

Romeo and Juliet

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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ROMEO AND JULIET

This is the most famous of all Shakespeare's plays, first printed in 1597. It is a story of passionate young love, in the beautiful Italian city of Verona. Romeo and Juliet are the star-crossed lovers, who meet, fall in love, and promise to be true to each other for ever. A simple love story, with the saddest of all possible endings.

Love is strong, but not as strong as family tradition, or hate, or revenge. Like young people all over the world, Romeo and Juliet want the right to decide their future for themselves, but in the end the state and their families are too powerful for them. Romeo and Juliet cannot live without each other, and if they are not allowed to marry and live together, there is only one way out.



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Playscripts

Romeo and Juliet

Stage 2 (700 headwords)

Playscripts Series Editor: Clare West

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Romeo and Juliet

Retold by
Alistair McCallum



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

The Montague family

Lord Montague

Lady Montague

Romeo, the Montagues' son

Benvolio, Romeo's cousin

The Capulet family

Lord Capulet

Lady Capulet

Juliet, the Capulets' daughter

Tybalt, Juliet's cousin

Other characters

Escalus, Prince of Verona

Paris, a friend of the Prince's

Mercutio, a friend of Romeo's

Juliet's Nurse

Father Lawrence, a priest

Father John, a friend of Father Lawrence's

People of Verona and Mantua

Lord Montague's servants

Lord Capulet's servants

Shopkeeper

Musicians

Romeo and Juliet

ACT 1 SCENE 1

Trouble in Verona

A street in Verona, Italy. Some of Lord Montague's and Lord Capulet's servants are fighting and shouting.

LORD CAPULET'S SERVANTS We hate the Montagues! Capulet is
a better lord than Montague!

LORD MONTAGUE'S SERVANTS We'll kill you for that! Death to
the Capulets! (*Benvolio enters.*)

BENVOLIO What's happening? Stop! Stop fighting!
He tries to stop them, but they go on fighting.

TYBALT (*Entering*) Benvolio! What are you doing?
Fighting our servants? Turn and fight *me!*

BENVOLIO You're wrong, Tybalt. I don't want to fight
anyone. I'm just trying to keep the peace!

TYBALT That's not true! You Montagues are all the same.
I'm going to kill you! (*He pulls out his sword and
starts fighting with Benvolio. Lord and Lady
Capulet enter.*)

LORD CAPULET Look! The Montagues are trying to kill
Tybalt! Quickly – bring me a sword!

LADY CAPULET A sword? Don't be stupid, Capulet. You're
too old! You haven't used a sword for twenty years.

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LORD MONTAGUE (*Entering with Lady Montague*) Look!

The Capulets are making trouble again!

LORD CAPULET What did you say, Montague? Trouble?

The man that started the fight was your nephew
Benvolio! (*He starts to shake Lord Montague.*)

LORD MONTAGUE Let me go, Capulet, you old criminal!

LORD CAPULET Criminal? Old? I'll kill you! (*They begin
fighting. Prince Escalus enters.*)

PRINCE ESCALUS Stop! Montague! Capulet! Stop it
immediately! Tybalt! Benvolio! Stop fighting now,
or I will execute all of you! (*The fighting stops,
and everyone is quiet.*) Listen. I'm very angry.
Verona is a rich, beautiful town, but there is
fighting in the streets nearly every day. Montague,
Capulet, come here. You must tell your families
to stop fighting. Do you understand?

LORD MONTAGUE AND LORD CAPULET Yes, sir.

PRINCE ESCALUS Why is there this argument between your
families? How did it start?

LORD MONTAGUE I can't remember, sir.

LORD CAPULET The argument started a long time ago, sir.

PRINCE ESCALUS The fighting must stop. We must have
peace in Verona.

*Prince Escalus leaves. Then Lord and Lady
Capulet, Tybalt and all the servants leave.*

LORD MONTAGUE The Prince is right, Benvolio.



'Stop fighting now, or I will execute all of you!'

BENVOLIO I agree. I was trying to stop the fighting when Tybalt and the others arrived.

LADY MONTAGUE Have you seen our son, Romeo? He wasn't in the fight. I'm very happy about that.

BENVOLIO I saw Romeo earlier today. It was about four o'clock in the morning and still dark. He was walking, alone, through the woods.

LORD MONTAGUE What's the matter with Romeo? He's very quiet these days. Sometimes he stays in his room all day. I think that he's unhappy about something. Will you try to talk to him, Benvolio?

