Verona and the scene is set – Romeo and Juliet the plot LIT 2A

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| Act in R&J | What happens: |
| Act 1 – Prologue | Find out the story in a condensed version |
| Act 1, Scene 1: [Verona. A public place.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.1.1.html) | Servants of the Montagues (Romeo) and Capulets (Juliet) start street brawl showing rivalry and tension between the families. We discover Romeo loves Rosalind. |
| Act 1, Scene 2: [A street.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.1.2.html) | Paris asks Capulet if he can marry Juliet. Romeo discovers that Rosalind will be at the Capulet ball that evening. |
| Act 1, Scene 3: [A room in Capulet's house.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.1.3.html) | Lady Capulet tells Juliet about Paris’s proposal. The nurse interrupts with a long story of her as a baby. |
| Act 1, Scene 4: [A street.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.1.4.html) | Romeo has a feeling that something terrible will happen if he goes to the ball but he goes anyway. |
| Act 1, Scene 5: [A hall in Capulet's house.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.1.5.html) | The Montagues go to the ball and Romeo forgets Rosalind as soon as he sees Juliet. Tybalt recognises them but Lord Capulet will not allow a fight |
| Act 2, Prologue: [PROLOGUE](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.2.0.html) | The chorus informs us the pain R&J are in as they can’t meet but passion will find a way. |
| Act 2, Scene 1: [A lane by the wall of Capulet's orchard.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.2.1.html) | Romeo jumps into the Capulet garden to catch a glimpse of Juliet. |
| Act 2, Scene 2: Capulet's orchard | The Balcony Scene: Romeo professes his love to Juliet. They arrange a meeting. |
| Act 2, Scene 3: [Friar Laurence's cell.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.2.3.html) | Romeo goes to Friar Lawrence to arrange to marry Juliet – he agrees thinking it will end the feud between the families |
| Act 2, Scene 4: [A street.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.2.4.html) | Tybalt sends a challenge to Romeo. The Nurse gets the information about the wedding as a message to Juliet. |
| Act 2, Scene 5: [Capulet's orchard.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.2.5.html) | The nurse delivers the news to Juliet of her upcoming marriage to Romeo. |
| Act 2, Scene 6: [Friar Laurence's cell.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.2.6.html) | They marry. |
| Act 3, Scene 1: [A public place.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.3.1.html) | Romeo tries to avoid fighting. Mercutio is wounded and killed by Tybalt. Romeo then avenges his death and kills Tybalt. Romeo is exiled for his part in this. |
| Act 3, Scene 2: [Capulet's orchard.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.3.2.html) | Juliet learns of Tybalt’s death and Romeo’s banishment and is distraught over the loss of her love. |
| Act 3, Scene 3: [Friar Laurence's cell.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.3.3.html) | Both Romeo and Juliet are distraught at the separation. Romeo tries to stab himself but is convinced to hold on by Friar Laurence. |
| Act 3, Scene 4: [A room in Capulet's house.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.3.4.html) | Capulet promises on impulse that Juliet will marry Paris in two days. |
| Act 3, Scene 5: [Capulet's orchard.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.3.5.html) | Lady Capulet informs Juliet of her upcoming marriage. She is threatened by her father if she refuses to be thrown out. The Nurse says she should marry Paris. |
| Act 4, Scene 1: [Friar Laurence's cell.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.4.1.html) | Friar plans to give Juliet a drug that makes her appear dead for 48 hours to escape for Mantua and a new life with Romeo |
| Act 4, Scene 2: [Hall in Capulet's house.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.4.2.html) | Juliet goes to her father and agrees to marry Paris. He moves the wedding forward a day. |
| Act 4, Scene 3: Juliet's chamber. | Juliet takes the poison. |
| Act 4, Scene 4: [Hall in Capulet's house.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.4.4.html) | Capulet sends the nurse to waken Juliet. |
| Act 4, Scene 5: [Juliet's chamber.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.4.5.html) | The Nurse tries to wake Juliet, but finds that she is (apparently) dead. All are grief stricken but Friar Laurence arranges the funeral quickly. |
| Act 5, Scene 1: [Mantua. A street.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.5.1.html) | Romeo hears wrongly of Juliet’s death, buys poison and returns to join her. |
| Act 5, Scene 2: [Friar Laurence's cell.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.5.2.html) | Friar John explains why he didn’t deliver the letter and F L sends another. |
| Act 5, Scene 3: [A churchyard; in it a tomb belonging to the Capulets.](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/romeo_juliet.5.3.html) | Outside the tomb where Juliet is (apparently dead) Romeo and Paris fight. Paris is killed. Romeo takes the poison and dies. Juliet wakes and finding Romeo dead kills herself with his dagger. |

