dancing and light. In contrast, what do you think the mood is like in Act 5 Scene 3, in the Capulet's tomb after Juliet has died?





# Act by Act

Romeo  
and  
Juliet

## This section of the study guide contains:

- A summary of what happens and who is involved – the main events and characters in the act.
- Information about characters, themes and language.
- Activities with exam-type questions for you to test yourself, and answers to these activities.



# Prologue

## ► Setting: The chorus speaks the Prologue on stage

### What happens?

The Prologue is the introduction to the play. It gives an outline of the plot. It prepares the audience for a sad story.

The structure of this poem in the Prologue is a Shakespearean Sonnet. It is 14 lines long, divided into three quatrains, and ends in a rhyming couplet. The rhyming pattern is abab cdcd efef gg.

#### Chorus

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes 5  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whole misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love, 10  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

*Read this Prologue aloud and with feeling. At first the sentence structures may feel and sound a bit strange, but you will soon enjoy the peculiar rhythm and formality.*

*Don't you feel noble and rather special when you read this?*



**In simple modern English, here are the main points made in this sonnet:**

- Two families, both noble and of the same high status, live in beautiful Verona.
- They have been arguing for years. This feud is again turning violent. Even ordinary citizens are involved.
- Fate steps in when these feuding families give birth to two unfortunate lovers. The stars predict a tragic fate for them.
- They become the victims of unkind fate and face unfortunate, tragic accidents. Only with their deaths is their parents' feud ended.
- The course of their doomed love and their deaths eventually bring an end to the hatred.
- The topic that we will act out on stage for the next two hours will be filled in by our devoted acting – in case we have left out something in this Prologue.

**Activity 1**

1. Closely study the lines from this Prologue (above). Quote one of the following literary terms:
    - 1.1 Repetition (1)
    - 1.2 Alliteration (1)
    - 1.3 Metaphor (1)
  2. Identify four main themes introduced in the Prologue? (4)
- [7]**

**Answers to Activity 1**

- 1.1 Line 4: "civil blood... civil hands" ✓ (1)
- 1.2 Lines 5 and 6 "From forth the fatal ... two foes" ✓ (1)
- 1.3 Line 9: "death-marked love" ✓ (1)
2. Four main themes introduced are:
  - Fate/Fortune versus free will (line 5); ✓
  - Order versus disorder (line 7); ✓
  - Love versus hate (line 8); ✓ and
  - Youth versus old age (lines 8 and 10 - 11). ✓ (4)

**[7]**

## Act 1, Scene 1

- ▶ **A fight between the Montagues and Capulets**
  - ▶ **Setting: A public street in Verona**
- 

### What happens?

- **Sampson** and **Gregory** are Capulet servants. They are boasting and joking in the street.
- **Abraham** and **Balthasar**, two Montague servants, arrive. The Capulet servants deliberately insult the others to start a fight.
- **Benvolio**, Romeo's friend, arrives and stops their fight.
- **Tybalt** arrives and fights Benvolio.
- Officers of the law come with some other citizens and try to stop the fighting.
- Lords **Capulet** and **Montague** arrive and want to fight each other, but their wives try to stop them.
- **Prince Escalus** arrives and orders them all to throw down their weapons. There have been three street fights now between the Capulets and Montagues. He warns them that if they fight again they will be put to death (executed). He wants to see Lord Montague and Lord Capulet at his palace.
- Benvolio explains to Lord Montague how the fight started.
- Lady Montague asks Benvolio if he knows where Romeo is. Lord Montague has noticed that Romeo seems sad these days. Benvolio says that he will find out why Romeo is upset.
- When **Romeo** arrives, he tells Benvolio that he is in love with **Rosaline**. He is sad because Rosaline is not interested in him.



## Activity 2

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Prince Escalus demands peace on the streets.]

### PRINCE ESCALUS

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,  
 Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel, —  
 Will they not hear? What, ho! you men, you beasts,  
 That quench the fire of your pernicious rage  
 With purple fountains issuing from your veins, 5  
 On pain of torture, from those bloody hands  
 Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground,  
 And hear the sentence of your moved prince.  
 Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,  
 By thee, old Capulet, and Montague, 10  
 Have thrice disturb'd the quiet of our streets,  
 And made Verona's ancient citizens  
 Cast by their grave beseeeming ornaments,  
 To wield old partisans, in hands as old,  
 Canker'd with peace, to part your canker'd hate: 15



## Questions

1. What does the extract tell us about how Verona is governed at the time the action of the play is set? (3)
2. Where is Verona? (1)
3. What indication is there in the passage that
  - 3.1. violent feelings have been bubbling just beneath the surface and need very little to boil over. (2)
  - 3.2. hardly anyone is neutral? (2)
4. What does the Prince mean by the words
  - a) cankered with peace? (1)
  - b) cankered with hate? (1)
5. What modern word is derived from “cankered” and how are the two words similar in meaning? (2)

[12]

## Answers to Activity 2

1. The Prince is the ruler in Verona✓ – his word is the law. He speaks with authority and has to be obeyed.✓✓ (3)
2. Italy✓ (1)
- 3.1. Three street fights had already occurred as a result of a carelessly spoken word.✓ They also carry weapons.✓ (2)
- 3.2. The Prince addresses both Capulet and Montague as heads of their households.✓ Even old citizens are dragged into the fighting.✓ (2)
- 4a) The swords of the older citizens were at first lying idly and becoming corrupted by rust.✓ (1)
- 4b) These swords were picked up in fighting and are now corrupted by hatred.✓ (1)
5. Cancer.✓ Both “cankered” and ‘cancer’ indicate that something is being destroyed.✓ (2)

[12]

# Act 1, Scene 2

- Lord Capulet plans his party
- Setting: Capulet's Mansion

## What happens?

- The scene opens with Lord Capulet telling Paris that he and Lord Montague have been ordered not to fight, and he thinks they will be able to “keep the peace”.
- Paris asks Lord Capulet for permission to marry Juliet.
- Lord Capulet explains to Paris that Juliet is only 13, too young to marry. He suggests waiting another two years. He also says that Juliet needs to agree to the marriage.
- Lord Capulet invites Paris to a party (**feast**) that night. There he will see Juliet, as well as other ladies with whom to compare her.
- Lord Capulet gives his servant a list of people and tells him to invite them to the party. But the servant cannot read, so when he meets Romeo and Benvolio in the street, he asks them to read the names for him.
- Romeo sees that Rosaline, the woman he loves, is invited.
- The servant says that if Romeo and Benvolio are not Montagues, they can come to the party.
- Benvolio tells Romeo that many ladies will be at the party, and maybe Romeo might meet someone new.

In some exam questions, the “feast” is called a “ball”, which is a formal dancing party.







### Activity 3

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Capulet and Paris discuss Juliet]

**CAPULET**

But Montague is bound as well as I,  
In penalty alike; and 'tis not hard, I think,  
For men so old as we to keep the peace.

**PARIS**

Of honourable reckoning are you both;  
And pity 'tis you lived at odds so long.  
But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?

5

**CAPULET**

But saying o'er what I have said before:  
My child is yet a stranger in the world;  
She hath not seen the change of fourteen years,  
Let two more summers wither in their pride,  
Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.

10

**PARIS**

Younger than she are happy mothers made.

**CAPULET**

And too soon marr'd are those so early made.  
The earth hath swallow'd all my hopes but she,  
She is the hopeful lady of my earth:  
But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,  
My will to her consent is but a part;  
An she agree, within her scope of choice  
Lies my consent and fair according voice.

15

### Questions

- Read the following statement from the play and complete it by filling in the missing words. Write only the question number and the word.  
Lord Capulet is talking about his a) \_\_\_\_\_, Lord Montague.  
The two families do not get along because of a long-standing b) \_\_\_\_\_ between them. (2)
- Explain why Montague and Capulet are being punished. (2)
- In lines 4 - 5 Paris says that both Montague and Capulet are "of honourable reckoning".  
a) Explain what Paris's words reveal about the characters of the two lords. (1)  
b) Use your own words to explain how Paris feels about this state of affairs. (2)
- What "suit" is Paris referring to in line 6? (1)

5. Refer to lines 14 and 15, "Earth hath swallowed ... my earth".
- Name the figures of speech used by Capulet in these lines. (1)
  - Use your own words to explain what Capulet means in these lines. (2)
6. State whether the following statement is true or false and support your answer from the extract.  
Capulet refuses to allow Paris to marry Juliet. (2)
7. Capulet invites Paris to his feast that night. What does he intend Paris to do there? (1)

**Write down a, b, c or d as your choice of answer to the following questions.**

8. Paris is
- Capulet's best friend.
  - related to the Prince.
  - Romeo's cousin.
  - Juliet's beloved fiancé. (2)
9. In line 5, Paris says "And pity 'tis". He means that
- he feels sorry for Capulet.
  - he thinks the feud is so senseless.
  - it is a pity Capulet has become so old.
  - Capulet has had to live in fear all these years. (2)
10. Paris visits Capulet because he
- wants Capulet's advice on his new suit.
  - is concerned about the ongoing feud.
  - wants Capulet's final answer to his proposal.
  - has come to ask Capulet's permission to marry Juliet. (2)

**Answer the following questions in your own words:**

11. Why does Capulet call Juliet "a stranger in the world" (line 8)? (2)
12. What is Juliet's age? Quote the phrase from the extract that tells you this. (3)
13. Capulet asks a favour of Paris concerning the wedding. What is his request? (lines 10 and 11). (2)
14. Do you think Paris is pleased with Capulet's request? What answer does he give? (2)
15. Explain line 14 in your own words. (2)
16. Capulet encourages Paris to "woo" Juliet. What is a modern English word for "woo"? (2)
17. Read lines 17 to 19. Would you agree that Capulet means it when he tells Paris that Juliet has the final say in the choice of a husband? (4)

[37]

### Answers to Activity 3

- 1 a) enemy/foe✓ (1)  
b) feud/argument✓ (1)
2. Prince Escalus is punishing them for the public quarrel between their servants.✓✓ (2)
- 3 a) They are both honourable and respected.✓ (1)  
b) He respects both✓ therefore he finds it a pity that they are quarrelling.✓ (2)
4. His request to marry Juliet.✓ (1)
- 5 a) metaphor OR personification✓ (1)  
b) All his other children are dead and buried.✓ Juliet is the only remaining child he has to bring him happiness.✓ (2)
6. False. He only wants Paris to wait two more years. ✓✓ (2)
7. He wants Paris to impress Juliet so he can win her heart.✓ (1)
8. b ✓✓ (2)
9. b ✓✓ (2)
10. c ✓✓ (2)
11. Juliet is still young✓ and unused to society and the world. ✓ (2)
12. Thirteen years old.✓ “She has not seen the change of fourteen ways”.✓✓ (3)
13. Capulet asks Paris to wait another two years before they get married.✓✓ (2)
14. No, Paris is not pleased at all.✓ He remarks that girls younger than Juliet are happy mothers already.✓ (2)
15. Capulet says that all his children apart from Juliet have died.✓✓ (2)
16. To “woo” means to date someone so that they learn to love you.✓✓ (2)
17. No, I don’t agree that he means it. In those days girls didn’t have the final say in their choice of husband.✓✓ Their parents did. Most marriages were pre-arranged.✓✓  
OR  
Yes, I think he did mean it.✓ Although most parents in those days decided who their children married, Capulet is a very soft-hearted father towards Juliet.✓ He would care about how she felt about marrying Paris.✓✓ (4)

[37]

# Act 1, Scene 3

- Lady Capulet wants Juliet to marry Paris
- Setting: Capulet's Mansion

## What happens?

- **Lady Capulet** tells the **Nurse** that Juliet is ready for marriage, as it is only two weeks until her fourteenth birthday. The nurse remembers Juliet's childhood well - she raised Juliet.
- Lady Capulet tells **Juliet** that Paris has asked to marry Juliet, and he would be an excellent choice of husband.
- Juliet says she will look at Paris to see if she finds him attractive.

*In those days, many noble women did not breastfeed their own babies and had a nursemaid do it for them. Juliet's nurse would have cared for her since she was a baby, and probably knew her better than Juliet's mother.*

Books





## Activity 4

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Lady Capulet and nurse talk to Juliet in her bedroom.]

### LADY CAPULET

Well, think of marriage now; younger than you,  
Here in Verona, ladies of esteem,  
Are made already mothers: by my count,  
I was your mother much upon these years  
That you are now a maid. Thus then in brief:  
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.

5

### NURSE

A man, young lady! lady, such a man  
As all the world—why, he's a man of wax.

### LADY CAPULET

Verona's summer hath not such a flower.

### NURSE

Nay, he's a flower; in faith, a very flower.

10

### LADY CAPULET

What say you? can you love the gentleman?  
This night you shall behold him at our feast;  
Read o'er the volume of young Paris' face,  
And find delight writ there with beauty's pen;  
Examine every married lineament,  
And see how one another lends content  
And what obscured in this fair volume lies  
Find written in the margent of his eyes.  
This precious book of love, this unbound lover,  
To beautify him, only lacks a cover:

15

20

## Questions

1. In which city is Romeo and Juliet set? (1)
2. Which other character in the play is a relative of Paris? (1)
3. Refer to line 6 – “The valiant Paris ... for his love”. Earlier Paris asks Capulet if he may marry Juliet. What is Capulet’s answer to Paris’s request? (2)
4. What does the nurse mean when she says Paris is “a man of wax”? (1)
5. Explain why the nurse, who is not a family member, is present during this very personal conversation that Lady Capulet is having with her daughter. (2)
6. In lines 9 – 10 “Verona’s summer hath ... a very flower”, both Lady Capulet and the Nurse are praising Paris.
  - a) Identify the figure of speech in these lines. (1)
  - b) Explain why the use of this figure of speech is effective here. (2)
7. Refer to Lady Capulet’s second question in line 11, “... can you love the gentleman?”