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Romeo enters.

BENVOLIO Look – here he is now. I'll talk to him. (*Lord and Lady Montague leave.*) What's wrong, Romeo? What's the matter with you?

ROMEO I'm in love, Benvolio. I'm in love with a beautiful girl called Rosaline.

BENVOLIO Then why are you unhappy?

ROMEO Because she doesn't love me. She doesn't love anyone. She says that she's never going to marry.

BENVOLIO There are hundreds of beautiful girls in Verona. If she doesn't love you, forget about her.

ROMEO I can't do that! Rosaline is the most wonderful girl in the world. I will never love anyone else.

ACT 1 SCENE 2

Exciting news

A street in Verona. Lord Capulet and Paris are talking.

PARIS Lord Capulet, I have something to tell you. You already know that I love your daughter Juliet. Well, I would like to marry her.

LORD CAPULET My daughter is very young, Paris. She's only thirteen. I don't want her to marry yet. You must wait for a year or two. Juliet doesn't really know you.

ACT 1 Scene 2

PARIS But I love her. If she marries me, she will be very happy, I'm sure.

LORD CAPULET Paris, I'm having a party this evening. Juliet will be there, and many other beautiful girls will be there too. Come to the party. Enjoy yourself. You can talk to Juliet. Perhaps she will like you, perhaps not. Remember, she is very young. *(A servant enters. Capulet gives the servant a piece of paper.)* I want you to go and ask a lot of people to my party tonight. Here are their names. I would like them all to come. *Lord Capulet and Paris leave.*

SERVANT But I can't read! What shall I do? I know! I'll ask someone to read it for me. *Romeo and Benvolio enter.* *(To Romeo)* Excuse me, sir – can you read out these names for me? I have to ask all these people to come to Lord Capulet's party tonight. *He gives Romeo the paper.*

ROMEO Martino and his wife and daughters – Valentino and his cousins – Tybalt – Lucio – Livia – Rosaline – Rosaline! Benvolio, we must go to Capulet's party! Rosaline will be there!

BENVOLIO But Romeo, Capulet and your father are enemies!

ROMEO That doesn't matter. I must see Rosaline!

ACT 1 SCENE 3

Lady Capulet's plan

The Capulets' house. Lady Capulet, Juliet and the Nurse are talking. Lady Capulet is sitting on a chair.

LADY CAPULET Tell me, Juliet, how old are you now?

NURSE She's nearly fourteen. Aren't you, my dear?

JULIET That's right. My fourteenth birthday is in two weeks.

LADY CAPULET Have you thought about marrying, my dear?

NURSE A husband for Juliet! How exciting!

JULIET Marrying? No, I've never thought about it.

LADY CAPULET Well, you must think about it now. A young man wants to marry you. His name is Paris, and



'But I don't know him!'

ACT 1 Scene 4

he is young, rich and good-looking. He is a friend of the Prince of Verona. I want you to try very, very hard to love him.

JULIET But I don't know him!

LADY CAPULET That doesn't matter. You'll meet him this evening, at the party. You will like him, I'm sure.

NURSE He'll be a wonderful husband for you, my dear!

ACT 1 SCENE 4

Romeo meets Juliet

The Capulets' house. The party has started, and there is music, singing and dancing. Lord and Lady Capulet, Juliet, Tybalt, Paris, the Nurse, servants, musicians and others are at the party.

LORD CAPULET Enjoy yourselves, my friends! Everybody is going to dance tonight. More light! More drinks! Musicians – play louder! We're going to have a wonderful party! (*Romeo, Benvolio and Mercutio enter. They are wearing masks.*)

LADY CAPULET Who are those men who've just come in? I can't see their faces, because they are wearing masks.

LORD CAPULET I don't know who they are. It doesn't matter. They look friendly. Give me another

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drink! What a wonderful party! Oh, why can't I be young again? Shall we dance?

LADY CAPULET Dance? Don't be stupid, Capulet. You're too old! You haven't danced for twenty years. Come and sit down for a while.

They sit down.

MERCUTIO Don't you want to dance, Romeo?

ROMEO No, I don't, Mercutio. You can dance if you want. I'll wait here.

Benvolio and Mercutio leave, and start dancing.

ROMEO *(He sees Juliet, who is dancing with Paris.)* What a beautiful girl! Who is she? I must meet her! When she stops dancing, I'll go and talk to her.