The tragedy of Romeo and Juliet LIT 1A

Who’s who in this fatal game of love?

Montagues

**Romeo:** our main male protagonist, a Montague, falls in love easily, rejects his family for love of Juliet, hot-headed, kills Tybalt (Juliet’s cousin), marries young and dies tragically

**Lord Montague and Lady Montague**: father and mother to Romeo, maintain the feud between the Capulets and the Montagues, mother shows maternal instinct and caring for Romeo, mother dies heartbroken at the end

**Mercutio:** A family member of the Prince, and Romeo's

**Benvolio:** Montague's nephew, Romeo's cousin and thoughtful friend, he makes a genuine effort to defuse violent scenes in public places, though Mercutio accuses him of having a nasty temper in private. He spends most of the play trying to help Romeo get his mind off Rosaline, even after Romeo has fallen in love with Juliet.

**Balthasar:** Romeo's dedicated servant, who brings Romeo the news of Juliet's death, unaware that her death is a ruse.

**Abram:** Montague's servant, who fights with Sampson and Gregory in the first scene of the play.

Capulets

**Juliet**: our main female protagonist, a Capulet, falls in love quickly and completely, rejects the rules of her family and patriarchy, considered in some of her actions, impulsive when emotional, marries young and dies tragically

**The Nurse:** Juliet’s companion and confidante, like a mother to Juliet, unquestioningly helps Juliet marry Romeo, advisor and friend

**Lord Capulet**: Juliet’s father, arranges her marriage to Paris, no consultation with Juliet on this, disowns her and is rude and angry towards her when she disagrees, epitomises the patriarchal society, rules his home with an iron fist, makes all the important decisions, agrees to let old quarrels die after the death of Juliet

**Lady Capulet**: Juliet’s mother, distant from Juliet, non-maternal, very young (implies she was 14 when she had Juliet), does as Lord C tells her, could be considered a victim of the patriarchal society

**Tybalt**: Juliet’s cousin, king of the ‘Cats’ meaning the leader of the Capulet gang,vain, fashionable, supremely aware of courtesy and the lack of it, he becomes aggressive, violent, and quick to draw his sword when he feels his pride has been injured. Once drawn, his sword is something to be feared. He hates Montagues.

**Paris:** A kinsman of the Prince, and the suitor of Juliet most preferred by Capulet. Once Capulet has promised him he can marry Juliet, he behaves very presumptuous toward Juliet, acting as if they are already married.

**Peter:** A Capulet servant who invites guests to Capulet's feast and escorts the Nurse to meet with Romeo.

**Rosaline:** The woman with whom Romeo is infatuated at the beginning of the play. Rosaline never appears onstage, but it is said by other characters that she is very beautiful and has sworn to live a life of chastity.

**Sampson & Gregory:** Two servants of the house of Capulet, who, like their master, hate the Montagues. At the outset of the play, they successfully provoke some Montague men into a fight.

**Peter:** A Capulet servant who invites guests to Capulet's feast and escorts the Nurse to meet with Romeo.

**Characters Non-Affiliated to a family**

**Friar Laurence:** Priest who secretly marries Romeo and Juliet in hopes that the union might eventually bring peace to Verona.

**Paris:** A kinsman of the Prince, and the suitor of Juliet most preferred by Capulet. Once Capulet has promised him he can marry Juliet, he behaves very presumptuous toward Juliet, acting as if they are already married.

