

# *Romeo and Juliet*



*a Play and Film Study Guide*

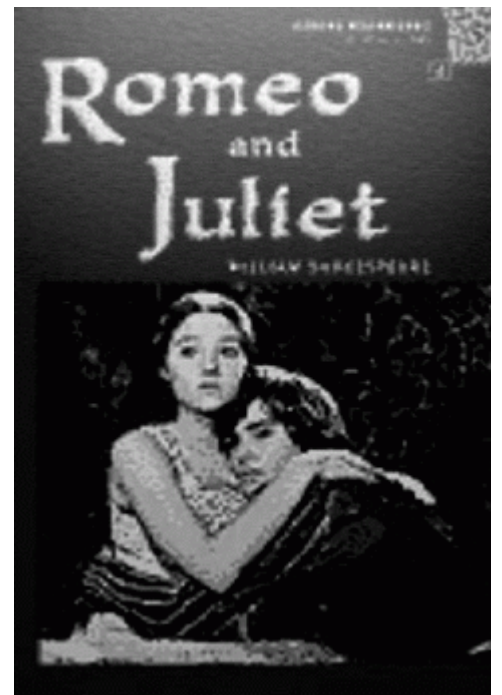
**Student's Book**



## *Before You Start...*

1. You are about to read and watch the story of Romeo and Juliet. Look at the two pictures below, and try to answer the following questions:

- Who are Romeo and Juliet?
- What is their relationship?
- How will their relationship change throughout the story?
- How will the film and play be different?



2. Read the following introduction to the play, and answer the questions.

*This is the most famous of all Shakespeare's plays, first printed in 1597. Romeo and Juliet meet, fall in love, and promise to be faithful to each other forever.*

*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, 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.*

According to the introduction, are the following sentences true (T), false (F) or doesn't it say (DS)?

- Romeo and Juliet have been lovers since they were children.
- Romeo and Juliet's families are enemies.
- Romeo and Juliet are married.
- Their families eventually allow them to be together.

# 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

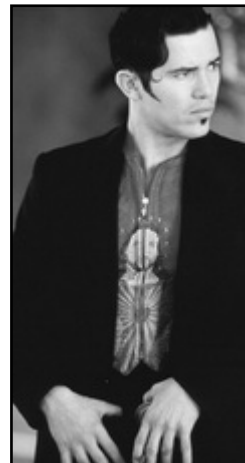
Escalus, Prince of Verona  
 Paris, a friend of the Prince  
 Mercutio, a friend of Romeo  
 Juliet's Nurse  
 Father Lawrence, a priest  
 Father John, a friend of Father Lawrence's  
 People of Verona  
 Lord Montague's servants  
 Lord Capulet's servants  
 Shopkeeper  
 Musicians



Romeo and Juliet,  
 from the 1916 film.



Nurse, from  
 the 1968 film



Tybalt, from the 1996 film



Mercutio, from  
 the 1996 film



Prince Escalus, from  
 an opera production



Lord and Lady Capulet, from  
 a German musical production



Lady and Lord Montague,  
 from a production by the  
 California School for the Deaf



Father Lawrence, from a  
 production by the Chicago  
 Shakespeare Company

## *Read Act One, Scene One*

3. Put the following events in the correct order:
  - a. Romeo talks to Benvolio about his feelings of love for Rosaline.
  - b. Tybalt thinks that Benvolio is trying to start a fight with the Capulet servants.
  - c. Lord and Lady Montague notice that Romeo was missing from the fight.
  - d. Lord and Lady Montague and Lord and Lady Capulet enter the scene and see the fight.
  - e. Prince Escalus warns the two families not to fight again, or they will be punished.

## *Read Act One, Scenes Two and Three*

4. Do you remember what happened at the start of Romeo and Juliet? In pairs or small groups, prepare a 30 second summary of what happened in Act 1, Scene 1.

5. Look at the picture. Who are the three women? What are they are talking about?



6. Answer the questions.
  - a. How does Romeo find out about the party?
  - b. Why does he want to go there?
  - c. Why does Lady Capulet want Juliet to marry Paris?
  - d. Do you think Juliet wants to marry Paris? Why or why not?

7. What do you think will happen at the Capulet ball?

- a. Will Romeo find love?
- b. Will Paris persuade Juliet to marry him?
- c. Will the Capulets and Montagues fight?

