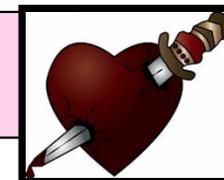




# ROMEO AND JULIET



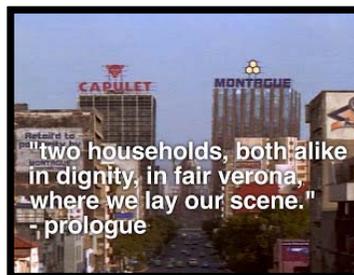
## Romeo and Juliet

Here's how the lovers go down:

- Duel**  
The Montagues and Capulets have a duel. At the end, Verona's Prince says, "the next to fight will die."
- Masquerade Ball**  
Romeo wants to crash the Capulet dance to get with Rosaline but meets someone else....
- Marriage**  
Romeo falls for Juliet and they arrange a secret wedding.
- Fight**  
Tybalt and Mercutio fight it out. Romeo gets in the middle and kills Tybalt.
- Sadness**  
Juliet is sad that Romeo has killed her cousin. To make her happy, dad says she should get with Paris.
- Sleeping Potion**  
To avoid marrying Paris, Juliet takes a sleeping potion so everyone will think she's dead.
- Death and more Death**  
Romeo finds Juliet and thinking she's dead, kills himself. Juliet then wakes to find Romeo's dead body and does the same.

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"two households, both alike in dignity, in fair verona, where we lay our scene."  
- prologue



### Context

**Fate:** Elizabethans believed that God would have predestined their lives and their destiny was written in the stars by him. Modern audiences do not have the same level of belief and so would think that the tragedy is down to the characters' actions.

**Parenting and families:** Upper class Elizabethans would often have arranged marriages by their parents and children would be expected to obey their fathers wishes whatever they may be.

**Patriarchy:** It was a society ruled by men and they would make all the decisions and rules and he would own all the property and money.

**Religion:** Elizabethans were a very pious society and they would have believed in God, the supernatural and hell. It was seen as a mortal sin to take a life, including your own, and to marry if you were already married.

**Masculinity and Femininity:** Women were expected to be virgins until they were married, pure, wholesome and obedient to the men. Men were expected to be strong, aggressive and to show no fear- it is interesting that Romeo is very unique as he shows a lot of weakness and behaves very emotionally.

### Themes

- Honour
- Love
- Fate vs. Free Will
- Violence
- Conflict
- Family



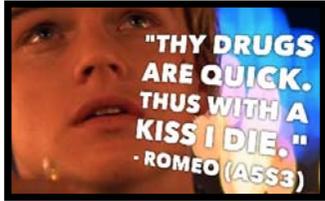
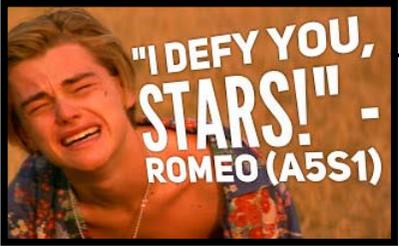
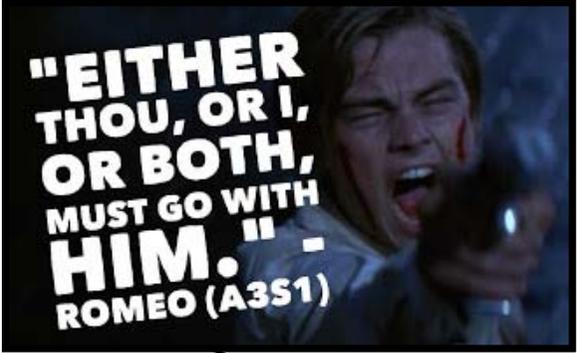
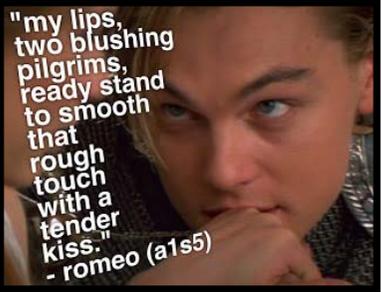
 <b>ROMEO</b> Teenage son of the Montague family (who hate Capulets) Best mate (Mercutio), sword fights, romance, Juliet "O I am fortune's fool!" I'm at the mercy of fate	 <b>JULIET</b> Teenage daughter of the Capulet family (who hate Montagues) Romance, poetry, skylarks, Romeo "Parting is such sweet sorrow" I don't like goodbyes	 <b>NURSE</b> Juliet's kindly nursemaid Juliet, gossiping, romance "He's a man of wax" He's as perfect as a waxwork	 <b>FRIAR L.</b> Friar Lawrence: A righteous monk Peace, love "Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast" Go carefully. Those who rush stumble and fall	 <b>MERCUTIO</b> Romeo's best mate Hanging out with Romeo, parties, chilling out "A plague o' both your houses!" I hope both your families catch the plague!	 <b>TYBALT</b> A hot-headed Capulet - Juliet's cousin Sword fights, getting angry "I hate hell, all Montagues and thee!" I hate you and all your family (the Montagues)
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# ROMEO