- a) What is Juliet's reply to this question? (1)
- b) Explain how the Capulets' attitude here differs from their later treatment of Juliet. State two points. (2)
8. In lines 13 – 14 ("Read o'er the volume ... with beauty's pen"), Lady Capulet describes Paris. (1)
- a) To what does she compare Paris's face? (1)
- b) What does Lady Capulet expect Juliet to discover later about Paris's feelings? (1)
9. Do you think Paris would have made a good husband for Juliet if Romeo had not appeared in her life? Give a reason for your answer. (1)
10. The Capulets are eager to arrange a marriage for their daughter. Do you think their actions are in Juliet's best interests? Discuss your view. (2)
- [18]

### Answers to Activity 4

1. Verona✓ (1)
2. Mercutio/Prince Escalus/The Prince✓ (1)
3. Paris is asked to wait another two years before he marries Juliet. She is too young.✓✓ (2)
4. Paris is handsome and from a noble family.✓ (1)
5. The Nurse is closer to Juliet than her mother.✓ Juliet shares her secrets with the Nurse and Lady Capulet is not comfortable talking alone to her own daughter.✓ (2)
- 6 a) Metaphor✓ (1)
- b) Paris is said to be a flower – that is, very beautiful.✓✓ (2)
- 7 a) She will attend the ball and see whether she likes him.✓ (1)
- OR
- She won't do anything without their permission.✓ (1)
- b) The Capulets at first leave the choice of marrying Paris up to her, but later force her to marry him.✓✓ (1)
- OR
- They said she is still too young, but soon after say she is old enough.✓✓ (2)
- 8 a) A beautifully written book✓ (1)
- b) She expects Juliet to discover that Paris's feelings for her are honest and in her best interest.✓✓ (2)
9. Yes, he would have taken good care of her financially and loved her.✓✓ (1)
- Or
- No, he would never feel like her true love. A happy marriage is not built on money and looks alone.✓✓ (1)
10. Yes, in their eyes their actions are in her best interest, because Paris is noble and attractive.✓✓ (2)
- Or
- No, we know that their actions aren't in her best interest because she doesn't have a say in the matter and doesn't love him with passion.✓✓ (2)
- [18]



## Act 1, Scene 4

- ▶ **Romeo and friends on their way to the party**
  - ▶ **Setting: Street outside the Capulet's mansion**
- 

### What happens?

- **Romeo** and his **friends** chat on their way to the party. They put on masks. At such parties, or balls, young people wore masks so they could flirt without being recognised.
- **Mercutio** tells them the story of Mab, the queen of the fairies, who delivers dreams. She can also bring nightmares. He does this to stop Romeo from feeling so sad.
- Romeo still suffers from the pain of his love for Rosaline. At the end of the scene, he feels that something bad will begin that night. Dramatic irony is also used because the audience knows from the prologue what Romeo doesn't know.
- The theme of Fate/Destiny versus free will is stressed.





## Activity 5

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[On their way to the Capulet's feast]

### ROMEO

Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace!  
Thou talk'st of nothing.

### MERCUTIO

True, I talk of dreams,  
Which are the children of an idle brain,  
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy,  
Which is as thin of substance as the air  
And more inconstant than the wind, who woos  
Even now the frozen bosom of the north,  
And, being anger'd, puffs away from thence,  
Turning his face to the dew-dropping south.

### BENVOLIO

This wind, you talk of, blows us from ourselves;  
Supper is done, and we shall come too late.

### ROMEO

I fear, too early: for my mind misgives  
Some consequence yet hanging in the stars  
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date  
With this night's revels and expire the term  
Of a despised life closed in my breast  
By some vile forfeit of untimely death.  
But He, that hath the steerage of my course,  
Direct my sail! On, lusty gentlemen.



Mercutio uses a *simile* to compare dreams to air. The wind is also *personified* because it is described as a person blowing.



## Questions

For questions 1 – 3 answer A, B, C or D.

- In line 13, Romeo says "I fear too early". This means
  - it was not polite to arrive at a party too early.
  - he fears that this night might eventually cause his death.
  - he is frightened he might be recognised.
  - he isn't willing to forget about Rosaline yet.

(2)
- In line 14, Romeo refers to something "yet hanging in the stars". He sees this as something
  - evil, which he has read in his horoscope.
  - evil, which somebody else wishes on him.
  - bad, brought on by fate, which will cause suffering.
  - exciting, that he never expected to happen.

(2)
- In lines 16 – 18 Romeo says
  - fate will prevent him from seeing Rosaline.
  - his life will end because of this night's events.
  - he hates his life and has decided to commit suicide.

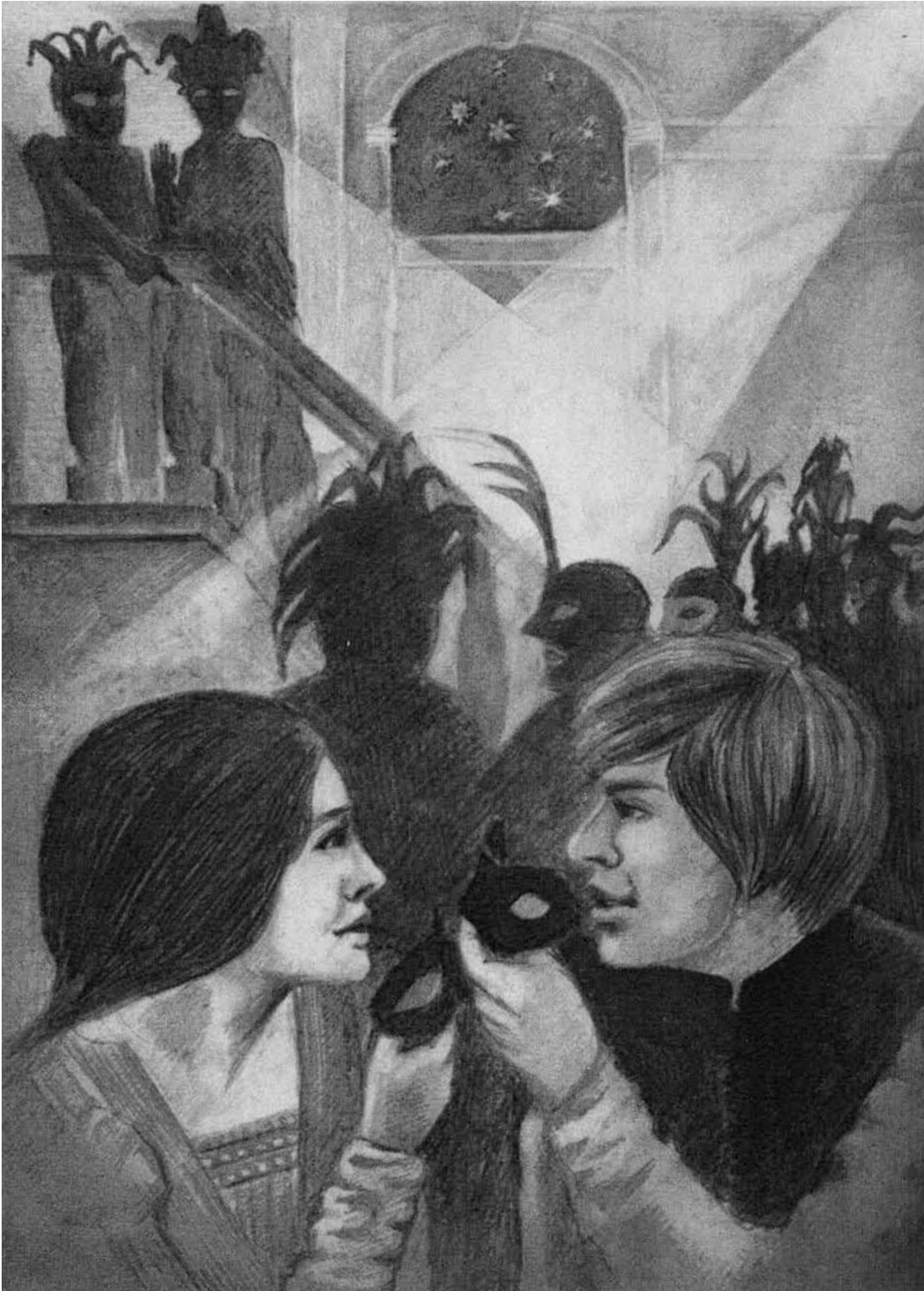
- D he does not fear, since God will guide him in all danger. (2)
4. The men mentioned in the extract are on their way to an important destination. Where are they going to? (2)
5. Why is it necessary for Romeo to try and calm Mercutio? What happens just before this passage, which causes Mercutio to rant and rave like a madman? (3)
6. What is Mercutio's opinion of the value of dreams? (2)
7. Quote a line spoken by the practical, good Benvolio, proving that he thinks nothing of all the emotional outbursts around him. (1)
8. How was it possible for Romeo and Benvolio to accompany Mercutio? (4)
- [18]**

### Answers to Activity 5

1. B ✓✓ (2)
2. C ✓✓ (2)
3. D ✓✓ (2)
4. Romeo, Benvolio and Mercutio are going to the Capulets' feast. ✓✓ (2)
5. Romeo must quieten Mercutio because people are starting to notice them. ✓ Mercutio mocks Romeo for being depressed about Rosaline and not wanting to dance, ✓ and for having a bad dream the previous night. ✓ (3)
6. Mercutio doesn't value dreams much. ✓ He sees dreams as the result of an empty brain, made of empty fantasies and too changeable, like the wind. ✓ (2)
7. "This wind you talk of blows us from ourselves". ✓ (1)
8. Mercutio was invited as kinsman of the Prince ✓✓ and he invited Romeo and Benvolio along. ✓✓ (4)
- [18]**

## Act 1, Scene 5

- The Capulet party – Romeo meets Juliet
  - Setting: The hall in Capulet's mansion
- 



## What happens?

- Lord Capulet's **servants** prepare for the party.
- **Lord Capulet** welcomes his guests.
- **Romeo** sees **Juliet** and is immediately attracted to her. He asks a servant if he knows who she is, but the servant does not.
- **Tybalt**, Juliet's cousin, recognises Romeo by his voice. He wants to fight him. Lord Capulet stops him. He thinks Romeo will not cause trouble, and he wants no fighting at his party.
- Romeo and Juliet meet and express their love.
- The **nurse** interrupts them; Juliet's mother wants to see her.
- Later, Romeo and Juliet each learn the terrible news from the nurse that their families are enemies



### Activity 6

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[At the Capulets' feast]

#### ROMEO

What lady is that, which doth enrich the hand  
Of yonder knight?

#### Servingman

I know not, sir.

#### ROMEO

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night

5

Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear –

Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!

So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,

As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.

The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,

10

And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.

Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!

For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

#### TYBALT

This, by his voice, should be a Montague.

Fetch me my rapier, boy. What dares the slave

15

Come hither, cover'd with an antic face,

To fleer and scorn at our solemnity?

Now, by the stock and honour of my kin,

To strike him dead, I hold it not a sin.

## Questions

1. In the context of the story, who is likely to be Juliet's partner at her father's ball? Give reasons for your answer. (3)
2. Why does Romeo compare the night to "an Ethiopie" in line 6? (2)
3. How does he propose to approach Juliet? (2)
4. Romeo's instant fascination with Juliet means the betrayal of another person and of his own integrity. Comment briefly on both aspects of this betrayal. (4)
5. Why has Romeo come to the feast "covered with an antic face?" (2)
6. Would an Elizabethan audience have been familiar with this kind of disguise? Explain. (2)
7. The clash of personalities between Tybalt and Romeo is responsible for much of the heartache in this play. How are the differences in their characters illustrated by what they do and say in the extract above? (4)

[19]

## Answers to Activity 6

1. Paris.✓ In Act 1 scene 2 Lord Capulet invited him to the feast to compare Juliet with the other beauties.✓ Paris also asked Capulet to marry Juliet but Capulet said he had to wait another two years, since she is too young.✓ (3)
2. An Ethiopie is a black person,✓ whose skin is black just like the night.✓ (2)
3. Romeo will look for her, then go and touch her hand.✓✓ (2)
4. Romeo is still supposed to be in love with Rosaline, because it is only recently that she rejected his love.✓ It also shows that he is very vulnerable and easily influenced.✓✓ He does not always keep his promises – he had earlier declared Rosaline was his one true love.✓ (4)
5. It was a masked ball.✓ Also Romeo needs to hide his face because he is a Montague and is an enemy of the Capulets.✓ (2)
6. Yes. Masked balls were popular in those times.✓✓ (2)
7. Tybalt immediately wants to fight. He is aggressive.✓ Romeo is in a peaceful mood.✓ Also, Tybalt talks self-importantly,✓ whereas Romeo shows respect and humility.✓ (4)

[19]



## Act 2, Scene 1

### ► Prologue

### ► Setting: The Chorus speaks the Prologue on stage

The Chorus summarises what has happened so far and tells what is going to happen in this Act.

Like the Prologue in Act 1, the 14 lines are divided into 3 quatrains and a rhyming couplet. The rhyming pattern is abab cdcd efef gg.

#### Chorus

Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,  
And young affection gapes to be his heir;  
That fair for which love groan'd for and would die,  
With tender Juliet match'd, is now not fair.  
Now Romeo is beloved and loves again,  
Alike betwitched by the charm of looks,  
But to his foe supposed he must complain,  
And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful hooks:  
Being held a foe, he may not have access  
To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear;  
And she as much in love, her means much less  
To meet her new-beloved any where:  
But passion lends them power, time means, to meet  
Tempering extremities with extreme sweet.

5

10

14

**In simple modern English, here are the main points made in this sonnet:**

- All of a sudden Romeo's former love for Rosaline is dead. New feelings of love are eager to take its place.
- Compared to Juliet, the once beautiful lady is not beautiful anymore.
- This time Romeo loves and is loved in return. He and Juliet are equally attracted to each other.
- However, Romeo has to express his love to the enemy and Juliet also has to take risks and could be caught out.
- Since they are enemies, Romeo dares not convey his love in the usual way. Juliet has even fewer opportunities to meet him anywhere.
- But their passionate love gives them the strength and opportunities to see each other. This way the dangers of their situation are made bearable.



# Act 2, Scene 1

- **Romeo is teased by his friends**
- **Setting: Outside Capulet's orchard**

## vocab

**Orchard:** Many fruit trees.

## What happens?

- **Romeo** and his friends have left the Capulet party, but Romeo hides from them. He climbs over the wall into Capulet's **orchard**. He intends to go back to find Juliet.
- **Benvolio** and **Mercutio** look for Romeo. Mercutio realises that Romeo is hiding. He makes fun of Romeo and makes sexual jokes about Romeo's love for Rosaline. This gives the scene **comic relief**.
- The friends do not know yet that Romeo is now in love with Juliet. This is **dramatic irony**, since the audience and Romeo do know.

### BENVOLIO

He ran this way, and leap'd this orchard wall:  
Call, good Mercutio.

### MERCUTIO

Nay, I'll conjure too.

Romeo! humours! madman! passion! lover!

Appear thou in the likeness of a sigh:

5

Speak but one rhyme, and I am satisfied;

Cry but 'Ay me!' pronounce but 'love' and 'dove.'

Speak to my gossip Venus one fair word,

One nickname for her purblind son and heir,

Young Adam Cupid, he that shot so trim,

10

When King Cophetua loved the beggar-maid!

He heareth not, he stirreth not, he moveth not;

The ape is dead, and I must conjure him.