## *Read Act One, Scene Four*

8. Look at your predictions from Exercise 7. Were you correct?



9. Here are some parts from Act 1 Scene 4 of Shakespeare's original playscript, written in the English that people spoke 500 years ago.

Work in groups. Read these passages and look back over your playscripts. Who are these people talking to?

- a. *Tybalt:* Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe,  
A villain that is hither come in spite
- b. *Capulet:* And, to say truth, Verona brags of him  
To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth:  
I would not for the wealth of all the town  
Here in my house do him disparagement
- c. *Nurse:* Her mother is the lady of the house,  
And a good lady, and a wise and virtuous
- d. *Juliet:* Go ask his name. — If he be married  
My grave is like to be my wedding bed



Translate the passages into modern English.

10. Do you remember Act 1? Work in Pairs. Discuss what happened in Act 1 and prepare a short written summary.

## *Read Act Two, Scenes One and Two*

11. Prepare a short speaking piece which tells either Romeo or Juliet's story from the party. Tell your story to a partner.
12. How do you think the second Act will finish?

## *Read Act Two, Scenes Three and Four*

13. Look at your predictions from Exercise 12. Were you correct?



14. Put the following events from Acts One and Two into the correct order.
- Romeo and Juliet are secretly married by Father Lawrence
  - Paris asks Lord Capulet for permission to marry Juliet
  - Romeo secretly meets Juliet and asks her to marry him
  - Romeo tells Juliet's nurse of the wedding plans
  - The Capulets and Montagues are caught fighting by Prince Escalus
  - Romeo and Juliet discover which families they are from
  - Romeo and Juliet meet for the first time at the Capulet Ball
  - Lady Capulet tells Juliet of Paris' desire to marry her
15. Imagine that you are about to marry the person of your dreams. Write the wedding vows which you will say at your wedding.  
OR  
Write a love letter from Romeo to Juliet OR Juliet to Romeo that will be delivered just before the wedding.

## *Read Act Three, Scenes One and Two*

16. Look at the picture from the film. What is happening? What will happen next?
17. Answer the questions.
- Why does Tybalt want to fight Romeo?
  - Why, at first, does Romeo refuse to fight Tybalt?
  - Why does he change his mind?
  - What is Romeo's punishment?



18. Prince Escalus has to punish Romeo for killing Tybalt. Brainstorm ideas for and against executing Romeo. Decide which argument you support and write a letter to the Prince outlining your opinion.

19. Look at this picture from the next part of the film. Who are the people in the picture? What are they discussing?



### *Read Act Three, Scenes Three, Four and Five*

20. Look at your predictions from Exercise 19. Were you correct?
21. Are these statements true or false? If false, write a correct statement.
- Father Lawrence tells Romeo to stay in Verona.
  - Romeo can spend one more night with Juliet.
  - Juliet's parents want her to marry Romeo.
  - Juliet refuses to marry Paris.
22. Work in groups. Imagine that Lord and Lady Capulet discover Romeo and Juliet together.
- What would they say?
  - What would they do?
- Write an alternative Act 3, Scene 5 based on your ideas.  
Perform this scene to the class.
23. What do you think Juliet will do next?



## *Read Act Four, Scenes One and Two*

24. Look at your predictions from Exercise 23. Were you correct?

25. Answer these questions.

- a. What is Father Lawrence's advice to Paris?
- b. What is Father Lawrence's plan for Juliet?



26. Work in pairs. Imagine you are Lord and Lady Capulet. You are planning the wedding of your daughter. The wedding is tomorrow. Write a list of 10 things to do before the wedding.

## *Read Act Four, Scenes Three and Four*

27. Read the following sentences. They tell Romeo's story. Decide if each is true or false. If false, write a correct statement.

- a. Romeo often fought with members of the Capulet household
- b. Romeo was in love with Rosaline
- c. Romeo went to the Capulet party to meet Juliet
- d. Romeo and Juliet's families are enemies
- e. Father Lawrence secretly married Romeo to Juliet
- f. Romeo killed Tybalt in revenge for Benvolio's death
- g. Romeo must wait in Venice until Father Lawrence sends a message

The following sentences tell Juliet's story. Decide if each is true or false. If false, write a correct statement.

- h. Juliet is Tybalt's sister
- i. Juliet wanted to marry Paris
- j. Juliet is thirteen years old
- k. Juliet first met Romeo in the street after the two families fight
- l. Juliet sends her nurse to make arrangements with Romeo for the wedding
- m. Juliet asks Father Lawrence to help her avoid marrying Paris
- n. Juliet decides to marry Paris and forget Romeo
- o. Juliet kills herself to avoid marrying Paris

28. What do you think will happen next?
- a. Will Romeo return to Verona?
  - b. Will Romeo and Juliet live happily together?
  - c. Will the Capulets and Montagues stop fighting each other?

