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Romeo and Juliet William Shakespeare

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William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet

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Romeo and Juliet

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William Shakespeare



Shakespeare was born on April 23rd 1564 in Stratford- upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England, where he also died in 1616. His family paid for William's education, but historians are not sure he went to university. At the age of 18 he married the 26-year-old Anne Hathaway and the couple had three children.

Between 1585 and 1592, Shakespeare began a successful career in London as an actor and writer. He also owned¹ part of an

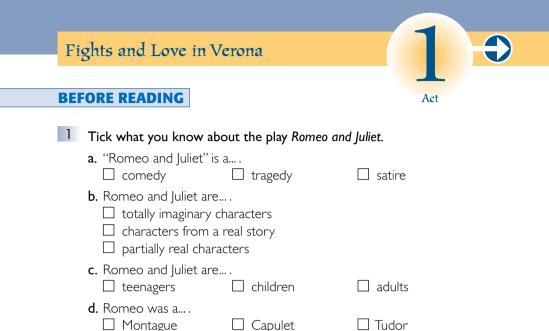
acting company called the "Lord Chamberlain²'s Men", and part of theatre he helped to found³, The Globe.

Shakespeare wrote and acted for Queen Elizabeth I and King James I during the period called the "English Renaissance". His early plays were mainly comedies (*Much Ado About Nothing, A Midsummer Night's Dream...*) or histories (*Henry V...*); later, he wrote tragedies (*Hamlet, King Lear, Macbeth...*) or 'romances', with a touch of supernatural (*The Tempest...*).

Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* around 1595. He didn't invent the story, but, as was usual at the time, he used existing stories by other authors and probably inspired by some real events, and transformed them into a masterpiece⁴ thanks to his unique style.

Many plays by Shakespeare are still very popular today: even after more than 400 years, people still love to go to the theatre to see his works because his themes of love, revenge, death and power are still very modern.

- 1. owned: had, possessed.
- 2. *chamberlain:* person who lived at a queen's or a king's court.
- 3. found: to start building.
- 4. masterpiece: an excellent work of art.



e. Juliet was a... .

2 Put the words below into the right column, then add three more.

master • Lady • uncle • nephew • mistress • aunt • Lord • niece

Males	Fem ales

3 One of the topics of *Romeo and Juliet* is romantic love. Find at least five adjectives or expressions to describe what and how you feel when you are in love. Use a dictionary if necessary.

When I am in love, I'm/I feel...

Fights and Love in Verona

Some time ago, in Verona, there were two families who hated each other, but nobody could remember why.

> They were the Capulets and the Montagues.

Look! There are two Montagues coming along the road! Every day there were **fights** and **provocations** between the two families and even their servants.

Why don't we quarrel with them? But let them begin.

I'll bite my thumb!













AFTER READING • Fights and Love in Verona

WORKING ON THE TEXT

Read the sentences below. Tick if they are true, false or not mentioned. Correct the false ones. F NM

		1 41 1
a. The story takes place in London.		
b. Romeo and Juliet belong to two rival families.		
c. Paris is Juliet's brother.		
d. The masked ball celebrates summertime.		
e. Juliet is fifteen years old.		
f. Tybalt is Romeo's best friend.		
g. Juliet's nurse is called Mary.		
h. The nurse doesn't know anything about Romeo.		
i. Romeo and Juliet have never met before.		
j. At the end of the act, Romeo and Juliet are both very		
happy and carefree.		

2 Complete the following table with the main characters that have appeared in the first act of the play so far. Which family do they support or belong to?

The Capule ts	The Montagues

WORKING ON VOCABULARY

3 Circle the odd one out word in each group and explain why.

a. to quarrel	to fight	to provoke	to pacify
b. masks	music	swords	fun
c. Lord	Lady	Ms	Sir
d. daughter	uncle	cousin	friend
e. sleep	love	hate	worry

4 Complete the sentences with the words you circled above.

- a. Prince Escalus would like to the Montagues and the Capulets.
- **b**. Benvolio is Romeo's

AFTER READING • Fights and Love in Verona

- c. To stop the fight Prince Escalus screams, "Put your down!"
- $\boldsymbol{d}.$ Today, the word used for a young girl like Juliet is
- After the party Romeo couldn't because he couldn't stop thinking about Juliet.

WORKING ON GRAMMAR

5 POSSESSIVE 'S. Use the possessive case to describe the relationship between the characters.

Ex. → Tybalt is Lady Capulet's nephew.

a. Benvolio is friend.

- b. Juliet is daughter.
- c. Tybalt is worst enemy.
- d. Lady Montague is mother.
- e. Lord Capulet is father.
- f. Paris is suitor.

WORKING ON SKILLS

Speaking

6 Pair Work. Ask and answer questions with the simple past and past continuous. Use the prompts below.

- a. Who/quarrel/along the road of Verona?
- b. Why/they/fight?
- c. Who/stop/the fight?
- d. Romeo/involved?
- e. Why/Romeo/sad?
- f. Can/the servant/read?
- g. Who/find out/Romeo?
- h. What/happen/to the young lovers?

Listening

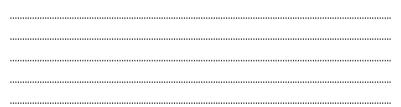
Listen to the conversation between Lord Capulet and Count Paris before the party. Fill in the missing words and then check your answers.

AFTER READING • Fights and Love in Verona

Paris You both have a respectable ⁽⁴⁾..... and it's a shame you have fought so long! But milord... I'm here to talk about (5)..... daughter? Have you thought about my ⁽⁷⁾...... proposal? Lord Capulet Well, as I have already said, my daughter is too ⁽⁸⁾.....! She's not yet ⁽⁹⁾.....! Could you wait two more ⁽¹⁰⁾..... to marry her? **Paris** Many young girls are ⁽¹¹⁾..... at her age! Lord Capulet That's true, but Juliet is the joy of my (12).....and can start ⁽¹⁴⁾..... her, for the moment... By the way, tonight there will be a ⁽¹⁵⁾.....at my house. Many guests are invited to celebrate ⁽¹⁶⁾.....and there will be many other young ⁽¹⁷⁾...., too. Look at them and listen to your heart very carefully. Is my Juliet the right girl for you? Or is it just a (18)..... of the moment?

Writing

8 Write a short description (about 50 words) of your ideal party. Talk about the place, the kind of music and dancing, the people, the food and drinks, the games, etc....







Romeo and Juliet

The immortal story of Romeo and Juliet is re-lived in this new, graphic version of the intense passion of two of the most famous Shakespearian protagonists. The two very young lovers are ready to go against their families to stay together, and, with the help of a friendly nanny and a clever friar, they finally get married. However, pride, hate and fate are just around the corner...

Five short and engaging extensions give some additional interesting information on this 400-year-old work, its context and its outstanding author.

I	beginner	• A1 (Breakthrough	h)	Levels of accredited examination boards:	
\checkmark	elementary	• A2 (Waystage) ··		Cambridge English:	Flyers / Key (KET)
	pre-intermediate	• B1 (Threshold)		Trinity: City & Guilds (Pitman):	Grade 3, 4 Elementary
i	intermediate	• B2 (Vantage)		ESB:	Foundation 3
	post-intermediate	• C1 (Effectiveness)	Edexcel:	Basic



Teacher's Resources available on line: Answer Key, Transcripts, Summing-up Activities.