I conjure thee by Rosaline's bright eyes,

By her high forehead and her scarlet lip,

15

By her fine foot, straight leg and quivering thigh

And the demesnes that there adjacent lie,

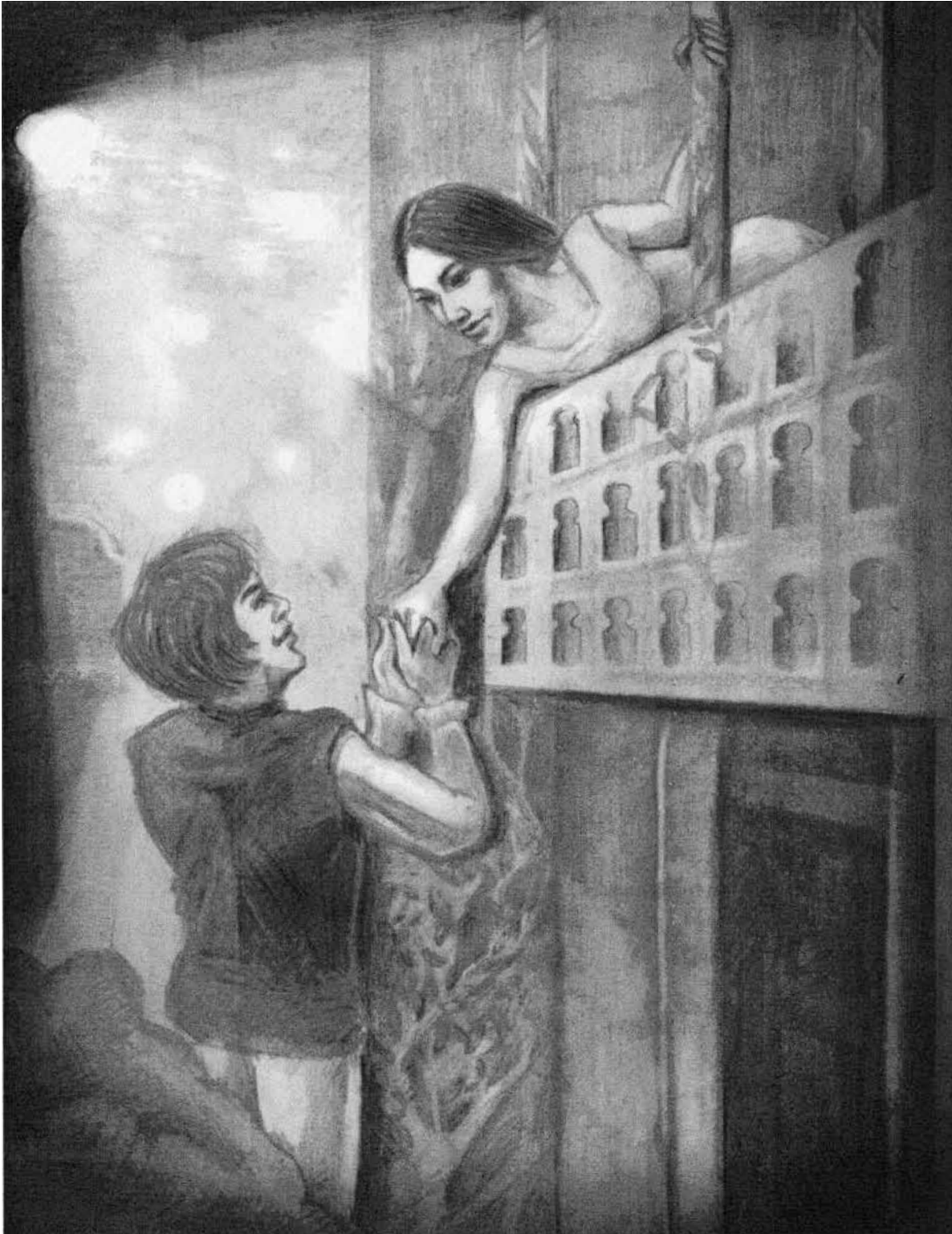
That in thy likeness thou appear to us!

### BENVOLIO

And if he hear thee, thou wilt anger him.

## Act 2, Scene 2

- ▶ The famous balcony scene
  - ▶ Setting: Capulet's orchard
- 



## What happens?

- **Romeo**, hiding in the orchard, sees **Juliet** appear on her balcony.
- She speaks of her love for him. She wishes he was not a member of the Montague family.
- Romeo listens. Juliet notices someone is there. He dares not say his name, for he is a Montague, but Juliet recognises his voice.
- Romeo says that his love for her made him come to find her.
- Juliet is afraid that things may be moving too quickly but agrees that they should marry.
- She explains she will send a messenger to Romeo the next day to find out the arrangements Romeo has made for their marriage ceremony.



### Activity 7

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Romeo in the orchard below Juliet's balcony]

#### ROMEO

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

*JULIET appears above at a window*

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,

Who is already sick and pale with grief,

That thou her maid art far more fair than she:

Be not her maid, since she is envious;

Her vestal livery is but sick and green

And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.

It is my lady, O, it is my love!

O, that she knew she were!

She speaks yet she says nothing: what of that?

Her eye discourses; I will answer it.

I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:

Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,

Having some business, do entreat her eyes

To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,

As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven

Would through the airy region stream so bright

That birds would sing and think it were not night.

See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

O, that I were a glove upon that hand,

That I might touch that cheek!

5

10

15

20

25

**JULIET**

Ay me!

**ROMEO**

She speaks:

O, speak again, bright angel! for thou art

As glorious to this night, being o'er my head

As is a winged messenger of heaven

30

Unto the white-upturned wondering eyes

Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him

When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds

And sails upon the bosom of the air.

**JULIET**

O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?

35

Deny thy father and refuse thy name;

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

## Questions

1. Explain why Romeo's attraction to Juliet is surprising at this stage in the play. (3)
2. Refer to line 3, "It is the east ... Juliet is the sun!". Identify the figure of speech used. (1)
3. Explain the figure of speech in question 2. (2)
4. Refer to lines 35 – 38, "O Romeo, Romeo ... be a Capulet". Discuss Juliet's feelings at this stage of the play. (2)
5. Identify and discuss the theme of the play revealed in lines 35 – 38. (3)
6. Do you think Romeo and Juliet's decision to marry was wise? Support your answer. (3)

[14]



### Answers to Activity 7

1. He has only just met Juliet and moments before that he was still in love with Rosaline and very depressed because she didn't return his love.✓✓ They are also from enemy families.✓ (3)
  2. Metaphor✓ (1)
  3. Romeo is comparing Juliet to the rising sun.✓ For him, Juliet is the light in the dark. Her beauty is like a shining light (sun) in the dark.✓ (2)
  4. She is very much in love with Romeo but his name makes it almost impossible for them to be together ✓ She wishes he had a different surname.✓ (2)
  5. Love versus hate.✓ Romeo and Juliet's love and lives are controlled by their parent's hate.✓ Their love cannot be out in the open because of hate. This will determine their whole life.✓ (3)
  6. No, it wasn't wise. They should have asked the Friar's help in talking to their feuding parents.✓ Perhaps they would've understood and given their permission.✓ The feud would have ended and the tragedy wouldn't have happened.✓
- OR
- Yes, it was wise. The love they immediately felt for each other was powerful and true.✓ They couldn't rely on anyone in their families to understand or make peace, so they followed the true love of their hearts.✓✓ (3)

**[14]**



## Act 2, Scene 3

- ▶ **Romeo asks Friar Lawrence to help arrange his marriage to Juliet**
  - ▶ **Setting: Outside Friar Lawrence's cell**
- 

### What happens?

- **Friar Lawrence** is collecting plants and herbs to make medicine. It is early in the morning.
- **Romeo** arrives and the Friar guesses there is something wrong as it is very early for Romeo to be up. The Friar thinks he has been with Rosaline.
- Romeo says he has forgotten Rosaline. He tells the Friar of his new love, Juliet, and asks the Friar to marry them that day.
- The Friar is surprised that Romeo has changed his feelings for Rosaline so quickly.
- The Friar agrees to help Romeo, because he thinks the marriage might help end the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets.





## Activity 8

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Romeo visits Friar Lawrence.]

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!  
Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear,  
So soon forsaken? young men's love then lies  
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.

Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine

5

Hath wash'd thy sallow cheeks for Rosaline!  
How much salt water thrown away in waste,  
To season love, that of it doth not taste!

The sun not yet thy sighs from heaven clears,  
Thy old groans ring yet in my ancient ears;

10

Lo, here upon thy cheek the stain doth sit

Of an old tear that is not wash'd off yet:

If e'er thou wast thyself and these woes thine,

Thou and these woes were all for Rosaline:

And art thou changed? pronounce this sentence then,

15

Women may fall, when there's no strength in men.

### ROMEO

Thou chid'st me oft for loving Rosaline.

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

For doting, not for loving, pupil mine.

### ROMEO

And bad'st me bury love.

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Not in a grave,

20

To lay one in, another out to have.

### ROMEO

I pray thee chide me not. Her I love now

Doth grace for grace and love for love allow.

The other did not so.

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

O, she knew well

25

Thy love did read by rote and could not spell.

But come, young waverer, come, go with me,

In one respect I'll thy assistant be;

For this alliance may so happy prove,

To turn your households' rancour to pure love.

30

### ROMEO

O, let us hence; I stand on sudden haste.

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.

## Questions

1. Give two reasons why Romeo visits Friar Lawrence at this point. (2)
  2. Refer to lines 2 – 3 – “Is Rosaline, that ... so soon forsaken”. Discuss why Friar Lawrence mentions Rosaline. (3)
  3. Choose the correct answer.  
The word “chid’st” (line 17) has the same meaning as  
A hit.  
B scolded.  
C punished.  
D advised. (1)
  4. Refer to lines 22 – 23, “Her I love ... for love allow”. Discuss the events leading to Romeo’s meeting with Juliet. (3)
  5. Refer to lines 29 – 30, “For this alliance ... to pure love”. Explain how the two families are reconciled later in the play. (2)
  6. Refer to line 32, “Wisely and slow ... that run fast”. Is the Friar’s advice good? Give a reason for your answer. (2)
  7. What does the above extract reveal about the characters of:  
a) Friar Lawrence? (2)  
b) Romeo? (2)
  8. From your knowledge of the play as a whole, discuss Friar Lawrence’s role in the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet. (3)
- [20]

## Answers to Activity 8



1. Romeo visited the Friar to tell him of his new love for Juliet ✓ and to ask the Friar’s help in marrying her. ✓ (2)
2. It was only recently that Romeo cried many tears over Rosaline because he was so depressed that she didn’t love him back. ✓✓ The Friar can’t understand this sudden change in affection. ✓ (3)
3. B ✓ (1)
4. Romeo attended the Capulet Ball with his friends Benvolio and Mercutio. ✓ There he met and fell in love with Juliet. ✓ She loves him back. ✓ (3)
5. It is only after the deaths of both Romeo and Juliet in Act 5 Scene 3 that the Capulets and Montagues make peace. ✓✓ (2)
6. Yes, it is good. The Friar warns Romeo to take it slowly and to think clearly, because if one is in too much of a hurry, one falls over one’s own feet. ✓✓ (2)
- 7 a) Friar Lawrence is very helpful and wise. ✓✓ (2)  
b) Romeo is very impatient and trusting. ✓✓ (2)
8. If Friar Lawrence hadn’t married them in secret, Juliet wouldn’t have had to drink the potion to avoid having to marry Paris. ✓ Romeo got the news of the potion plan too late; thinking Juliet was dead, he also drinks poison. On waking, Juliet sees the dead Romeo and stabs herself. ✓✓ (3)

[20]

## Act 2, Scene 4

- **Romeo and the nurse confirm the marriage plans**
- **Setting: A street in Verona**

### What happens?

- **Benvolio** and **Mercutio** still think that Romeo is in love with Rosaline, and they joke about this.
- Benvolio says that Tybalt has sent a letter to Romeo's father, challenging Romeo to a fight. Mercutio criticises and makes fun of Tybalt. But Mercutio also says that Tybalt is a good swordsman. Mercutio does not think that Romeo will be able to fight Tybalt because he has already been 'killed' by his love for Rosaline.
- **Romeo** arrives and Mercutio jokes with him; he still does not know about Romeo's love for Juliet.
- The **nurse** arrives to ask Romeo if he is serious about Juliet and to find out his plans for the wedding. Romeo tells her to make sure Juliet comes to "shrift" (confession) at Friar Lawrence's cell that afternoon, where they will be married.



### Activity 9

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[On a street in Verona]

#### MERCUTIO

Alas poor Romeo! he is already dead! -  
stabbed with a white wench's black eye;  
run through the ear with a love-song;  
the very pin of his heart cleft with the  
blind bow-boy's butt-shaft.

5

And is he a man to encounter Tybalt?

#### MERCUTIO

Why, is not this better now than groaning for love?  
Now art thou sociable. Now art thou Romeo.  
Now art thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature

## Questions

1. How would you describe Mercutio's attitude to love? (2)
2. Romeo is quiet, often depressed, and a dreamer. What qualities possessed by Mercutio are in direct contrast to these? (3)  
[5]

### Answers to Activity 9

1. Mercutio has negative feelings about love.✓ He believes love is just physical and he tells coarse, sexual jokes.✓ (2)
2. Mercutio is loud, talkative and a realist.✓✓✓ (3)  
[5]





## Act 2, Scene 5

- The nurse tells Juliet the plan for her marriage to Romeo
- Setting: Capulet's orchard

### What happens?

- **Juliet** is waiting patiently for the **Nurse** to return with news from Romeo.
- The Nurse arrives but teases Juliet by not giving her the news immediately. She delays it by complaining about feeling tired. This creates comedy as Juliet is impatient to hear the news.
- The Nurse tells Juliet that she must go to Friar Lawrence for confession ("shrift") and Romeo will meet her there. They will then get married.
- The nurse also says that she will fetch a ladder so that Romeo can climb to Juliet's bedroom that night.
- The nurse returns after being away for a few hours.



### Activity 10

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[In the Capulet's garden]

#### JULIET

Now, good sweet nurse, —O Lord, why look'st thou sad?  
Though news be sad, yet tell them merrily;  
If good, thou shamest the music of sweet news  
By playing it to me with so sour a face.

#### NURSE

I am a-weary, give me leave awhile:  
Fie, how my bones ache! what a jaunt have I had!

5

#### JULIET

I would thou hadst my bones, and I thy news:  
Nay, come, I pray thee, speak; good, good nurse, speak.

#### NURSE

Jesu, what haste? can you not stay awhile?  
Do you not see that I am out of breath?

10

**JULIET**

How art thou out of breath, when thou hast breath  
 To say to me that thou art out of breath?  
 The excuse that thou dost make in this delay  
 Is longer than the tale thou dost excuse.  
 Is thy news good, or bad? answer to that;  
 Say either, and I'll stay the circumstance:  
 Let me be satisfied, is't good or bad?

**NURSE**

Well, you have made a simple choice; you know not  
 how to choose a man: Romeo! no, not he; though his  
 face be better than any man's, yet his leg excels  
 all men's; and for a hand, and a foot, and a body,  
 though they be not to be talked on, yet they are  
 past compare: he is not the flower of courtesy,  
 but, I'll warrant him, as gentle as a lamb. Go thy  
 ways, wench; serve God. What, have you dined at home?

**JULIET**

No, no: but all this did I know before.  
 What says he of our marriage? what of that?

**NURSE**

Lord, how my head aches! what a head have I!  
 It beats as it would fall in twenty pieces.  
 My back o' t' other side,—O, my back, my back!  
 Beshrew your heart for sending me about,  
 To catch my death with jaunting up and down!

**JULIET**

I' faith, I am sorry that thou art not well.  
 Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse, tell me, what says my love?

**NURSE**

Your love says, like an honest gentleman, and a  
 courteous, and a kind, and a handsome, and,  
 I warrant, a virtuous,—Where is your mother?

**JULIET**

Where is my mother! why, she is within;  
 Where should she be? How oddly thou repliest!  
 'Your love says, like an honest gentleman,  
 Where is your mother?'

**NURSE**

O God's lady dear!  
 Are you so hot? marry, come up, I trow;  
 Is this the poultice for my aching bones?  
 Henceforward do your messages yourself.