**Romeo:** A passionate and often immature young man who cannot control his emotions throughout the play- this leads to him acting impulsively and not thinking through the consequences of his actions.

- Points (words to describe Romeo)**
- |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Impulsive        | 6. Loyal      |
| 2. Irrational       | 7. Devoted    |
| 3. Emotional        | 8. Sensitive  |
| 4. Petrarchan Lover | 9. Passionate |
| 5. Loving           | 10. Vengeful  |



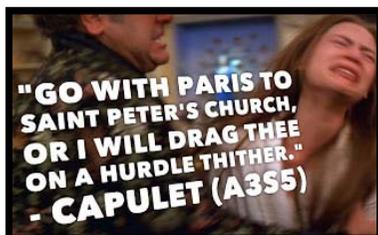
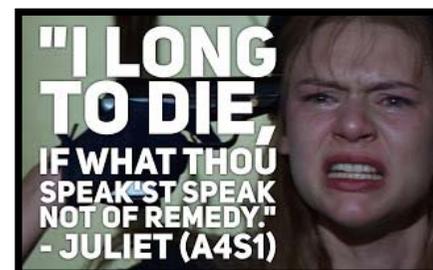
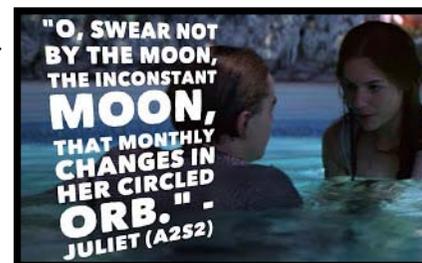


# JULIET

**Juliet:** She begins the play as a young, naïve girl but meets Romeo and matures quickly in to a confident woman who disobeys her family's wishes to be with the man she loves.

**Points (words to describe Juliet)**

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Obedient   | 6. Loyal                 |
| 2. Submissive | 7. Devoted               |
| 3. Demure     | 8. Fearless              |
| 4. Naive      | 9. Courageous            |
| 5. Romantic   | 10. Fiercely independent |





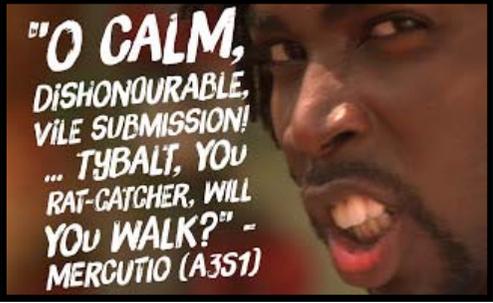
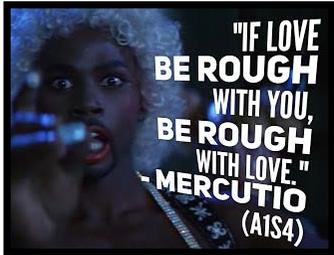
# MERCUTIO AND FRIAR LAWRENCE

**Mercutio:** The catalyst for much of the action in the play- he doesn't believe in love and doesn't take life seriously. He loves any kind of drama and never backs down from a fight. His name comes from the word 'mercury' – a sign that he can change instantly!

- Points (words to describe Mercutio)**
- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Argumentative | 7. Loyal       |
| 2. Dramatic      | 8. Masculine   |
| 3. Exciting      | 9. Aggressive  |
| 4. Comedic       | 10. Changeable |
| 5. Provocative   |                |
| 6. Tempestuous   |                |

**Friar Lawrence:** Romeo's friend and confidante, he thinks that by marrying Romeo and Juliet he can bring an end to the feuding. But when he realises that Romeo is dead in the tomb, he panics that he will be blamed and so runs away.