**Prince Escalus:** The Prince of Verona. A kinsman of Mercutio and Paris. As the seat of political power in Verona, he is concerned about maintaining the public peace at all costs.

**Themes in Romeo and Juliet LIT 1A**

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| --- | --- |
| **Love**Shown through the character of Romeo – unrequited love towards RosalindCourtly Love – Love that isn’t reciprocatedLove at first sight between Romeo and Juliet Over-the-top, romantic love R&J Love for the family – R and the Montagues Juliet and the nurse – maternal love Capulets love for the family  | **War**Civil war between the two familiesFeuds in the streets between the two familiesRomeo tries to avoid fighting with TybaltTybalt tries to engage the Capulets in fighting at the ball |
| **Family** Both main families are loyal to their own. The Capulets and the Montagues.Family means everything and it would be disrespectful to the family to go against them.Women are expected to marry young. 14 years old was when Juliet’s mother married. | **Patriarchy**Men rule in society and believe women are sub-servant to menShown by Lord Capulet and the way he treats Juliet – insulting and threatening to throw her outExpects Juliet to marry who he says because he says it |
| **Law** The Prince is the final lawmaker in R&J He splits up the initial fight in the streets of Verona and warns the rebellious citizens against further misdemeanours  | **Religion**Friar Lawrence is neutral – he wants the best for both families Religionwas very important to the whole society Friar Lawrence helps them marry in secret He isdisloyal to the families by doing this but wants to bring the family together again Supported by the NurseCould be considered pivotal to the ending as his plan to reunite the two start crossed loversas the message doesn’tget through to Juliet culminating in the deaths |
| **Rebellion**On the streets of Verona against each other’s familiesAgainst the rules of patriarchy – Juliet disobeys her father Against the unwritten laws of the society where women were supposed to be sub-servant, meek and agree/do everything the men statedAgainst his family – Romeo  | **Death**Paris towards Juliet – even in death he wants to see her Mercutio dies and puts a plague on all the houses Tybalt is killed by Romeo Juliet pretends to die in order to lure Romeo back to Verona Romeo warns and fights Paris at the tomb to Paris’ deathRomeo thinking Juliet is dead kills himself with poison Juliet wakes and stabs herself  |

**Shakespeare Extract LIT 1A**

**Act 1 Scene 1, lines 165 to 220**

**In this extract, Romeo tells Benvolio he is in love with Rosaline, who does not love him.**

**ROMEO** Alas, that Love, whose view is muffl ed still, 165

Should without eyes see pathways to his will!

Where shall we dine? O me! What fray was here?

Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all.

Here’s much to do with hate, but more with love.

Why then, O brawling love, O loving hate, 170

O anything of nothing fi rst create!

O heavy lightness, serious vanity,

Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms!

Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fi re, sick health,

Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is! 175

This love feel I, that feel no love in this.

Dost thou not laugh?

**BENVOLIO** No, coz, I rather weep.

**ROMEO** Good heart, at what?

**BENVOLIO** At *thy* good heart’s oppression.

ROMEO Why, such is love’s transgression.

Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast, 180

Which thou wilt propagate to have it pressed

With more of thine. This love that thou hast shown

Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.

Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs:

Being purged, a fi re sparkling in lovers’ eyes; 185

Being vexed, a sea nourished with loving tears.

What is it else? A madness most discreet,

A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.

Farewell, my coz.

**BENVOLIO** Soft, I will go along –

And if you leave me so, you do me wrong. 190

**ROMEO** Tut, I have lost myself. I am not here.

This is not Romeo: he’s some other where.

**BENVOLIO** Tell me in sadness, who is that you love?

**ROMEO** What, shall I groan and tell thee?

**BENVOLIO** Groan? Why no –

But sadly tell me who. 195

**ROMEO** Bid a sick man in sadness make his will –

A word ill urged to one that is so ill.

In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.

**BENVOLIO** I aimed so near when I supposed you loved.

**ROMEO** A right good mark-man! And she’s fair I love. 200

**BENVOLIO** A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest hit.

**ROMEO** Well, in that hit you miss. She’ll not be hit

With Cupid’s arrow. She hath Dian’s wit,

And in strong proof of chastity well-armed,

From Love’s weak childish bow she lives uncharmed. 205

She will not stay the siege of loving terms,

Nor bide th’ encounter of assailing eyes,

Nor ope her lap to saint-seducing gold.