**JULIET**

Here's such a coil! come, what says Romeo?

**NURSE**

Have you got leave to go to shrift to-day?

**JULIET**

I have.

**NURSE**

Then hie you hence to Friar Laurence' cell;  
 There stays a husband to make you a wife.



## Questions

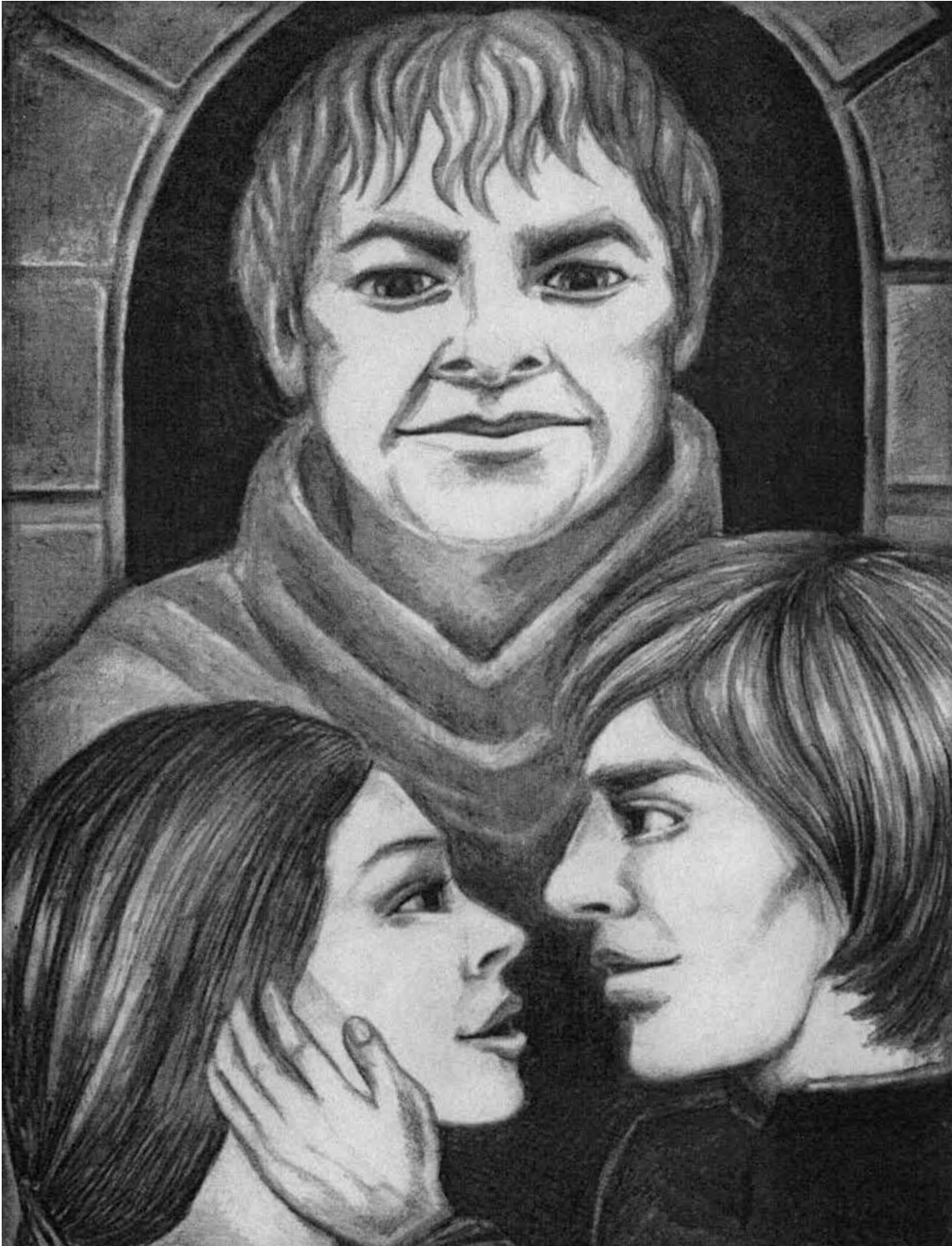
1. From what errand has the Nurse returned? (2)
  2. Refer to the lines 28 – 30, “what a head ... back, my back!”. Why does the nurse claim that her head and back ache? Give two points. (2)
  3. Refer to the lines 49 – 50, “Then hie you ... you a wife”. Discuss how these lines make Juliet feel. (2)
  4. What does the extract tell you about the relationship between the nurse and Juliet? (2)
  5. Do you think the nurse is justified in helping Juliet at this point in the play? Discuss your view. (2)
- [10]**

## Answers to Activity 10

1. Juliet has sent her to Romeo to find out when the marriage will take place.✓✓ (2)
  2. She has walked a long distance and she wants to keep Juliet in suspense.✓✓ (2)
  3. She is very happy because Romeo has made arrangements for them to be married.✓✓
  4. They love each other like mother and daughter.✓ Juliet trusts the nurse with her secrets.✓ (2)
  5. Yes, she loves Juliet very much and wants Juliet to be happy.✓ She knows Juliet loves Romeo very much.✓ (2)
- OR
- No, she is helping Juliet to make a mistake that results in her death.✓ She is also betraying the trust the Capulets have placed in her.✓ (2)
- [10]**

## Act 2, Scene 6

- ▶ Romeo and Juliet meet Friar Lawrence to be married
  - ▶ Setting: Friar's Lawrence's cell
- 



## What happens?

- As **Romeo** and **Friar Lawrence** wait for Juliet, we hear that the Friar is worried that this marriage is happening too quickly.
- The **theme** of fate/destiny versus free will is emphasised.
- When **Juliet** arrives, Romeo and Juliet express their love again. The Friar sees how happy they are together and prepares to marry them



### Activity 11

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Romeo and Friar Lawrence in the Friar's cell]

#### FRIAR LAWRENCE

So smile the heavens upon this holy act,  
That after hours with sorrow chide us not!

#### ROMEO

Amen, amen! but come what sorrow can,  
It cannot countervail the exchange of joy  
That one short minute gives me in her sight:  
Do thou but close our hands with holy words,  
Then love-devouring death do what he dare;  
It is enough I may but call her mine.

5

#### FRIAR LAWRENCE

These violent delights have violent ends  
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,  
Which as they kiss consume: the sweetest honey  
Is loathsome in his own deliciousness  
And in the taste confounds the appetite:  
Therefore love moderately; long love doth so;  
Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.

10

15

Note the **metaphor**,  
"love-devouring death"  
(line 7)? Death is  
described as a monster  
that eats love.



## Questions

1. The Friar agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet, but it is his failure to inform the Capulets and Montagues that advances the plot. Explain the truth of this statement as it relates to Romeo and Juliet. (5)
2. Rewrite in your own words what Romeo says in lines 3 – 4, "but come what sorrow can, It cannot countervail the exchange of joy". (2)
3. What does Romeo declare in lines 6 – 8? (2)
4. What is ironic about his challenge in lines 6 - 8? (1)
5. Against what does Friar Lawrence warn Romeo? (2)
6. Quote the simile used to describe excessive love. (2)
7. In your own words, describe how Friar Lawrence says one should love, and why. (2)

[16]

## Answers to Activity 11

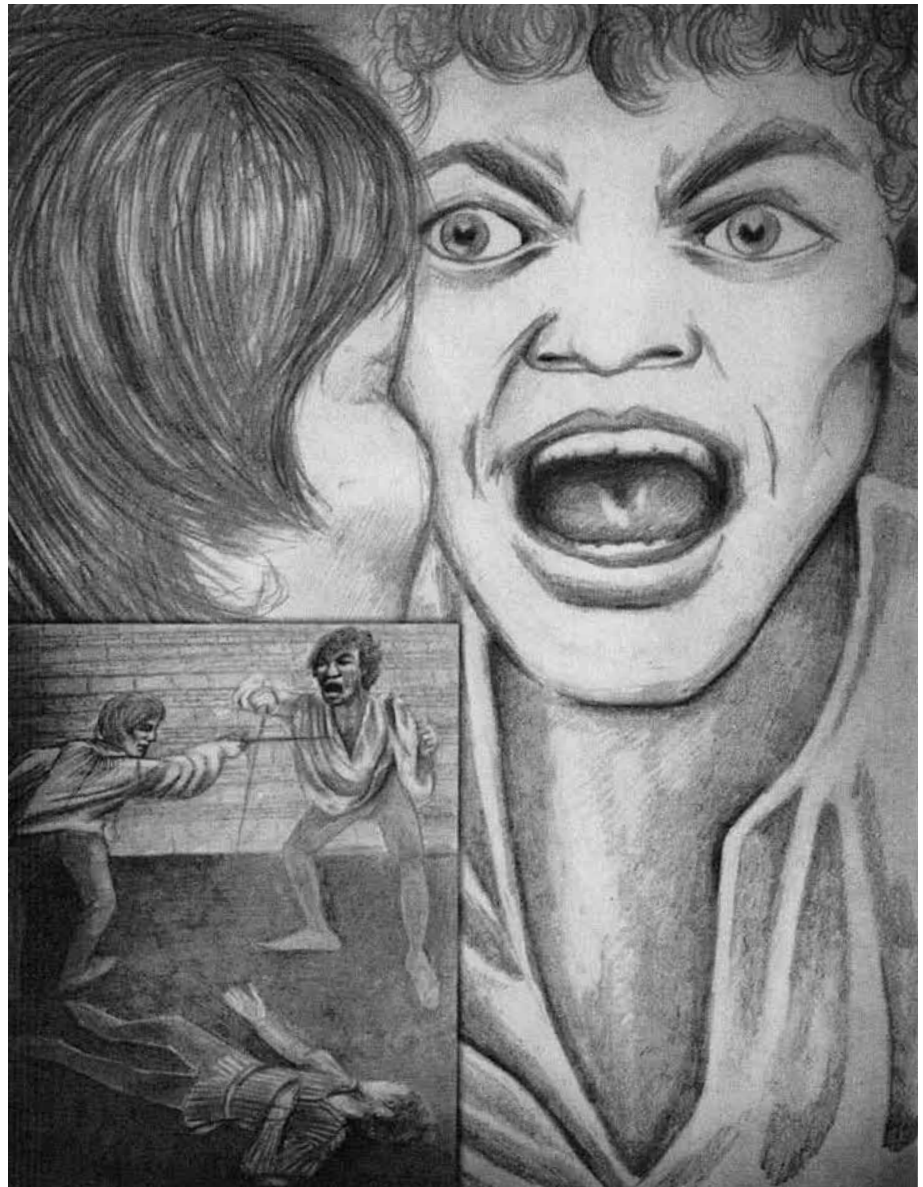
1. If Friar Lawrence had told the Capulets and Montagues, Juliet wouldn't have been forced into marrying Paris.✓ Then she wouldn't have drank the potion in desperation✓ and Romeo wouldn't have thought her dead✓ and drunk poison.✓ Both would still be alive.✓ (5)
  2. No matter what sorrow lies ahead, it can't outweigh the happiness shared in giving and receiving.✓✓ (2)
  3. Romeo declares that Death can take its toll after he has married Juliet✓ – as long as he can call her his own for one minute.✓ (2)
  4. He is indeed only able to call her his for a very short time, before they both die.✓ (1)
  5. Friar Lawrence warns Romeo against excessive love that destroys.✓✓ (2)
  6. "And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,  
Which as they kiss consume" ✓✓ (2)
  7. Friar Lawrence proposes that one should love moderately and calmly.✓ This type of love will last a long time.✓ (2)
- [16]**





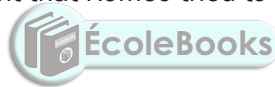
## Act 3, Scene 1

- ▶ Tybalt kills Mercutio
  - ▶ Romeo kills Tybalt
  - ▶ Prince Escalus banishes Romeo from Verona
  - ▶ Setting: Verona – a public place
- 



## What happens?

- The scene begins with **Benvolio** and **Mercutio** talking.
- Benvolio wants to leave the place in case they meet the Capulets.  
He does not want a fight.
- **Tybalt** and **other Capulets** arrive. Mercutio provokes Tybalt, but it is **Romeo** with whom Tybalt has a grievance.
- Tybalt insults Romeo and challenges him to a fight. Romeo says he does not want to fight Tybalt.
- Mercutio fights Tybalt.
- Romeo tries to stop them and Mercutio is fatally wounded by Tybalt's sword. Tybalt and his friends run away.
- Mercutio blames Romeo for interfering in the fight. Benvolio takes Mercutio to a house where he can get help for his wound. They go offstage with Mercutio cursing the Capulets and Montagues.
- Benvolio soon returns to say Mercutio has died.
- To avenge his friend, Romeo fights and kills Tybalt.
- The **Prince** arrives and Benvolio explains what has happened.
- The Prince banishes (exiles) Romeo from Verona. He does not punish Romeo with a death sentence, because he understands that Tybalt killed Romeo's friend Mercutio in a fight that Romeo tried to stop.



### Activity 12

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[The Prince investigates the death of Tybalt.]

#### PRINCE

Where are the vile beginners of this fray?

#### BENVOLIO

O noble prince, I can discover all

The unlucky manage of this fatal brawl:

There lies the man, slain by young Romeo,

That slew thy kinsman, brave Mercutio.

5

#### LADY CAPULET

Tybalt, my cousin! O my brother's child!

O prince! O cousin! husband! O, the blood is spilt

O my dear kinsman! Prince, as thou art true,

For blood of ours, shed blood of Montague.

O cousin, cousin!

10

#### PRINCE

Benvolio, who began this bloody fray?