TYBALT Uncle Capulet! That man is a Montague!

LORD CAPULET Which man?

TYBALT The man who came in a few minutes ago. Over there – the man who's wearing a mask. I know his voice. His name is Romeo, and he's a Montague. I'm going to kill him!

LORD CAPULET No, Tybalt! The Capulets and the Montagues must not fight any more. The Prince of Verona told us to stop fighting. Don't you remember? Romeo is a good man, and you mustn't hurt him. Do you understand?

TYBALT All right, uncle. But I'm very angry. He was wrong to come here. *(He leaves.)*

ACT 1 Scene 4

ROMEO (*To Juliet*) I don't know your name. I saw you just a few minutes ago. I want to talk to you, but I don't know what to say.

JULIET You don't have to say anything.

ROMEO I've never seen anyone as beautiful as you. Can I hold your hand?

JULIET But I don't know you! (*Laughing*) Yes, of course you can hold my hand.

ROMEO (*He holds her hand.*) If our hands can touch, our lips can touch too. (*He kisses her.*)

The Nurse enters.

NURSE Juliet! Where are you? Oh, there you are. Your mother wants you. Come with me, my dear.

ROMEO (*To the Nurse*) Who is her mother?

NURSE Her mother is the lady of the house, and married to Lord Capulet.

ROMEO This is terrible! Lord Capulet is my father's enemy. I love Juliet, but we can never meet again!



'Her mother is married to Lord Capulet.'

Romeo and Juliet

- JULIET (*Watching Romeo leave*) Nurse, what's that young man's name? Over there, the one who's leaving. If he has a wife, I'll die unmarried.
- NURSE His name is Romeo, and he's a Montague, the only son of your family's great enemy.
- JULIET My only love, a hated Montague!
- NURSE What was that? Come, Juliet. Your mother is waiting.

ACT 2 SCENE 1

A secret

Benvolio, Mercutio and Romeo are in the garden outside the Capulets' house. Romeo is hiding from the others.

- BENVOLIO Come on, Mercutio. It's late. Let's go home.
Where's Romeo?
- MERCUTIO I saw him a few minutes ago. Romeo! Romeo!
Come on, forget about Rosaline! (*He laughs.*)
Forget about love! Come with us!
They leave, then Romeo comes out.
- ROMEO It's easy for him to laugh – he's never been in love. I must be near Juliet. I love her.
Juliet opens a window and looks out.
But look! What light is that? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun! (*He hides.*)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William Shakespeare (1564–1616) was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, a small town in central England. He went to school in Stratford, and he married when he was only eighteen years old. A few years later, he moved to London, while his wife and children stayed in Stratford. He worked as an actor, and soon started writing plays and poetry. At that time, theatres were new and exciting places. There were only a few theatres in England, and they were all in London.

When Shakespeare was only thirty, he wrote *Romeo and Juliet*. It was an immediate success. Most plays then were about kings and queens, but thousands of people came to see this sad story of two young lovers. For the next fifteen years, Shakespeare lived in London, although he bought a large house in Stratford for his family. He wrote more than thirty plays, and Queen Elizabeth I often saw his plays.

When he was in his late forties, Shakespeare returned to Stratford for a quiet life with his family away from the theatre. He died in 1616, when he was only fifty-two years old.

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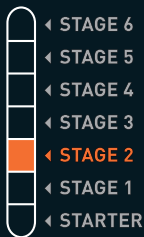
Romeo and Juliet



What's in a name? Does it really matter if you are called Montague or Capulet? When Romeo, son of Lord and Lady Montague, falls in love with the most beautiful girl he's ever seen, he finds out that it does matter. It makes all the difference in the world, because both families hate each other bitterly.

For a time, Romeo and Juliet manage to keep their love secret. But when Romeo is sent away from Verona, and arrangements are made for Juliet to marry Paris, a friend of her father's, hope begins to die. Can any of their friends help the young lovers to be together for ever?

(Word count 6,306)



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◀ STAGE 5

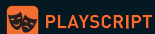
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◀ **STAGE 2**

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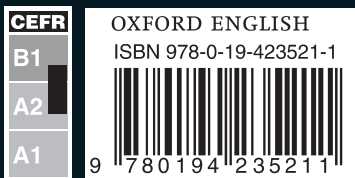
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Lesson - Expressing Emotion

Teacher Notes

Assumed Pre-knowledge:

1. The students are aware of the main features of the Romeo and Juliet story.
2. The students have learnt basic adjectives describing emotions.