O, she is rich in beauty – only poor

That when she dies, with beauty dies her store. 210

**BENVOLIO** Then she hath sworn that she will still live chaste?

**ROMEO** She hath, and in that sparing makes huge waste,

For beauty, starved with her severity,

Cuts beauty off from all posterity.

She is too fair, too wise, wisely too fair, 215

To merit bliss by making me despair.

She hath forsworn to love, and in that vow

Do I live dead, that live to tell it now.

**BENVOLIO** Be ruled by me: forget to think of her.

**ROMEO** O, teach me how I should forget to think! 220

***Romeo and Juliet***

*(a)* Read the extract above.

Look at how Juliet and Benvolio speak and behave here. What does it reveal to an

audience about the action at this point in the play? Refer closely to details from the

extract to support your answer. [15]

***This question assesses AO1 and AO2.***

\*(b) ‘Being related is one of the pivotal forces which drive the action forward.’ Show how Family relationships and loyalty could be described as important to the play as a whole. [20 + 5]

*\*5 of this question’s marks are allocated for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and the use of*

*vocabulary and sentence structures.*

***This question assesses AO1, AO2 and AO4 (5 additional marks).***

**Shakespeare Extract LIT 1A**

**Act 2 Scene 2, lines 2 to 69**

**In this extract, Romeo overhears Juliet talking about him, and then declares his love for her.**

*Enter* JULIET*, coming to her window-balcony above.* ROMEO,

*below, sees the light at the window, then realises it is* JULIET.

**ROMEO** – 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 5

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! 10

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, 15

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 20

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 her hand,

That I might touch that cheek!

**JULIET** Ay me!

**ROMEO** (*Aside*) She speaks. 25

O speak again, bright angel! – For thou art

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

As is a wingèd messenger of heaven

Unto the white-upturnèd wondering eyes

Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him 30

When he bestrides the lazy-pacing clouds,

And sails upon the bosom of the air.

**JULIET** O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?

Deny thy father and refuse thy name –

Or if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love 35

And I’ll no longer be a Capulet.

**ROMEO** (*Aside*) Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

**JULIET** ’Tis but thy name that is my enemy.

Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.

What’s ‘Montague’? It is nor hand, nor foot, 40

Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part

Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!

What’s in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other word would smell as sweet.

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called, 45

Retain that dear perfection which he owes

Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name –

And for that name, which is no part of thee,

Take all myself.

**ROMEO** I take thee at thy word.

Call me but love, and I’ll be new-baptized. 50

Henceforth, I never will be Romeo.

**JULIET** What man art thou, that thus bescreened in night

So stumblest on my counsel?

**ROMEO** By a name

I know not how to tell thee who I am.

My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself 55

Because it is an enemy to thee.

Had I it written, I would tear the word.

**JULIET** My ears have yet not drunk a hundred words

Of thy tongue’s uttering, yet I know the sound.

Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague? 60

**ROMEO** Neither, fair maid, if either thee dislike.

**JULIET** How cam’st thou hither, tell me, and wherefore?

The orchard walls are high and hard to climb –

And the place death, considering who thou art,

If any of my kinsmen fi nd thee here. 65

**ROMEO** With love’s light wings did I o’erperch these walls,

For stony limits cannot hold love out –

And what love can do, that dares love attempt.

Therefore thy kinsmen are no stop to me.

***Romeo and Juliet***

*(a)* Read the extract above.

Look at how Romeo and Juliet speak and behave here. What does it reveal to an

audience about their relationship at this point in the play? Refer closely to details from the

extract to support your answer. [15]

***This question assesses AO1 and AO2.***

\*(b) ‘Love is one of the main themes in the play.’ Show how Love could be described as important to the play as a whole. [20 + 5]

*\*5 of this question’s marks are allocated for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and the use of*

*vocabulary and sentence structures.*

***This question assesses AO1, AO2 and AO4 (5 additional marks).***