**BENVOLIO**

Tybalt, here slain, whom Romeo's hand did slay;	
Romeo that spoke him fair, bade him bethink	
How nice the quarrel was, and urged withal	
Your high displeasure: all this uttered	15
With gentle breath, calm look, knees humbly bow'd,	
Could not take truce with the unruly spleen	
Of Tybalt deaf to peace, but that he tilts	
With piercing steel at bold Mercutio's breast,	
Who all as hot, turns deadly point to point,	20
And, with a martial scorn, with one hand beats	
Cold death aside, and with the other sends	
It back to Tybalt, whose dexterity,	
Retorts it: Romeo he cries aloud,	
'Hold, friends! friends, part!' and, swifter than his tongue,	25
His agile arm beats down their fatal points,	
And 'twixt them rushes; underneath whose arm	
An envious thrust from Tybalt hit the life	
Of stout Mercutio, and then Tybalt fled;	
But by and by comes back to Romeo,	30
Who had but newly entertain'd revenge,	
And to 't they go like lightning, for, ere I	
Could draw to part them, was stout Tybalt slain.	
And, as he fell, did Romeo turn and fly.	
This is the truth, or let Benvolio die.	35

**Questions**

1. Earlier, Romeo refuses to take up Tybalt's challenge to a duel.
  - a) Why does Tybalt challenge Romeo to a duel? (2)
  - b) Give TWO reasons why Romeo is unwilling to fight Tybalt. (4)
  - c) Do you think Romeo is justified in eventually killing Tybalt? Give reasons for your answer. (2)
  - d) Describe Romeo's feelings about Tybalt's death. (2)
2. Refer to line 1, "Where are the ... of this fray?".
  - a) Explain how the Prince feels towards the Montagues and Capulets at this stage in the play. (2)
  - b) Is the Prince justified in feeling this way? Give a reason for your answer. (2)
3. Refer to lines 6 – 10, "Tybalt, my cousin! ... O cousin, cousin!". What do these lines reveal about Lady Capulet's character? (2)
4. Refer to lines 33 – 35, "Tybalt, here slain ... let Benvolio die". Does Benvolio give the Prince a true account of what happened? Support your answer. (2)

5. Consider the play as a whole and describe the qualities of the following characters. Give TWO points about each character:
- a) Benvolio (2)
  - b) Tybalt (2)
6. How do the deaths of Mercutio and Tybalt contribute to the tragic deaths of Romeo and Juliet? (3)
- [25]

### Answers to Activity 12

- 1 a) Romeo attended a party at Capulet's house without an invitation. When Tybalt discovered this and wanted to fight him, old Capulet stopped him and invited Romeo to stay.✓  
This angered Tybalt and encouraged him to challenge Romeo.✓ (2)
- b) He is in love with Juliet and sees Tybalt, who is Juliet's cousin, as family.✓✓ He remembers the Prince's warning that whoever fights again will be put to death.✓✓ (4)
- c) Yes, Tybalt killed Mercutio in a cowardly way while Romeo was trying to separate them.✓✓
- OR
- No, Romeo shouldn't have taken the law into his own hands. Also, he should have avoided a fight as Tybalt was now related to him because of his marriage to Juliet.✓✓ (2)
- d) He feels remorseful and guilty because he acted hastily.✓✓
- OR
- He fears that this is going to hurt Juliet and may damage their relationship.✓✓ (2)
- 2 a) The Prince is angry with them because they did not heed his warning against violence.✓✓
- OR
- He is angry because more lives have been lost as a result of the feud.✓✓ (2)
- b) Yes, the Prince is justified in feeling angry. Innocent people are dying because of the feud.✓✓
- OR
- No, he should be disappointed with himself for not acting earlier to stop the violence.✓✓ (2)

3. She is mean, as she wants Tybalt's death to be avenged, which will result in more death.✓✓  
OR  
She is blinded by the feud and allows her feelings to cloud her judgement.✓✓ (2)
4. Yes, he talks honestly about the role everyone played in the fight.✓ He clearly states what Romeo's involvement was in the deaths.✓ (2)
- 5 a) Benvolio is peace-loving and tries to avoid trouble at all costs.✓ He is truthful.✓ (2)  
b) Tybalt is hot-tempered.✓ He is obsessive about the reputation and honour of the Capulets.✓ (2)
6. The deaths of Tybalt and Mercutio lead to Romeo's banishment.✓ Her father misunderstands Juliet's grief and forces her to marry Paris. Juliet takes a potion to avoid marriage.✓ Romeo gets a message that she is dead, comes to the tomb and commits suicide. Juliet wakes up, finds Romeo dead and commits suicide as well.✓ (3)
- [25]**



## Act 3, Scene 2

- The nurse tells Juliet that Romeo has been banished from Verona
- Setting: Capulet's mansion

### What happens?

- Earlier on this day, **Juliet** married Romeo. Now we see Juliet waiting impatiently for the night to come, when Romeo will visit her.
- The **Nurse** arrives, very upset, to tell Juliet of Tybalt's death. At first, Juliet thinks that the Nurse is talking about Romeo's death.
- The Nurse is carrying the rope (cords) that Romeo has asked for so he can climb up to the balcony and into Juliet's bedroom.
- Juliet is very upset when she hears that Romeo killed Tybalt, but she remains loyal to her husband.
- The Nurse says that Romeo is hiding at Friar Lawrence's cell. She will arrange for Romeo to spend the night with Juliet.
- Juliet gives the Nurse a ring to give to Romeo. She tells the Nurse to find him and tell him to come to say goodbye to her.



### Activity 13

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[In the Capulet's orchard]

#### NURSE

Will you speak well of him that kill'd your cousin?

#### JULIET

Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?

Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy name,

When I, thy three-hours wife, have mangled it?

But, wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin?

5

That villain cousin would have kill'd my husband:

Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring;

Your tributary drops belong to woe,

Which you, mistaking, offer up to joy.

My husband lives, that Tybalt would have slain;

10

And Tybalt's dead, that would have slain my husband:



## Questions

1. Juliet finally calms down after she has worked things out for herself.
  - a) What causes this dramatic change in emotion? (1)
  - b) At what comforting conclusion does Juliet eventually arrive? (2)
  - c) Write down two one-word qualities to describe Juliet's attitude to her new husband. (2)
2. Write a short paragraph explaining who helped Romeo become Juliet's husband and how this happened. (4)
3. What has happened to cause Juliet's distress? (2)
4. "But wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin? That villain cousin would have killed my husband."  
What mixed emotions are evident in Juliet's words? (2)
5. What strong characteristic of Juliet's emerges from this extract? (1)
6. If you had to advise Juliet at this point, knowing, as you do, how the play ends, what would you tell her to do and why? (4)

[18]

## Answers to Activity 13

1. a) Juliet jumps to Romeo's defence when the nurse starts to curse him and wish him disgrace (shame).✓ (1)  
b) If Romeo hadn't killed Tybalt, Tybalt would have killed him. ✓✓ (2)  
c) loyal✓ and loving✓ (2)
2. Friar Lawrence and the nurse helped the couple to get married.✓✓ The Nurse carried messages between Juliet and Romeo.✓ Romeo asked Friar Lawrence to marry them in secret at his cell.✓ (4)
3. Romeo killed Tybalt, her cousin.✓✓ (2)
4. Juliet is horrified at Romeo for killing her cousin, but then also glad that at least her husband is alive. He could have been killed in the fight himself.✓✓ (2)
5. Her loyalty to her new husband.✓ (1)
6. Juliet should take things slowly and calmly.✓ She should make sure of the reasons behind the killing of Tybalt.✓ She should also tell her parents the truth about her marriage to Romeo.✓✓ (4)

[18]

## Act 3, Scene 3

► **Friar Lawrence's plan to help Romeo**

► **Setting: Friar Lawrence's cell**

---

### What happens?

- **Romeo** is hiding in **Friar Lawrence's** cell. The Friar tells Romeo about the Prince's judgement – that he will be exiled, not sentenced to death.
- Romeo is upset, the Friar tries to calm him.
- The **Nurse** arrives and explains that Juliet is very upset. Juliet weeps for Tybalt's death and Romeo's banishment.
- Romeo tries to kill himself, but is stopped by the Friar.
- Friar Lawrence tells Romeo that all is not bad. He is alive when he could have been killed, and he is only exiled. The Friar advises Romeo to spend the night with Juliet, then in the morning to go to a nearby city, Mantua, until things calm down. When they can tell people about the marriage, and ask the Prince's pardon, Romeo may be able to return to Verona.
- The Nurse gives Romeo a ring from Juliet.
- The Friar says that when Romeo is in Mantua he will send news to him through Romeo's servant, Balthasar.



## Activity 14

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[The nurse visits Friar Lawrence's cell after Romeo's banishment.]

### NURSE

O holy friar, O, tell me, holy friar,  
Where is my lady's lord, where's Romeo?

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

There on the ground, with his own tears made drunk.

### NURSE

O, he is even in my mistress' case,  
Just in her case! O woeful sympathy! 5  
Piteous predicament! Even so lies she,  
Blubbering and weeping, weeping and blubbering.  
Stand up, stand up; stand, and you be a man:  
For Juliet's sake, for her sake, rise and stand;  
Why should you fall into so deep an O? 10

### ROMEO

Nurse!

### NURSE

Ah sir! ah sir! Well, death's the end of all.

### ROMEO

Spakest thou of Juliet? How is it with her?  
Doth she not think me an old murderer,  
Now I have stain'd the childhood of our joy 15  
With blood removed but little from her own?  
Where is she? And how doth she? And what says  
My conceal'd lady to our cancell'd love?

### NURSE

O, she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps;  
And now falls on her bed; and then starts up, 20  
And Tybalt calls; and then on Romeo cries,  
And then down falls again.

## Questions

- Complete the following sentence by filling in the missing words.  
Write down only the question number and the words.  
Juliet sends the nurse to Friar Lawrence's cell to take Romeo a  
a) \_\_\_\_\_ and tell him to come to her that night and  
say b) \_\_\_\_\_. (2)
- Juliet sends the nurse to Romeo. What does this show the  
audience about the relationship between Juliet and the nurse?  
State two points. (2)
- Quote no more than two lines from the extract which show that  
Romeo and Juliet are equally upset. (1)
- Refer to line 3, "... with his own tears made drunk".  
Briefly explain why Romeo is crying. State two points. (2)

5. Refer to line 7, “Blubbering and weeping, weeping and blubbering”.
- How do the events that caused Juliet’s “blubbering and weeping” affect her personal life? (2)
  - Explain why the nurse repeats the words “blubbering and weeping”. (2)
6. Refer to line 8, “Stand up, stand up! Stand and you be a man!”
- What would Romeo’s posture on the stage be at this moment in the play? (1)
  - Do you think that the nurse is being cruel and unkind here? Discuss your view. (2)
7. Soon after this scene in the play, Friar Lawrence reminds Romeo that he has many reasons to be grateful. Give three reasons why Romeo should be grateful. (3)
8. Refer to the words “cancelled love” in line 18. Are these words a prediction of the future of Romeo and Juliet’s relationship. Give a reason for your answer. (1)
- [18]**

### Answers to Activity 14

- rope-ladder✓
    - goodbye✓ (2)
  - Their relationship is close and trusting.✓✓ (2)
  - “Even so lies she, Blubbering and weeping...” Lines 6 – 7.✓ (1)
  - He is banished to Mantua and has to leave Juliet behind.✓✓ (2)
  - Her parents think she is blubbering and weeping over her cousin Tybalt’s death and agree to a wedding with Paris.✓✓ (2)
    - The nurse likes to exaggerate. She likes to be dramatic and draw attention to herself.✓✓ (2)
  - He would be lying curled up like a small, sad child.✓ (1)
    - No, the nurse wants Romeo to pull himself together and at least pay Juliet a visit before he departs for Mantua ✓✓ (2)
  - Juliet is alive.✓ He killed Tybalt before Tybalt could kill him.✓  
He is banished instead of being sentenced to death.✓ (3)
  - Yes, these words are a prediction about their relationship.  
They won’t have a proper start to a marriage and soon both will be dead and their love over.✓ (1)
- [18]**

## Act 3, Scene 4

- Paris visits the Capulets
  - Setting: Capulet's mansion
- 

### What happens?

- It is still Monday, the same day as the wedding and Tybalt's death.
- **Paris** visits **Lord** and **Lady Capulet** to express his sorrow about Tybalt's death and to discuss his marriage to Juliet.
- Lord Capulet explains that he has not had time to discuss the marriage with his daughter, but he thinks she will be advised by her father and agree to the marriage.
- Lord Capulet tells his wife to tell Juliet that she will be married to Paris on Thursday. He says that they will only have a small wedding due to Tybalt's death.



## Act 3, Scene 5

- ▶ Juliet refuses to marry Paris
  - ▶ Setting: Capulet's orchard / Capulet's mansion
- 

### What happens?

- **Romeo** and **Juliet** have to part after spending the night together. Romeo leaves for Mantua.
- The **Nurse** arrives to warn them that Juliet's mother is coming. So the lovers have to say farewell quickly.
- **Lady Capulet** tells Juliet that Juliet will marry Paris on Thursday. Juliet refuses to marry Paris; her parents are angry.
- Juliet turns to the Nurse for support, but she too says Juliet should marry Paris.
- Juliet decides to go to the Friar for help. She pretends to the nurse that she is going to the Friar for confession (to ask God's forgiveness) because she has disobeyed her parents.







## Activity 15

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Juliet's chamber.]

### JULIET

Is there no pity sitting in the clouds,  
That sees into the bottom of my grief?  
O, sweet my mother, cast me not away!  
Delay this marriage for a month, a week;  
Or, if you do not, make the bridal bed  
In that dim monument where Tybalt lies.

5

### LADY CAPULET

Talk not to me, for I'll not speak a word:  
Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee.

*Exit*

### JULIET

O God!—O nurse, how shall this be prevented?  
My husband is on earth, my faith in heaven;  
How shall that faith return again to earth,  
Unless that husband send it me from heaven  
By leaving earth? Comfort me. Counsel me.  
Alack, alack, that heaven should practise stratagems  
Upon so soft a subject as myself!  
What say'st thou? hast thou not a word of joy?  
Some comfort, Nurse.

10

15

### NURSE

Faith, here it is.  
Romeo is banish'd; and all the world to nothing,  
That he dares ne'er come back to challenge you;  
Or, if he do, it needs must be by stealth.  
Then, since the case so stands as now it doth,  
I think it best you married with the county.  
O, he's a lovely gentleman!  
Romeo's a dishclout to him: an eagle, madam,  
Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye  
As Paris hath.

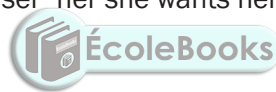
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25

## Questions

1. Put the above extract into context of the play as a whole. (2)
2. "Is there no pity sitting in the clouds  
That sees into the bottom of my grief?" (lines 1 – 2)
  - a) Name the figure of speech used in the above quotation. (1)
  - b) Explain your choice. (1)
  - c) Explain why the figure of speech is effective. (1)
3. What does Juliet want from her mother when she says, "cast me not away"? (1)
4. How has Lord Capulet's attitude to Paris's request to marry Juliet changed from the beginning of the play to this point in the play? (2)
5. Why do you think Lord Capulet has changed his attitude in this way? (2)
6. "Or if you do not, make the bridal bed  
In that dim monument where Tybalt lies." (lines 5 – 6)  
Explain the dramatic irony in the above statement. (2)
7. Which of the following statements does not reflect Juliet's feelings in her speeches:
  - A desperate
  - B self-pitying
  - C optimistic
  - D grief-stricken
 (1)
8. When Juliet asks the Nurse to "counsel" her she wants her to:
  - A advise her.
  - B calm her.
  - C forgive her.
  - D pity her.
 (1)
9. Using your own words, describe how the Nurse responds to Juliet's request to "counsel" her later in this scene. (3)
10. What is the Nurse suggesting about Romeo when she says, "Romeo's a dishclout to him" (line 25)? (1)
11. Why do the sentiments expressed by the Nurse in the above extract completely change her relationship with Juliet? (2)
12. After this, who does Juliet turn to for help? (1)

[21]



### Answers to Activity 15

1. It is the morning after Romeo and Juliet have spent their wedding night together. Lord Capulet arranges for Juliet to marry Paris. She refuses and he angrily threatens to disown her and drag her to the wedding by force. ✓✓ (2)
2. a) Personification ✓ (1)  
b) The clouds are given the human characteristic of showing Juliet some pity. ✓ (1)  
c) It suggests that all of nature is feeling for Juliet's pain. ✓ (1)
3. Juliet is saying to her mother, "Don't reject me". ✓ (1)
4. At first Lord Capulet wanted Paris to wait two more years and to woo Juliet. Now he is arranging her marriage without her consent. He forces her to marry Paris even when she refuses. ✓✓ (2)
5. Lord Capulet wants her to stop grieving about Tybalt. Paris is an excellent match since he is from the family of the Prince. ✓✓ (2)
6. Juliet implies that if they force her to marry Paris she would rather be married to death (kill herself). The dramatic irony is that we know she will kill herself and die in the Capulet tomb (next to Romeo). ✓✓ (2)
7. A ✓ (1)
8. A ✓ (1)
9. The nurse advises Juliet to make the best of a bad situation, take the easy way out, and marry Paris. ✓ To her one man is as good as another ✓ and Romeo is of no use to Juliet any more since he is banished. ✓ (3)
10. He is like a dirty dishcloth compared to the handsome, rich Paris. ✓ (1)
11. The nurse does not understand the depth and intensity of Juliet's love for and loyalty to Romeo. Juliet feels that the Nurse has betrayed her and they will no longer be close friends who share their secrets. ✓✓ (2)
12. Friar Lawrence ✓ (1)

**[21]**

## Act 4, Scene 1

- Friar Lawrence's plan to help Juliet
  - Setting: Friar Lawrence's cell
- 

### What happens?

- **Paris** is at the **Friar's** cell to arrange his marriage to Juliet. He explains that Lord Capulet wants the wedding on Thursday to stop Juliet grieving so much for her cousin Tybalt.
- **Juliet** arrives and speaks with Paris, who then leaves.
- She tells the Friar that, if he cannot help her to prevent the marriage to Paris, she will kill herself.
- The Friar suggests a plan. He will give Juliet some medicine that will make her sleep, but she will look as though she is dead. Juliet will be taken to the Capulet tomb. The Friar will send a letter to Romeo to explain the plan. Romeo will come to the tomb and take Juliet to Mantua.
- Juliet agrees to the plan. She takes the vial (small bottle) of medicine. She is to drink it the next night (Wednesday night) when she is alone, in bed. No one, not even the Nurse, must know about the plan.