## *Read Act Five, Scenes One and Two*

29. Look at your predictions from Exercise 28. Were you correct?
30. As a class, retell the story of Romeo and Juliet. Take turns to describe what happened.
31. It is a serious crime to sell poison which will be used to kill someone. If you were the shopkeeper, would you have sold Romeo the poison? Write your arguments for or against selling Romeo the poison.



## Watch the film

32. There are a lot of differences between the play and the film. Complete this chart about them.

Play	Film
People fight with swords	
	Chief of police keeps order
16 <sup>th</sup> Century	
	Shakespearean language
Guests are invited to the party by a servant	

33. The book and the film ended a little differently. What was the main difference?

34. The Capulets wanted Juliet to make an *arranged marriage* – they wanted her to marry someone they decided would be a good husband for her. Paris was an important man, with plenty of money and powerful friends. He also loved Juliet. Therefore Lord and Lady Capulet thought he would make a good husband for her.

Juliet, however, didn't want to marry someone she didn't know. She wanted to marry someone she knew and loved – a *love marriage*. Both love marriages and arranged marriages are common throughout the world.

Think of one advantage and one disadvantage of each type of marriage? In pairs or groups, complete this chart.

	advantages	disadvantages
Arranged marriage		
Love marriage		

35. Discuss in groups:

Romeo and Juliet was written 500 years ago in England, when society was a very different place from here and now. Are there any similarities between the problems Romeo and Juliet faced and problems that people in modern Myanmar face?

- Do many parents try to arrange marriages for their children?
- Do many people want to marry when they are thirteen?
- Can people marry freely or do their parents have to agree?
- When or why would parents not allow their children to marry someone they love?

# Romeo and Juliet

## *Act One, Scene One: 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 them for that! Death to the Capulets! (*Benvolio enters.*)

**Benvolio:** What's happening? Stop! Stop fighting! (*He enters 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.

**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 fight 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.

**Benvolio:** I agree. I was trying to stop the fighting when Tybalt and 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? (*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 One, Scene Two: 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.

**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 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 will ask someone to read 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 daughter – 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 One, Scene Three: Lady Capulet's Plan*

*The Capulets' house. Lady Capulet, Juliet and the Nurse are talking.*

**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 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 One, Scene Four: Romeo meets Juliet*

*The Capulets' party. 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 these 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 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 fortwenty 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*)

**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 hands?

**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:** 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 trouble! Lord Capulet is my father's enemy. I love Juliet, but we can never meet again!

**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 Two, Scene One: 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.)*

**Juliet:** Oh, Romeo! What's in a name? You are a Montague and I am a Capulet. They're just names, they don't mean anything. Why are our families enemies? I love you, and that's the only thing that matters.

**Romeo:** You're right, Juliet. *(He comes out again.)* Nothing else is important. Call me love, not Romeo.

**Juliet:** I know that voice. Romeo! Why did you come here? If my cousin finds you here, he'll kill you.

**Romeo:** It's love that brings me here. I am not afraid of Capulet swords. I think nothing of the danger, if you really love me.

**Juliet:** Romeo – you've already heard me say it – I love you. Do you love me? Perhaps I love you too much. Perhaps it's wrong to say so openly that I love you...

**Romeo:** Lady, I love you and I will always love you. Tell me, when can we be together – together for the rest of our lives? *(The Nurse calls out from inside the house.)*

**Juliet:** Oh, Romeo – I must go. Listen. If you really want to marry me, I'll send my Nurse to you tomorrow. Give her a message for me. Tell me when and where to meet you, and I'll follow you, my lord, anywhere in the world. Good night, my love.

**Romeo:** Good night, sweet Juliet. *(Juliet closes the window and goes inside.)* I must talk to the priest, Father Lawrence. I'll ask him to marry us, secretly, without telling our families.

## *Act Two, Scene Two: Help from Father Lawrence*

*It is early in the morning. Father Lawrence is in his garden.*

**Father Lawrence:** I use these flowers to make medicines. The medicines are good, but they

can be dangerous. So I make them very, very carefully. *(Romeo enters.)*

Good morning, Romeo. It's very early. What's the matter – can't you sleep?

