

Elementary



A2 (Waystage)

R A I N B O W S

# Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare



edisco





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William Shakespeare

# Romeo and Juliet

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**edisco**

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# The Author

## William Shakespeare



Shakespeare was born on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 owned<sup>1</sup> part of an acting company called the "Lord Chamberlain's Men", and part of theatre he helped to found<sup>3</sup>, 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 masterpiece<sup>4</sup> 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.



## BEFORE READING

1 Tick what you know about the play *Romeo and Juliet*.

a. "Romeo and Juliet" is a...

- comedy                       tragedy                       satire

b. Romeo and Juliet are...

- totally imaginary characters  
 characters from a real story  
 partially real characters

c. Romeo and Juliet are...

- teenagers                       children                       adults

d. Romeo was a...

- Montague                       Capulet                       Tudor

e. Juliet was a...

- Montague                       Capulet                       Tudor

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

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

MALES	FEMALES

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...



# Romeo and Juliet

## 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.

Every day there were **fights** and **provocations** between the two families and even their servants.

Look!  
There are two Montagues coming along the road!

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

I'll bite my thumb!







Benvolio, a Montague, and Tybalt, a Capulet, arrive.









If you don't stop fighting, you'll be put to death!  
Go home, now!

Some time later, Benvolio meets Lady Montague...



Tell me, Benvolio, was Romeo in the fight?

No, he wasn't there.

Oh, I'm glad about that, but I'm worried about him.

I've noticed he's often sad. Could you...?

Don't worry I'll try to find out why...

To help Lady Montague, Benvolio goes to Romeo and starts talking to him.



Good morning, cousin. What's going on? Why do you look so worried?

I'm not worried, I'm sad... I'm in love.

But that's a good thing. Why are you so sad and who's the girl you're in love with?

Her name's Rosaline, but she doesn't love me.

You're right, that's not so good...

Oh, cousin... She's so beautiful!



Well, listen...  
Forget about her and look at other girls, there are many **beauties** around!

I can't...  
I will never forget her!  
The other girls will simply **disappear** if I compare them to her beauty!



Can you help me to read these, Sirs?

Sure!

Tonight there's a feast at the Capulets and I must **give** these invitations **out** quickly!



Let me see...  
Uncle Capulet, his wife and daughters, my **fair** niece Rosaline and Livia, Sir Valentio and his cousin Tybalt...



Can people who are not on the list come to the **masked ball**?

Surely, if you're not a Montague, the Capulets' house is open to everyone for a glass of wine!

Thank you! Great. We'll go.



But, Romeo... didn't you hear?

Don't worry, we'll wear masks. I want to tell Rosaline about my love.

I have to go, and you and Mercutio will come with me.



*In the meantime, Juliet and her mother are choosing the dresses for the ball with the help of Juliet's nurse.*



Juliet, are you ready?

Hurry up, darling. The guests are coming!

By the way, do you know that a special guest is coming to our party tonight?



A guest? Who are you talking about?

*Romeo and his friends are ready for the party...*



I'm talking about Paris, your **suitor**. He's such a nice, elegant young man!

Wow! Are my parents thinking of finding a husband for me, then?

Well, I'm really curious to see him tonight. It'll be fun!



Are you ready, my dear friends?

Of course!

The Capulets will find us out...

That's impossible!



This is a party for friends, don't worry!

Let's go, friends! Come on!

I've decided to come with you, but I'm scared... After all, we're entering Uncle Tybalt's house!

At the Capulets' house the party is on: the many guests are enjoying the music, the wine and the good food.



Welcome, ladies and gentlemen.

Let's dance and enjoy ourselves!

It's springtime and we want to celebrate! This is a party of peace and love.

Who's that vision?

My heart has never loved until now.

Before tonight I've never seen true beauty!

I know this voice! He's a Montague! He's Romeo!

Romeo, our worst enemy's son is at the party.

He was not on the list! He wants to **make fun** of us!

Calm down! Romeo is a good and respected boy in Verona. Don't **spoil** the party!

But it's **shameful**. He's a **villain** and I **can't stand** him!

If you can't, then go away!

Not far from there, the young Romeo and the beautiful Juliet feel attracted to each other...

Who are you, gentle **pilgrim**?

I'm a pilgrim **indeed**, and I'm looking for love.





**WORKING ON THE TEXT**

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

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

**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 CAPULETS	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.

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

- c. To stop the fight Prince Escalus screams, "Put your ..... down!"
- d. Today, the word used for a young girl like Juliet is .....
- e. 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 ..... and ..... 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.

**Lord Capulet** Today the Prince gave the Montagues and us the same  
 (1).....! It's not difficult for me and Lord Montague to keep  
 (2)..... . The problem is with the (3)..... people!

**Paris** You both have a respectable <sup>(4)</sup>..... and it's a shame you have fought so long! But milord... I'm here to talk about <sup>(5)</sup>.....  
..... . So, how do you like the idea of me <sup>(6)</sup>..... your daughter? Have you thought about my <sup>(7)</sup>..... proposal?

**Lord Capulet** Well, as I have already said, my daughter is too <sup>(8)</sup>.....  
.....! She's not yet <sup>(9)</sup>.....! Could you wait two more <sup>(10)</sup>..... to marry her?

**Paris** Many young girls are <sup>(11)</sup>..... at her age!

**Lord Capulet** That's true, but Juliet is the joy of my <sup>(12)</sup>..... and my hope for the <sup>(13)</sup>..... . Gentle Paris, let's agree that you can start <sup>(14)</sup>..... her, for the moment... By the way, tonight there will be a <sup>(15)</sup>..... at my house. Many guests are invited to celebrate <sup>(16)</sup>..... and there will be many other young <sup>(17)</sup>....., too. Look at them and listen to your heart very carefully. Is my Juliet the right girl for you? Or is it just a <sup>(18)</sup>..... 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.

### beginner

- **A1** (*Breakthrough*)

### ✓ elementary

- **A2** (*Waystage*)

### pre-intermediate

- **B1** (*Threshold*)

### intermediate

- **B2** (*Vantage*)

### post-intermediate

- **C1** (*Effectiveness*)

#### Levels of accredited examination boards:

Cambridge English:	<i>Flyers / Key (KET)</i>
Trinity:	<i>Grade 3, 4</i>
City & Guilds (Pitman):	<i>Elementary</i>
ESB:	<i>Foundation 3</i>
Edexcel:	<i>Basic</i>



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