## Activity 16

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Paris, Juliet and Friar Lawrence in Friar Lawrence's cell.]

### PARIS

Thy face is mine, and thou hast slander'd it.

### JULIET

It may be so, for it is not mine own.

Are you at leisure, holy father, now;

Or shall I come to you at evening mass?

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

My leisure serves me, pensive daughter, now.

5

My lord, we must entreat the time alone.

### PARIS

God shield I should disturb devotion!

Juliet, on Thursday early will I rouse ye:

Till then, adieu; and keep this holy kiss.

*Exit*

### JULIET

O shut the door! and when thou hast done so,

10

Come weep with me; past hope, past cure, past help!

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Ah, Juliet, I already know thy grief;

It strains me past the compass of my wits:

I hear thou must, and nothing may prorate it,

On Thursday next be married to this county.

15

### JULIET

Tell me not, Friar, that thou hear'st of this,

Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it:

If, in thy wisdom, thou canst give no help,

Do thou but call my resolution wise,

And with this knife I'll help it presently.

20

God join'd my heart and Romeo's, thou our hands;

And ere this hand, by thee to Romeo seal'd,

Shall be the label to another deed,

Or my true heart with treacherous revolt

Turn to another, this shall slay them both:

25

Therefore, out of thy long-experienced time,

Give me some present counsel, or, behold,

'Twixt my extremes and me this bloody knife

Shall play the umpire, arbitrating that

Which the commission of thy years and art

30

Could to no issue of true honour bring.

Be not so long to speak; I long to die,

If what thou speak'st speak not of remedy.

**FRIAR LAWRENCE**

Hold, daughter: I do spy a kind of hope,  
Which craves as desperate an execution. 35  
As that is desperate which we would prevent.  
If, rather than to marry County Paris,  
Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,  
Then is it likely thou wilt undertake  
A thing like death to chide away this shame, 40  
That copes with death himself to scape from it:  
And, if thou darest, I'll give thee remedy.

**JULIET**

O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,  
From off the battlements of yonder tower;  
Or walk in thievish ways; or bid me lurk 45  
Where serpents are; chain me with roaring bears;  
Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house,  
O'er-cover'd quite with dead men's rattling bones,  
With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls;  
Or bid me go into a new-made grave 50  
And hide me with a dead man in his shroud;  
Things that, to hear them told, have made me tremble;

**Questions**

- Who is "this County" referred to by Friar Lawrence in line 15?  
A Verona  
B Italy  
C Paris  
D Mantua (2)
- When Juliet answers: "It may be so, for it is not mine own" (line 2), she means  
A that her face but not her heart belongs to Paris.  
B she has lost face with Romeo, so it does not matter.  
C she belongs Romeo, so her face belongs to him.  
D she looks like her mother, so her face is not hers. (2)
- Why does Paris refer to "Thursday" (line 8)?  
A He will be her partner at the formal dance.  
B They are to be married on that Thursday.  
C He has promised to visit her on that day.  
D They go to the Friar's cell on Thursdays. (2)
- When Friar Lawrence says, "My lord, we must entreat the time alone" (line 6), he  
A tells Paris that he will hear his confession later.  
B informs Paris that he will seal the bond later.  
C asks Paris to leave as he wishes to pray in private.  
D asks for time to speak to Juliet privately. (2)



5. Why does Juliet not want to marry Paris?  
 A She has promised to marry Romeo.  
 B She has already married Romeo.  
 C Paris does not love her at all.  
 D She has sworn never to get married. (2)
6. What has Paris come to discuss with Friar Lawrence? (1)
- 7 a) Where is Romeo? (1)  
 b) Why is he there? State two reasons. (2)
8. What would Juliet do rather than betray Romeo (lines 24 – 25)? (2)
9. Why does Juliet think that Friar Lawrence will be able to advise her wisely? (4)
10. The Friar promises to give Juliet a remedy. Using this as your starting point explain:  
 a) what she has to do on the night before the wedding, that is, on the Wednesday evening. (2)  
 b) what effect the potion which she has to drink will have on her appearance. (4)  
 c) what Paris will discover when he tries to wakes her on Thursday morning. (2)  
 d) for how long she will appear to be dead. (1)
11. Use the following words as a starting point and say what Juliet would rather suffer than be married to Paris.  
 “O bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,  
 From the battlements of yonder tower”. (6)

[35]



**Answers to Activity 16**

1. C ✓✓ (2)
2. C ✓✓ (2)
3. D ✓✓ (2)
4. D ✓✓ (2)
5. B ✓✓ (2)
6. Paris has come to discuss the wedding arrangements. (1)
7. a) In Mantua ✓ (1)  
b) He killed Tybalt and was banished by Prince Escalus. ✓✓ (2)
8. Juliet would rather kill herself than betray Romeo. ✓✓ (2)
9. Friar Lawrence married her and Romeo in secret. ✓ The Friar knows them well and they trust him. ✓ The Friar is a wise, spiritual teacher. ✓✓ (4)
10. a) She has to go to bed alone (not with the Nurse as usual) ✓ because she has to drink the potion. ✓ (2)  
b) She will have no pulse. ✓ She will be cold and she won't breathe. ✓ Her cheeks and lips will become pale. ✓ Her eyes will be shut. ✓ (4)  
c) Paris will discover that she is dead. ✓✓ (2)  
d) She will appear dead for 42 hours. ✓ (1)
11. Juliet would rather jump from the top of any tower; ✓ walk in the places of thieves; ✓ hide where snakes are; ✓ be tied to vicious bears; ✓ hide herself in a vault amongst dead bodies; ✓ and hide herself with a fresh corpse. ✓ (6)

**[35]**

## Act 4, Scene 2

- ▶ Juliet pretends to agree to marry Paris
  - ▶ Setting: Capulet's mansion
- 

### What happens?

- **The Capulets** prepare for the wedding.
- **Juliet** returns home and explains that she has visited Friar Lawrence. She pretends to apologise to her father for refusing to marry Paris.
- **Lord Capulet** says he will have the wedding the following morning – on Wednesday, not Thursday.
- Juliet goes with the **nurse** to get her outfit ready for the wedding.
- **Lady Capulet** is worried that they will not be ready for the wedding the next day.
- Lord Capulet says that he will help.





## Activity 17

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Juliet returns to the Capulet house after visiting Friar Lawrence.]

### CAPULET

How now, my headstrong! Where have you been gadding?

### JULIET

Where I have learn'd me to repent the sin

Of disobedient opposition

To you and your behests, and am enjoin'd

By holy Lawrence to fall prostrate here,

And beg your pardon: pardon, I beseech you!

Henceforward I am ever ruled by you.

5

### CAPULET

Send for the county; go tell him of this:

I'll have this knot knit up to-morrow morning.

## Questions

1. What does Capulet mean by "headstrong" (line 1)? (1)
  2. How does Juliet's present behaviour differ from that in Act 3, Scene 5? (2)
  3. Suggest TWO reasons why you think Capulet decided to advance the wedding date. (2)
  4. What is ironic about Capulet's appraisal of Friar Lawrence? (2)
  5. Write down TWO one word characteristics of Lord Capulet once again evident in the above extract. (2)
- [9]

## Answers to Activity 17

1. Stubborn/disobedient. ✓ (1)
  2. In Act 3, Scene 5 Juliet was disobedient and refused to marry Paris. ✓ Now she is obedient and is willing to marry Paris. ✓ (2)
  3. He is afraid Juliet will change her mind. ✓ He is eager to show off his wealth and hospitality. He acts impulsively – as usual. ✓ (2)
  4. Capulet says all should be thankful towards Friar Lawrence for everything he does (including 'convincing' Juliet to marry Paris). This is ironic because the Friar is actually helping Juliet to betray her parents. ✓✓ (2)
  5. Impulsive / domineering / practical / autocratic / self-centred. ✓✓ (2)
- [9]



Any TWO of these words will earn you 2 marks.

## Act 4, Scene 3

► Juliet takes the potion

► Setting: Juliet's bedroom

### What happens?

- **Juliet** tells her **Nurse** that she wants to be alone that night, because she wants to pray and ask forgiveness for her sins.
- **Lady Capulet** asks if she needs her help, but Juliet says no and suggests the nurse help her mother with the wedding preparations.
- Juliet speaks to herself. She is afraid of taking the potion/medicine. She finally takes it, thinking of Romeo.



### Activity 18

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Juliet in her bedroom preparing to take the potion.]



Nurse! What should she do here?	
My dismal scene I needs must act alone.	
Come, vial.	
What if this mixture do not work at all?	
Shall I be married then to-morrow morning?	5
No, no: this shall forbid it: lie thou there.	
<i>Laying down her dagger</i>	
What if it be a poison, which the friar	
Subtly hath minister'd to have me dead,	
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonour'd,	
Because he married me before to Romeo?	10
I fear it is: and yet, methinks, it should not,	
For he hath still been tried a holy man.	
How if, when I am laid into the tomb,	
I wake before the time that Romeo	
Come to redeem me? There's a fearful point!	15
Shall I not, then, be stifled in the vault,	
To whose foul mouth no healthsome air breathes in,	
And there die strangled ere my Romeo comes?	
Or, if I live, is it not very like,	
The horrible conceit of death and night,	20

Together with the terror of the place, —  
 As in a vault, an ancient receptacle,  
 Where, for these many hundred years, the bones  
 Of all my buried ancestors are packed:  
 Where bloody Tybalt, yet but green in earth, 25  
 Lies festering in his shroud; where, as they say,  
 At some hours in the night spirits resort; —  
 Alack, alack, is it not like that I,  
 So early waking, what with loathsome smells,  
 And shrieks like mandrakes torn out of the earth, 30  
 That living mortals, hearing them, run mad: —  
 O, if I wake, shall I not be distraught,  
 Environed with all these hideous fears?  
 And madly play with my forefather's joints?  
 And pluck the mangled Tybalt from his shroud? 35  
 And, in this rage, with some great kinsman's bone,  
 As with a club, dash out my desperate brains?  
 O, look! methinks I see my cousin's ghost  
 Seeking out Romeo, that did spit his body  
 Upon a rapier's point: stay, Tybalt, stay! 40  
 Romeo, I come! this do I drink to thee.

*In her soliloquy,  
 Juliet talks freely  
 about her fears.*



*When she falls asleep  
 because of the potion,  
 it expresses the theme  
 of appearance versus  
 reality.*



*This is because it  
 appears as if Juliet  
 has died, but she  
 is really only  
 sleeping.*



## Questions

1. Fill in the missing words in the sentence below. Write only the word next to the question number (1a) to 1c)).  
 Juliet is finally alone and has to carry out the plan. But all of a sudden she is 1a)\_\_\_\_\_ by 1b)\_\_\_\_\_. The horrible images cause growing 1c)\_\_\_\_\_. (3)
2. In your own words, briefly describe the five things Juliet fears. (5)  
 [8]

## Answers to Activity 18

- 1 a) tormented✓  
 b) horrible doubts and fears✓  
 c) panic✓ (3)
2. Juliet is afraid that the potion won't work and she'll have to marry Paris.✓  
 She is afraid that the potion will kill her.✓  
 She is afraid that she will wake up too early and suffocate.✓  
 She is afraid that she will turn mad because of the terrible sights she'll see.✓  
 She is afraid that she'll drag Tybalt, her cousin who was recently killed by Romeo, from his grave.✓  
 She is afraid she will smash her head with the bone of an ancestor. (5)



[8]



# Act 4, Scene 4

- The Capulets prepare for the wedding
- Setting: Capulet's mansion

## What happens?

- It is Wednesday morning. **The Capulets** are preparing for the wedding. Servants rush in and out.
- **Lord Capulet** tells the **Nurse** to wake **Juliet**, because Paris is coming.



### Activity 19

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[The Capulets prepare for Juliet's wedding to Paris.]

#### FIRST SERVANT

Things for the cook, sir; but I know not what.

#### CAPULET

Make haste, make haste.

*Exit First Servant*

Sirrah, fetch drier logs:

Call Peter, he will show thee where they are.

#### SECOND SERVANT

I have a head, sir, that will find out logs,

And never trouble Peter for the matter.

*Exit*

#### CAPULET

Mass, and well said; a merry whoreson, ha!

Thou shalt be logger-head. Good faith, 'tis day:

The county will be here with music straight,

For so he said he would: I hear him near.

*Music within*

Nurse! Wife! What, ho! What, Nurse, I say!

*Re-enter Nurse*

Go waken Juliet, go and trim her up;

I'll go and chat with Paris: hie, make haste,

Make haste; the bridegroom he is come already:

Make haste, I say.



## Questions

1. Where and when are the events described in the extract above taking place? (2)
  2. Lord Capulet's behaviour is that of a bossy busybody. Give two examples that show this. (2)
  3. The theme of haste is stressed five times by Capulet. Mention an example from the play where a lack of haste led to a tragic outcome. (2)
- [6]

### Answers to Activity 19

1. The Capulet household ✓ is preparing for the wedding very early on Wednesday morning. ✓ (2)
  2. He interferes with the cooks and their food. ✓ He nags the servants fetching wood and he orders everybody around. ✓ (2)
  3. The urgent letter from Friar Lawrence to Romeo in Mantua doesn't reach Romeo before he buys poison and kills himself next to Juliet. (2)
- [6]



## Act 4, Scene 5

- Juliet's parents think she is dead
- Setting: Wednesday morning, Juliet's bedroom

### What happens?

- The **Nurse** cannot wake **Juliet**, and she thinks she is dead.
- The Nurse calls **Lady Capulet** and **Lord Capulet**. They are very upset.
- **Friar Lawrence** and **Paris** arrive at the house with **musicians**, ready to take Juliet to church for her wedding.
- Lord Capulet tells them that Juliet is dead. They are all upset. Only Friar Lawrence is calm because he knows that Juliet is only in a deep sleep.
- The wedding musicians speak about how they now no longer have an opportunity to play their instruments at the wedding. They discuss what funeral music they should play.