**Romeo:** No, I can't, Father Lawrence. I'm in love, and I need your help.

**Father Lawrence:** You're in love with Rosaline, aren't you?

**Romeo:** Rosaline? No, Father, I never think about her now. I'm in love with Juliet, Lord Capulet's daughter.

**Father Lawrence:** This is very sudden! Does she love you?

**Romeo:** Yes, she does. We want to marry, and we want to do it today, but we must do it secretly. If we tell our families, they'll stop us. You'll help us, won't you?

**Father Lawrence:** I'm not sure. Your families are enemies, aren't they?

**Romeo:** Yes, Father. But that's not important to me, or Juliet.

**Father Lawrence:** Wait a minute – if you two marry, perhaps the arguments will finish, and your families will be friends! Yes, Romeo, I'll help you. Come to my house with Juliet this afternoon, and I'll marry you.

**Romeo:** That's wonderful! Thank you, Father!

## *Act Two, Scene Three: A Message for Juliet*

*A street in Verona. Mercutio and Benvolio are talking.*

**Benvolio:** Mercutio – have you seen Romeo this morning?

**Mercutio:** No. He's not interested in his friends any more. He's only interested in love.

**Benvolio:** Tybalt saw Romeo at the party last night, and he's really angry.

**Mercutio:** Ha! Who's afraid of Tybalt? Look, here comes Romeo now! *(Romeo enters.)*

**Benvolio:** Romeo – where have you been? Don't you want to see your friends any more?

**Mercutio:** You're in love with Rosaline, aren't you? That's why you don't want to be with us!

**Romeo:** *(Laughing)* No, I'm not in love with Rosaline.

**Benvolio:** Tybalt is angry with you. He saw you at the party.

**Romeo:** *(Laughing again)* But Tybalt is a Capulet. The Capulets are my friends.

**Mercutio and Benvolio:** Your friends! What do you mean?

**Nurse:** *(Entering)* Excuse me. I'm looking for Romeo, Lord Montague's son. Do you know him?

**Mercutio:** This is Romeo.

**Nurse:** Oh! Isn't he good-looking! I want to talk to you, Romeo. *(She looks at the others.)*  
Alone, please. *(Benvolio and Mercutio leave, laughing.)*

Juliet asked me to find you. She loves you very much, you know.

**Romeo:** I love her too. I've already spoken to Father Lawrence, the priest. Tell Juliet to come to his house this afternoon. He has agreed to marry us. You mustn't tell her mother or father.

**Nurse:** Don't worry my dear, I won't tell them. They want her to marry Paris, but she doesn't like him! And he's not as good-looking as you!

**Romeo:** Don't forget to tell her – this afternoon, at Father Lawrence's house!



## *Act Two, Scene Four: A Secret Wedding*

*Father Lawrence's house. Father Lawrence and Romeo are talking.*

**Romeo:** Juliet will be here very soon. I'll be very happy when we're married.

**Father Lawrence:** Listen, Romeo. You only loved Rosaline for a few weeks. Remember, if you marry Juliet, you must love her, and stay with her, for the rest of your life.

**Romeo:** Yes Father, I understand. I'll always love her. *(Juliet enters, and kisses Romeo.)*

**Juliet:** The Nurse told me to meet you here. She said that Father Lawrence would marry us.

**Father Lawrence:** And I will. Come with me.

## *Act Three, Scene One: More Trouble*

*A busy street in Verona. Some people are walking along the street. Mercutio and Benvolio are talking.*

**Benvolio:** It's hot today, isn't it? I don't like this weather. People feel angry when it's so hot. *(Tybalt and some friends enter.)*

**Mercutio:** Look! It's the Capulets – over there!

**Benvolio:** Don't start an argument, we don't want trouble.

**Mercutio:** I'm not afraid of Tybalt.

**Tybalt:** Where is Romeo? He's your friend, isn't he?

**Mercutio:** That's none of your business.

**Tybalt:** I'm looking for him. And I'm going to find him.

**Mercutio:** Are you looking for a fight?

**Benvolio:** Stop it, you two! *(Romeo enters.)*

**Tybalt:** There he is! Romeo! Come here! *(He pulls out his sword.)* You came to our house last night, didn't you? Well, we don't want the Montagues in our house. I'm going to teach you a lesson. Come on, get out your sword and fight!

**Romeo:** Tybalt, I'm not your enemy! *(Laughing)* The Montagues and Capulets are going to be good friends. Something wonderful has happened.