- Points (words to describe the Friar)**
1. Knowledgeable
  2. Wise
  3. Fatherly
  4. Loyal
  5. Spiritual





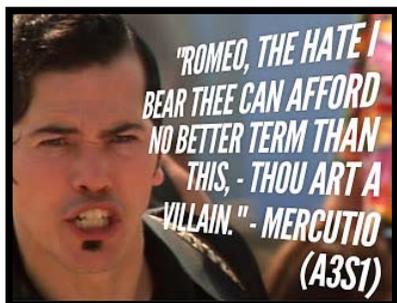
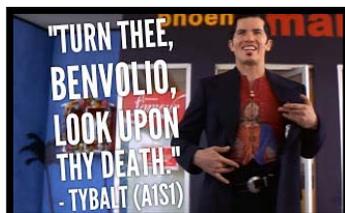
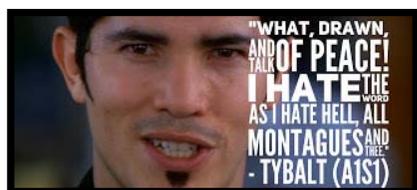
# TYBALT, BENVOLIO AND THE NURSE

**Tybalt:** The villain of the play- you could argue it is Tybalt that causes the downfall of Romeo and Juliet.

- Points (words to describe Tybalt)**
- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Vicious   | 6. Angry       |
| 2. Violent   | 7. Honourable  |
| 3. Cruel     | 8. Loyal       |
| 4. Steadfast | 9. Masculine   |
| 5. Vengeful  | 10. Aggressive |

**Benvolio:** Romeo's cousin, he is known as the peacemaker who wants to avoid conflict.

- Points (words to describe Benvolio)**
1. Wary
  2. Peaceful
  3. Thoughtful
  4. Caring
  5. Brave

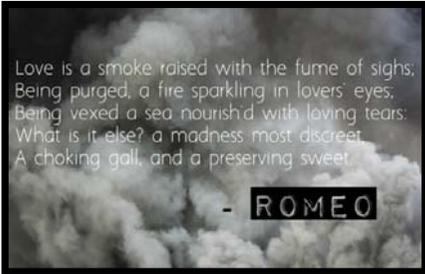


- Points (words to describe The Nurse)**
1. Caring
  2. Loyal
  3. Protective
  4. Brave
  5. Trustworthy

**The Nurse:** Raised Juliet and is closer to Juliet than her real parents- this was very typical in the Elizabethan era.



# ROMEO AND JULIET

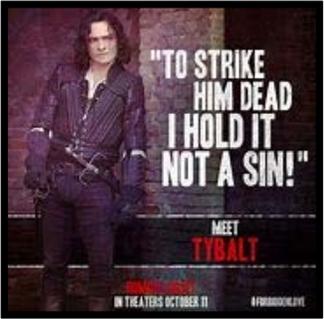


**Honour**

- Lots of characters are driven by their need to honour their family or household
- The feud is described as an 'ancient grudge'- no one remembers why it started
- Honouring your parents is another key aspect- we can see his cause Juliet an inner conflict

**Violence and Conflict:**

- There are many types of conflict in the play: conflict within families, violent conflict and physical aggression and inner conflict (think Romeo and his oxymorons at the start)



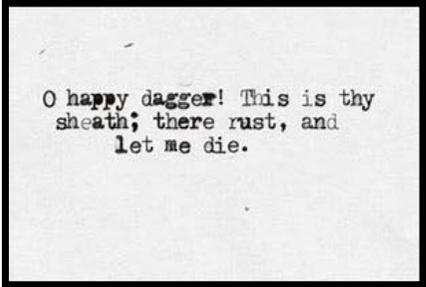
## Themes

**Love:**

- There are many different types of love in the play: familial, platonic, sexual etc.
- Love is what motivates a lot of the characters
- Romeo is obsessed with love and can be seen to be a Petrarchan lover- traditional at the time, this is where extensive love poetry filled with imagery would be used to convey emotion
- Love is what changes Romeo and Juliet and causes the maturation of their characters

**Family**

- Parenting is a key theme- it is interesting that neither Romeo or Juliet are close to their parents. The Friar and the Nurse act as pseudo parents to them.
- Children were expected to obey their parents at all times.
- Family was incredibly important and it is family allegiance that motivates the characters



**Fate vs Free Will:**

- It could be argued that fate caused the downfall of the characters- such as the letter never getting to Romeo.
- However, it could also be purely down to the decisions they make- such as Romeo killing Tybalt
- Romeo blames EVERYTHING on fate- almost an excuse for his poor decisions and actions