### Activity 20

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[In Juliet's chamber as she lies asleep as if dead.]

#### FRIAR LAWRENCE

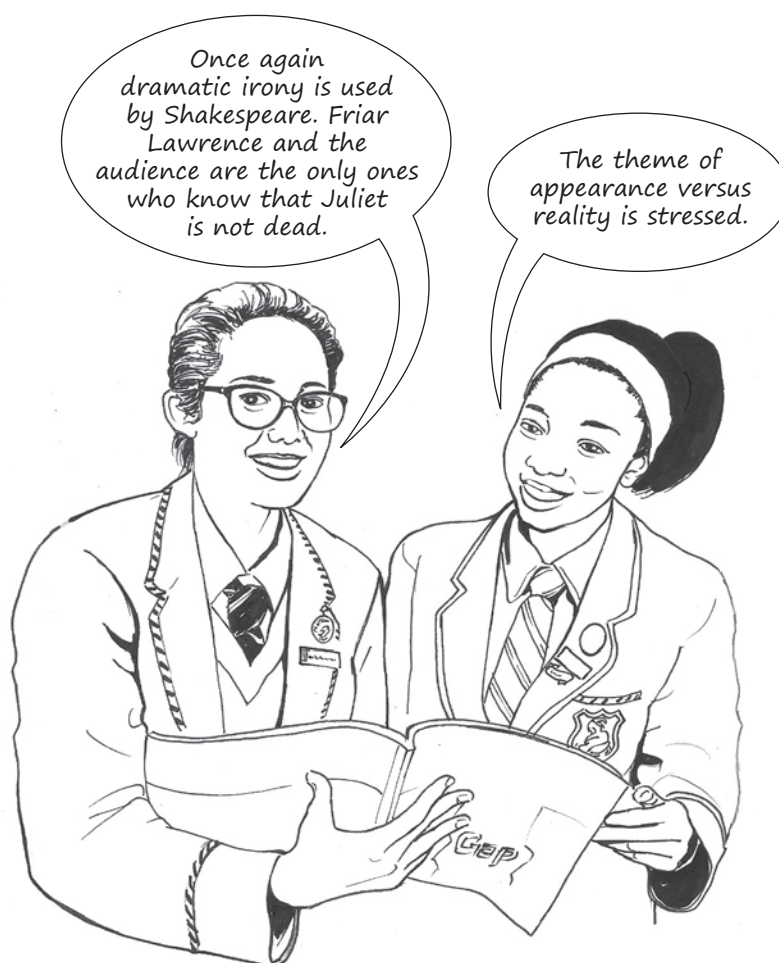
Peace, ho, for shame! confusion's cure lives not  
 In these confusions. Heaven and yourself  
 Had part in this fair maid; now heaven hath all,  
 And all the better is it for the maid:  
 Your part in her you could not keep from death, 5  
 But heaven keeps his part in eternal life.  
 The most you sought was her promotion;  
 For 'twas your heaven she should be advanced:  
 And weep ye now, seeing she is advanced  
 Above the clouds, as high as heaven itself? 10  
 O, in this love, you love your child so ill,  
 That you run mad, seeing that she is well:  
 She's not well married that lives married long;  
 But she's best married that dies married young.  
 Dry up your tears, and stick your rosemary 15  
 On this fair corse; and, as the custom is,  
 In all her best array bear her to church:  
 For though fond nature bids us all lament,  
 Yet nature's tears are reason's merriment.

**CAPULET**

All things that we ordained festival, 20  
 Turn from their office to black funeral;  
 Our instruments to melancholy bells,  
 Our wedding cheer to a sad burial feast,  
 Our solemn hymns to sullen dirges change,  
 Our bridal flowers serve for a buried corse, 25  
 And all things change them to the contrary.

**FRIAR LAWRENCE**

Sir, go you in; and, madam, go with him;  
 And go, Sir Paris; every one prepare  
 To follow this fair corse unto her grave:  
 The heavens do lour upon you for some ill; 30  
 Move them no more by crossing their high will.



## Questions

1. Friar Lawrence offers comfort in lines 18 – 19 (“For though ... reason’s merriment”). Rewrite these lines in your own words. (4)
  2. Capulet then becomes his practical self again and takes control of the funeral arrangements. The wedding preparations turn into those for a funeral.  
Fill in the missing words in the sentence below:  
The formal wedding hymns are to turn into 2a)\_\_\_\_ and the flowers of the bride used to decorate Juliet’s 2b)\_\_\_\_. (2)
  3. Friar Lawrence offers advice in lines 30 – 31 (“The heavens ... high will”). Rewrite these lines in your own words. (4)
  4. Discuss your opinion of the Capulets as parents. (4)
  5. From your knowledge of the play as a whole, discuss Juliet’s character. (3)
  6. Explain how the Capulets and Montagues are reconciled at the end of the play. (3)
- [20]**

## Answers to Activity 20

1. Our nature tells us to cry when somebody has died,✓✓ but actually our intelligence should tell us to be happy because that person is in heaven.✓✓ (4)
  - 2 a) sullen dirges✓  
b) corpse✓ (2)
  3. Do not anger the heavens (or fate) ✓✓ anymore by going against their powerful wishes.✓✓ (4)
  4. They provide financial security, but emotionally they are not close to Juliet.✓ This does not make them bad parents since this was the way children were raised in those days.✓✓ They do care and love Juliet in their own way.✓ (4)
  5. Juliet’s character changes through the play.✓ At the beginning she was vulnerable, innocent and dependent.✓ Later on she became strong, independent and brave.✓ (3)
  6. Both households have lost a child as a result of their feud.✓ They make peace and decide to build golden statues of both Romeo and Juliet.✓ (3)
- [20]**

## Act 5, Scene 1

- **Romeo thinks that Juliet is dead**
  - **Setting: A street in Mantua**
- 

### What happens?

- **Romeo** tells us of a dream he has had in which Juliet found him dead and brought him back to life with a kiss. Romeo woke up thinking that he would get some good news.
- **Balthasar**, Romeo's servant, comes from Verona to bring the news that Juliet is dead. He does not bring the letters from the Friar that Romeo was hoping for.
- Romeo is distraught and wants to go to Verona immediately. Balthasar suggests he waits until he calms down. Something bad may happen if he rushes in such a wild state. But Romeo orders him to prepare the horses so he can leave that night.
- Romeo decides to go to Juliet's tomb and kill himself there – so they can be together in death.
- Romeo goes to an apothecary (chemist) to buy some poison.



## Activity 21

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Romeo buys poison from an apothecary.]

### APOTHECARY

Who calls so loud?

### ROMEO

Come hither, man. I see that thou art poor:

Hold, there is forty ducats: let me have

A dram of poison, such soon-speeding gear

As will disperse itself through all the veins

That the life-weary taker may fall dead

And that the trunk may be discharged of breath

As violently as hasty powder fired

Doth hurry from the fatal cannon's womb.

### APOTHECARY

Such mortal drugs I have; but Mantua's law

Is death to any he that utters them.

### ROMEO

Art thou so bare and full of wretchedness,

And fear'st to die? Famine is in thy cheeks,

Need and oppression starveth in thine eyes,

Contempt and beggary hangs upon thy back;

The world is not thy friend nor the world's law;

The world affords no law to make thee rich;

Then be not poor, but break it, and take this.

### APOTHECARY

My poverty, but not my will, consents.

### ROMEO

I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.

### APOTHECARY

Put this in any liquid thing you will,

And drink it off; and, if you had the strength

Of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight.

### ROMEO

There is thy gold – worse poison to men's souls,

Doing more murders in this loathsome world,

Than these poor compounds that thou mayst not sell.

I sell thee poison; thou hast sold me none.

Farewell: buy food, and get thyself in flesh.

Come, cordial and not poison, go with me

To Juliet's grave; for there must I use thee.



## Questions

1. Romeo is in Mantua, but it is not his hometown. What is his hometown? (1)
2. Choose the correct answer to complete the following sentence:  
While in Mantua, Romeo is visited by ...  
A Friar John.  
B Benvolio.  
C Balthasar.  
D Sampson. (1)
3. Romeo is visiting the apothecary because a very important letter from Friar Lawrence has not reached him. Give THREE reasons why the letter has been delayed. (3)
4. Refer to lines 7 – 8 – (“the trunk may ... hasty powder fired”).  
a) Which figure of speech is used here? (1)  
b) According to these lines, which TWO qualities does Romeo expect from the poison? (2)
5. Refer to lines 10 – 11 (“But Mantua’s law ... that utters them”). What is “Mantua’s law” regarding the sale of poison? (1)
6. Is the following statement True or False? Quote ONE line from the extract to support your answer:  
Romeo feels that gold is more harmful than poison. (2)
7. Using your own words, explain how Romeo convinces the apothecary to sell him the poison. (2)
8. Do you think that Romeo is admirable, even though he is not perfect? Discuss your view. (2)
9. If you were Romeo, discuss TWO things you would do differently to avoid the tragic ending of this play. (2)
10. Following on his decision to commit suicide, Romeo reveals a new side to his character in his behaviour towards the apothecary, Balthasar, his own parents and Paris. Give FOUR examples of Romeo’s interactions with these people to illustrate this change. (4)

[21]

## Answers to Activity 21

1. Verona✓ (1)
2. C✓ (1)
3. Friar Lawrence asked Friar John to accompany him to Mantua to deliver the letter to Romeo. But Friar John was visiting plague-infested people and all the doors were sealed off. Nobody wanted to risk being infected by the letter.✓ The wedding was put forward from Thursday to Wednesday.✓ There was not enough time for the letter to reach Romeo.✓ (3)
- 4 a) Metaphor✓ (1)  
b) Romeo expects the poison to work fast✓ and stop his breathing.✓ (2)
5. If you sell poison, you get the death sentence.✓ (1)
6. True. Line 24 – “There is thy gold – worse poison to men’s souls”.✓✓ (2)
7. He convinces the poor apothecary that the law hasn’t helped him, so why obey it?✓ Romeo also says that the gold he offers the apothecary has done more harm than poison.✓ (2)
8. Yes, I admire his courage and determination to carry out his plan.✓✓  
OR  
No, through out the play he acts without thinking properly and makes many mistakes that hurt other people.✓✓ (2)
9. I would first go to Friar Lawrence for advice.✓ I would inform my parents of my problem or tell them I am married to our enemy’s daughter.✓ (2)
10. Romeo has matured and thinks logically. He reasons with the apothecary;✓ he instructs Balthasar clearly on what to do;✓ he writes his father a suicide letter✓ and he warns Paris to leave him alone.✓ (4)

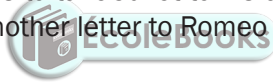
**[21]**

## Act 5, Scene 2

- **Friar John tells Friar Lawrence that he did not deliver the message to Romeo**
  - **Setting: Friar Lawrence's cell**
- 

### What happens?

- **Friar John** comes to **Friar Lawrence** who asks for news from Romeo.
- Friar John explains that he could not go to Mantua to deliver the letter to Romeo. He went to ask another Friar to travel with him to Mantua. He found him in a house caring for people who were sick. Others thought they had the plague and sealed the doors to stop anyone leaving the house and spreading the infection.
- Friar Lawrence tells Friar John to fetch a crowbar so that he can open Juliet's tomb.
- He rushes off to the tomb because he knows that Juliet will wake up within three hours.
- He plans to take Juliet to his cell where she can wait for Romeo. He will write another letter to Romeo to tell him the new plan.





## Activity 22

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[In Friar Lawrence's cell]

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Who bare my letter, then, to Romeo?

### FRIAR JOHN

I could not send it, — here it is again, —  
Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,  
So fearful were they of infection.

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Unhappy fortune! by my brotherhood,  
The letter was not nice but full of charge  
Of dear import, and the neglecting it  
May do much danger. Friar John, go hence;  
Get me an iron crow, and bring it straight  
Unto my cell.

### FRIAR JOHN

Brother, I'll go and bring it thee.

*Exit*

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Now must I to the monument alone;  
Within three hours will fair Juliet wake:  
She will beshrew me much that Romeo  
Hath had no notice of these accidents;  
But I will write again to Mantua,  
And keep her at my cell till Romeo come;  
Poor living corse, closed in a dead man's tomb!  
To Juliet's grave; for there must I use thee.

5

10

15



## Questions

1. In the above extract Friar Lawrence learns from Friar John that he couldn't deliver the letter to Romeo. Briefly explain how destiny or fate once again interfered in the delivery of the letter to Romeo. (2)
  2. What does Friar Lawrence then tell Friar John about the nature of the letter? (2)
  3. What is Friar Lawrence's next step? (3)
- [7]**

### Answers to Activity 22

1. Friar Lawrence asked Friar John to accompany him to Mantua to deliver the letter to Romeo. But Friar John was visiting plague-infested people and all the doors were sealed off.✓  
Nobody wanted to risk being infected by the letter.✓ (2)
  2. The letter was not pleasant, but very important.✓ Not delivering it could result in terrible consequences.✓ (2)
  3. He will go to the Capulet tomb and be at Juliet's side when she wakes up.✓ Then he plans to take her to his cell and look after her there until Romeo arrives.✓✓ (3)
- [7]**



## Act 5, Scene 3

- ▶ Romeo and Juliet die, and their families are reconciled
  - ▶ Setting: Churchyard and Capulet family tomb in Verona
- 



## A scene in three parts

'This is the last scene in the play. It is very long, so this study guide divides it into three parts:

1. Paris and Romeo at Juliet's tomb
2. Friar Lawrence arrives at the tomb. Juliet's death
3. The arrival of Romeo and Juliet's parents with the Prince

## Act 5, Scene 3: Part 1

### ► Paris and Romeo at Juliet's tomb

---

### What happens?

- **Paris** comes to put flowers on Juliet's grave. His **Page** keeps watch nearby.
- **Romeo** and **Balthasar** arrive with tools to open the grave.
- Romeo gives Balthasar a letter to deliver to Lord Montague in the morning.
- He tells Balthasar that he wants to recover a ring from Juliet's finger.
- Romeo tells Balthasar to go and not to return. But Balthasar is worried and hides nearby.
- Romeo breaks open the tomb.
- Paris recognises Romeo as the man who killed Tybalt. Paris thinks that Juliet died from grief at Tybalt's death. He thinks Romeo has come to damage the Capulet bodies in the tomb.
- Paris tells Romeo to stop and come with him. He will probably take him to the Prince, whose orders Romeo has disobeyed.
- Romeo does not want to fight Paris. He tells him to leave.
- Paris refuses to go and they fight. Paris's Page is worried about the fight and goes to tell the watchmen.
- Paris dies, asking to be laid with Juliet in her tomb.
- Romeo recognises Paris as a relative of Mercutio. He remembers that his servant told him Paris was to marry Juliet.
- Romeo lays Paris in the tomb.
- Romeo drinks the poison and dies.