Resources:

1. Copies of the script from Romeo and Juliet (Oxford Bookworms).
2. Worksheet.

Variations:

1. If you have less time, or the level of your students is lower, reduce the number of sections you provide your students. It is not necessary to do them all, or even to do them in sequence.
2. If you have larger classes, it is possible to give the same section to more than one group.
3. If a group finishes the summary or detailed reading parts faster than others, allow them to select more than one section.

Lesson Plan

Review Vocabulary

- a) Review/pre-teach the following adjectives of emotion (on the worksheet):
angry, scared, worried, ashamed, happy, sad, nervous, determined, excited, romantic, shy, aggressive.

Set the Story

- a) Elicit the story of Romeo and Juliet, e.g. by drawing clues on the board (a heart, swords, poison, a balcony, a priest, etc.) or by asking your students to read the introduction to the reader excerpt (on the worksheet) and asking them what they know about the story.
- b) Make sure the students know who the characters are from the excerpt (for this lesson they don't need to know the characters on the list after Juliet's Nurse).

Reading 1: Summary

- a) Put your students into groups of 3 -5 (as appropriate).
- b) Assign each group a section from the play (see the worksheet).
- c) Ask the groups to summarise what happens in their sections in one sentence.
- d) Take responses and give feedback as appropriate.

Reading 2: Detail

- a) Ask the groups to read their sections again and identify the emotions (from the vocabulary stage) that the characters feel. Monitor and give feedback as appropriate.
- b) Ask the groups to act out, within the group, how the emotion would be shown (in gesture, facial expression, and speech). Monitor and give feedback as appropriate.

Speaking/Listening

- a) Ask members of each group (as appropriate) to perform their sections for the class. Students may read from the scripts.
- b) As the rest of the class watch and listen, they have to identify the emotions that are expressed.

Possible answers

Section 1: angry, nervous, determined, aggressive

Section 2: happy, worried, sad, determined

Section 3: determined, worried, happy, nervous, scared, excited

Section 4: excited, nervous, shy

Section 5: happy, worried, angry, excited, aggressive, romantic, shy, scared, sad,

Section 6: happy, romantic, sad, excited

Section 7: worried, determined, excited, romantic

Worksheet - Expressing Emotions

1. Which of these adjectives of emotion do you know? Find out what the others mean.

<i>angry</i>	<i>ashamed</i>	<i>nervous</i>	<i>romantic</i>
<i>scared</i>	<i>happy</i>	<i>determined</i>	<i>shy</i>
<i>worried</i>	<i>sad</i>	<i>excited</i>	<i>aggressive</i>

2. Can you guess the title of this story?

It is a story of passionate young love, in the beautiful Italian city of Verona. They are the star-crossed lovers, who meet, fall in love, and promise to be true to each other for ever. A simple love story, with the saddest of all possible endings.

What details do you know about this story?

3. Your teacher will assign you one or more of the sections from *Romeo and Juliet*, listed below, to carry out the following tasks:
- Summarise what happens in one sentence.
 - Identify the emotions the characters feel.
 - Act out the emotions to your group.
 - Act out the section while your classmates identify the emotions displayed.

Section 1

from page 1: LORD CAPULET'S SERVANTS: We hate the Montagues...

to page 3: BENVOLIO: ... I was trying to stop the fighting when Tybalt and the others arrived."

Section 2

from page 3: LADY MONTAGUE: Have you seen our son, Romeo? ...

to page 4: ROMEO: ... I will never love anyone else.

Section 3

from page 4: PARIS: Lord Capulet, I have something to tell you...

to page 5: ROMEO: ... That doesn't matter. I must see Rosaline!

Section 4

from page 6: LADY CAPULET: Tell me, Juliet, how old are you now?

to page 7: NURSE: ... He'll be a wonderful husband for you, my dear!

Section 5

from page 7: LORD CAPULET: Enjoy yourselves, my friends! ...

to page 8: TYBALT: ... He was wrong to come here. (*He leaves.*)

Section 6

from page 9: ROMEO: ... I don't know your name ...

to page 10: NURSE: ... Your mother is waiting.

Section 7

from page 10: BENVOLIO: Come on, Mercutio ...

to page 10: ROMEO: ... and Juliet is the sun!