## Activity 23

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Outside the Capulet's tomb in the churchyard]

### BALTHASAR

I will be gone, sir, and not trouble you.

### ROMEO

So shalt thou show me friendship. Take thou that:  
Live, and be prosperous: and farewell, good fellow.

### BALTHASAR

[Aside] For all this same, I'll hide me hereabout:  
His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt.

5

*Retires*

### ROMEO

Thou detestable maw, thou womb of death,  
Gorged with the dearest morsel of the earth,  
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,  
And, in despite, I'll cram thee with more food!

*Opens the tomb*

### PARIS

This is that banish'd haughty Montague,  
That murder'd my love's cousin, with which grief,  
It is supposed, the fair creature died;  
And here is come to do some villanous shame  
To the dead bodies: I will apprehend him.

10

*Comes forward*

Stop thy unhallow'd toil, vile Montague!  
Can vengeance be pursued further than death?  
Condemned villain, I do apprehend thee:  
Obey, and go with me; for thou must die.

15

### ROMEO

I must indeed; and therefore came I hither.  
Good gentle youth, tempt not a desperate man;  
Fly hence, and leave me: think upon these gone;  
Let them affright thee. I beseech thee, youth,  
Put not another sin upon my head,  
By urging me to fury: O, be gone!  
By heaven, I love thee better than myself;  
For I come hither arm'd against myself:  
Stay not, be gone; live, and hereafter say,  
A madman's mercy bade thee run away.

20

25

### PARIS

I do defy thy conjurations,  
And apprehend thee for a felon here.

30

### ROMEO

Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, boy!

## Questions

1. Whom does Romeo visit before coming to the Capulets' tomb?  
Why does he do so? (2)
2. Refer to lines 2 – 3 ("So shalt thou ... farewell, good fellow").  
Explain why Romeo pays Balthasar to go away. (2)
3. Refer to lines 4 – 5 ("For all this ... intents I doubt"). Explain  
what these lines reveal about Balthasar's feelings towards  
Romeo. (2)
4. Refer to lines 6 – 9 ("Thou detestable maw ... with more food").  
a) Identify the figure of speech used in line 6 ("Thou  
detestable maw, thou womb of death"). (1)  
b) Explain what Romeo means in these lines. (2)
5. What eventually happens to Paris? (1)
6. State briefly who Paris is and what he is doing in the  
churchyard. (2)
7. Paris calls Romeo a "condemned villain". Why does he call  
Romeo this? (3)
8. In what other more serious ways would you regard Romeo as  
"condemned"? (2)
9. Where and when does this incident take place? (2)
10. In line 11 Paris speaks of "my love's cousin". To whom is he  
referring? (1)
11. Why, according to Paris, did Juliet "die"? (2)
12. When Paris sees Romeo, what does he think Romeo is doing  
there? (2)
13. Explain why Paris says: "I do apprehend thee / Obey, and go  
with me ..." (lines 17 – 18). (2)
14. Quote a phrase that proves that Romeo doesn't recognise  
Paris. (1)
15. Why does Romeo say he is "armed against" himself? (line 26) (2)
16. What is the tragic result of this incident? Base your answer  
on line 31 ("Wilt thou provoke ... at thee, boy!"). (2)

[31]

**Answers to Activity 23**

1. Romeo visits a poor apothecary✓ in Mantua to buy poison.✓ (2)
2. He is afraid Balthasar will try and stop him from killing himself.✓✓ (2)
3. Balthasar cares a lot about Romeo and sees Romeo looks reckless.✓ He is suspicious of Romeo's plans.✓ (2)
- 4 a) Personification✓ (1)  
b) Romeo sees the tomb as a monster with a huge appetite, hungry for more bodies to devour.✓✓ (2)
5. Paris doesn't want to leave Romeo alone and Romeo kills him.✓ (1)
6. Paris was supposed to get married to Juliet on the Wednesday she was found "dead". He is also a relative of Prince Escalus. He went to the churchyard to cry over Juliet's dead body and to put down flowers and perfumed water.✓✓ (2)
7. "Condemned villain" means convicted criminal.✓ Prince Escalus had already found Romeo guilty of murdering Tybalt and banished him to Mantua.✓ Paris holds Romeo responsible for Juliet's death too, as he believes she died of grief over Tybalt's death.✓ (3)
8. Romeo is a victim of fate – fate treats him badly.✓ In the end he'll have to pay with his life.✓ (2)
9. The incident takes place at the Capulet tomb✓ when Romeo has just arrived from Mantua to drink poison next to Juliet's "dead" body.✓ (2)
10. Tybalt✓ (1)
11. Paris thinks Juliet dies of grief over her cousin, Tybalt.✓✓ (2)
12. He thinks Romeo wants to avenge the death of Mercutio by harming the Capulet bodies in the tomb.✓✓ (2)
13. He wants to arrest Romeo and give him over to the authorities.✓✓ (2)
14. "Good gentle youth" (line 20)✓  
OR  
"I beseech thee, youth" (line 22).✓ (1)
15. He is armed with poison to commit suicide and has a dagger.✓✓ (2)
16. Paris doesn't want to leave Romeo alone and calls him a criminal. Romeo kills Paris.✓✓ (3)

**[31]**

## Act 5, Scene 3: Part 2

- Friar Lawrence arrives at the tomb
  - Juliet's death
- 

### What happens?

- **Friar Lawrence** meets **Balthasar** who tells him that Romeo is at the tomb. The Friar carries a lantern, crowbar and a spade to the tomb.
- Friar Lawrence sees the blood from the fight at the entrance to the tomb, then sees the dead bodies of **Romeo** and **Paris**.
- **Juliet** awakens. She sees the Friar and asks where Romeo is.
- Friar Lawrence hears the **watchmen** coming. He tells Juliet to come with him. He says both Romeo and Paris are dead. He will take her to a convent.
- Juliet tells Friar Lawrence to leave. She will stay.
- Juliet tries to find some of the poison in Romeo's cup and on his lips but there is none.
- She hears the watchmen arriving, and quickly kills herself with Romeo's dagger.





## Activity 24

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[Friar Lawrence has come to the Capulet's tomb to rescue Juliet.]

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

Romeo!

*Advances*

Alack, alack, what blood is this, which stains

The stony entrance of this sepulchre?

What mean these masterless and gory swords

To lie discolour'd by this place of peace?

5

*Enters the tomb*

Romeo! O, pale! Who else? What, Paris too?

And steep'd in blood? Ah, what an unkind hour

Is guilty of this lamentable chance!

The lady stirs.

*JULIET wakes*

### JULIET

O comfortable friar! where is my lord?

10

I do remember well where I should be,

And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

*Noise within*

### FRIAR LAWRENCE

I hear some noise. Lady, come from that nest

Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep:

A greater power than we can contradict

15

Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.

Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;

And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee

Among a sisterhood of holy nuns:

Stay not to question, for the watch is coming;

20

Come, go, good Juliet, I dare no longer stay.



## Questions

1. Refer to lines 6 – 7 (“What, Paris, too ... steeped in blood?”).
    - a) Why does Juliet’s father want her to marry Paris? (2)
    - b) Discuss the events that lead to the death of Paris. (2)
  2. Refer to lines 13 - 21 (“I hear some ... no longer stay.”).  
Discuss Friar Lawrence’s fears at this point in the play. (3)
  3. Refer to lines 15 – 16 (“A greater power ... thwarted our intents.”).
    - a) Explain what Friar Lawrence means by, “A greater power”. (2)
    - b) Do you agree that it is “a greater power” that has altered their plans? Give reasons for your answer. (3)
  4. Refer to lines 16 – 20 (“Come, come away ... watch is coming.”). In your view, are Friar Lawrence’s suggestions in these lines wise? Why? (2)
- [14]**

## Answers to Activity 24

1. a) Paris is very wealthy and related to the Prince.✓ Capulet believes marriage to Paris will stop Juliet from grieving over Tybalt’s death.✓ (2)  
b) When Paris finds Romeo at the Capulet’s tomb, Paris tries to arrest him.✓ They fight and Romeo kills Paris.✓ (2)
2. The Friar is afraid that he will be in serious trouble with both families and the Prince when his role in Romeo’s death is uncovered.✓ He will find it difficult to explain why Juliet is still alive, and how the potion was used to prevent Juliet’s marriage to Paris.✓ He is afraid of what Juliet might do if she remains in the tomb where Romeo’s body now lies.✓ (3)
3. a) He means that fate, destiny or God has played a role in the letter not reaching Romeo in time.✓✓ (2)  
b) Yes. The reason the letter does not reach Romeo in time is because of the plague. None of the characters could have controlled this.✓ It is therefore destiny or God that prevents the letter from reaching Romeo in time, and results in the tragic deaths.✓✓  
OR  
No. It is Romeo’s hasty decision to commit suicide,✓ so one cannot blame anyone else or any other force.✓✓ (3)
4. Yes. He does not want their plot to be exposed as it could endanger both Juliet and himself.✓✓  
OR  
No. He has just informed Juliet that Romeo is dead and should not expect her to leave immediately.✓✓ (2)

**[14]**



## Act 5, Scene 3: Part 3

- The arrival of Romeo's father and Juliet's parents with the Prince
- 





## What happens?

- Paris's **Page** arrives with the **watchmen**. They see the blood on the ground and search the churchyard.
- They find the bodies of **Paris, Romeo** and **Juliet**.
- Watchmen go to tell the Prince, Capulets and Montagues.
- Some watchmen find **Balthasar** in the churchyard. Another watchman has found **Friar Lawrence**. They are both suspects, as they have tools with which to open a tomb, and are told to wait for the Prince.
- The **Prince** arrives, followed by **Lord** and **Lady Capulet**.
- Juliet's parents ask what has happened. Lady Capulet has heard people running in the streets towards the churchyard, some crying "Romeo", others "Juliet".
- **Lord Montague** arrives. He says that his wife died that night because of grief over her son's exile.
- The Prince orders the tomb to be closed until he finds out what happened. He asks three people to tell their story:
  1. Friar Lawrence;
  2. Balthasar; and
  3. Paris's Page.
- 1. **Friar Lawrence** admits to being partly responsible for the deaths. The truth is finally told. The Friar explains that:
  - He married Romeo and Juliet in secret and, on the same day, Romeo killed Tybalt and was banished.
  - Juliet grieved for Romeo, not Tybalt. She was told to marry Paris and so went to the Friar for help. She threatened to kill herself if he could not help.
  - He gave Juliet a sleeping potion, but Romeo did not get his letter explaining the plan.
  - He came to the churchyard to rescue Juliet from the tomb and take her to his cell. But when he arrived he saw Paris and Romeo dead. Juliet woke and he tried to comfort her. He heard a noise and in fear left the tomb; Juliet would not go with him.
  - The Friar says the nurse can confirm that the marriage took place. If he is found to be at fault he is prepared to be punished for it.
- 2. **Balthasar** tells his story:
  - He told Romeo that Juliet was dead. Romeo hurried to the tomb and told Balthasar to leave him there.
  - Balthasar gave the Prince the letter Romeo had written to his father. He had told Balthasar to give it to Lord Montague.

3. The **Page** explains why Paris had come to the tomb:

- The Page says Paris had come to put flowers on Juliet's grave. Paris told him to keep watch nearby.
- Paris drew his sword against Romeo and the Page ran away to get help.
- The Prince reads Romeo's letter. It shows that what Friar Lawrence has said is true. Romeo had also written about getting the poison from the apothecary and his intention to die in the tomb with Juliet.
- The Prince then speaks to Lord Capulet and Lord Montague, and blames their feud for all the trouble. He also blames himself for not being firmer with them.
- Capulet and Montague shake hands, both in grief for their loss.
- The Prince speaks of the sad peace that has come that morning.





## Activity 25

Read the extract and then answer the questions below.

[The scene at the tomb following the deaths of Paris, Romeo and Juliet.]

### SECOND WATCHMAN

Here's Romeo's man; we found him in the churchyard.

### FIRST WATCHMAN

Hold him in safety, till the prince come hither.

*Re-enter others of the Watch, with FRIAR LAWRENCE*

### THIRD WATCHMAN

Here is a friar, that trembles, sighs and weeps:

We took this mattock and this spade from him,

As he was coming from this churchyard side.

5

### FIRST WATCHMAN

A great suspicion: stay the friar too.

*Enter the PRINCE and Attendants*

### PRINCE

What misadventure is so early up,

That calls our person from our morning's rest?

*Enter CAPULET, LADY CAPULET, and others*

### CAPULET

What should it be, that they so shriek abroad?

### LADY CAPULET

The people in the street cry Romeo,

Some Juliet, and some Paris; and all run,

With open outcry toward our monument.

10

### PRINCE

What fear is this which startles in our ears?

### FIRST WATCHMAN

Sovereign, here lies the County Paris slain;

And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before,

Warm and new kill'd.

15

### PRINCE

Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes.

### FIRST WATCHMAN

Here is a friar, and slaughter'd Romeo's man;

With instruments upon them, fit to open

These dead men's tombs.

20

### CAPULET

O heavens! O wife, look how our daughter bleeds!

This dagger hath mista'en—for, lo, his house

Is empty on the back of Montague,—

And it mis-sheathed in my daughter's bosom!

### LADY CAPULET

O me! this sight of death is as a bell,

That warns my old age to a sepulchre.

25

## Questions

1. Refer to line 1 ("Here's Romeo's man").
    - a) Who is Romeo's man? (1)
    - b) How has he disobeyed Romeo's orders? (2)
    - c) Give the reason for his disobedience. (1)
  2. Refer to line 3 ("... a friar that trembles, sighs and weeps").
    - a) Explain why Friar Lawrence is in this state. Give TWO reasons. (2)
    - b) Explain how the Friar's behaviour earlier in the play is different from his behaviour here. State TWO points. (2)
    - c) Do you feel sorry for Friar Lawrence? Discuss your view. (3)
  3. Is the following statement TRUE or FALSE? Give a reason for your answer.  
Lines 14 – 15 mean that Juliet died before Paris and Romeo. (2)
  4. Write down ONE word to describe the mood in the tomb at this stage. (1)
- [14]**

## Answers to Activity 25

1. a) Balthasar✓ (1)  
b) Romeo asked him to leave, and even paid him to go.✓✓ (2)  
c) He was worried about Romeo and suspicious of his intentions.✓ (1)
  2. a) He knows he will be in trouble.✓ He can even be arrested for helping Romeo and Juliet to betray everybody.✓ (2)  
b) Earlier Friar Lawrence was always in control and had a plan.✓ Now he is nervous and has no plan.✓ (2)  
c) Yes, I feel sorry for him.✓ He only wanted to help the young lovers and eventually end the feud.✓✓  
OR  
No, I don't feel sorry for him.✓ His plans constantly fail and the fact that he kept them secret from the parents' of the lovers means that he lied to them.✓ He should have been honest with them.✓ (3)
  3. False. Juliet is still warm and this proves she died recently.✓✓ (2)
  4. Confused✓  
OR  
Grieving✓ (1)
- [14]**



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