**Tybalt:** What are you talking about?

**Mercutio:** Why won't you fight with him, Romeo? *(He pulls out his sword.)* Well, I'll fight. Come on! *(Mercutio and Tybalt start fighting.)*

**Romeo:** Stop fighting! Don't you remember what Prince Escalus said? Benvolio, help me to stop them. *(Benvolio and Romeo try to stop them. Tybalt stabs Mercutio and runs away. Mercutio falls.)*

**Mercutio:** Why did you stand between us? I – I'm hurt!

**Romeo:** I'm sorry, Mercutio – I was trying to help.

**Mercutio:** I need a doctor. Oh, you Montagues and Capulets, what a stupid argument! You're both wrong, to fight, and hate, and fight again like this! Ah – I'm dying! *(Mercutio dies.)*

**Romeo:** Mercutio! He's dead! Tybalt! Come back! *(He pulls out his sword angrily.)* You've killed my friend. Now I'm going to kill you! *(Tybalt enters again. They fight, and Romeo kills him. Some people who are watching start shouting.)*

**Benvolio:** This is terrible! Romeo, run away! You'll be in trouble if the Prince finds you here!

**Romeo:** Oh, no! What have I done? *(He runs away.)*

*(Prince Escalus, Lord and Lady Montague, Lord and Lady Capulet, servants and others enter.)*

**Prince Escalus:** What's happened? How did these men die?

**Benvolio:** Tybalt killed Mercutio, sir. Mercutio was Romeo's friend. Romeo was very angry, and he killed Tybalt.

**Lady Capulet:** Romeo must die! He's a murderer! He killed my nephew Tybalt!

**Prince Escalus:** But Tybalt was a murderer too, Lady Capulet.

**Lady Capulet:** No, he wasn't! That's what Benvolio says, but he's a Montague. Romeo must die!

**Lord Montague:** Sir, our son is not a murderer. He killed Tybalt because he was angry.

**Prince Escalus:** Listen, all of you. I have decided not to execute Romeo. But he must leave Verona, and he can never come back. Tell him that he must leave immediately. If he ever comes back to Verona, he will die. Now go home, and keep the peace.

## *Act Three, Scene Two: Another Message*

*Juliet is alone in her room.*

**Juliet:** I'm so excited! Romeo is going to be with me tonight! We're married now, but the only people who know are Father Lawrence and my Nurse. Here she is now. *(The Nurse enters.)*

**Nurse:** Juliet, my dear, something terrible has happened. *(She starts crying)* He's dead, he's dead.

**Juliet:** Who's dead? Not Romeo? Not my husband?

**Nurse:** No, Tybalt is dead.

**Juliet:** Oh, no! My cousin Tybalt! How did he die?

**Nurse:** There was a fight, and Romeo killed him.

**Juliet:** It can't be true! Romeo never fights.

**Nurse:** But it is true. Tybalt killed Romeo's friend Mercutio, and Romeo was very angry. The two of them started fighting, and Romeo killed Tybalt.

**Juliet:** Where's Romeo now? And what's going to happen to him?

**Nurse:** Romeo is hiding in Father Lawrence's house. The Prince has told Lord Montague that Romeo must leave Verona and never come back.

**Juliet:** So I'll never see him again! *(She starts crying.)*

**Nurse:** Don't cry, my dear. Listen. I'll go to Father Lawrence's house and tell Romeo to come here secretly tonight, to say goodbye to you.

**Juliet:** Thank you, Nurse. You're very kind. Wait – take this ring. *(She gives her a ring.)* Give it to Romeo, and tell him that I love him.

## *Act Three, Scene Three: Bad News for Romeo*

*Father Lawrence's house. Romeo is hiding. Father Lawrence enters.*

**Father Lawrence:** Romeo – where are you? It's me, Father Lawrence. *(Romeo comes out.)*

**Romeo:** What did Prince Escalus say? Am I going to die?

**Father Lawrence:** No. Killing Tybalt was wrong. But the Prince is not going to execute you. He said that you must leave Verona immediately, and never come back.

**Romeo:** This is terrible! *(He starts crying.)* Leaving Juliet is worse than dying.

**Father Lawrence:** Just listen, Romeo! You are lucky. The Prince has been kind to you.  
**Romeo:** But I want to die! I can't live without Juliet! *(There is a knock on the door.)*  
**Father Lawrence:** Hide, Romeo! If anyone finds you here, there will be trouble!  
**Romeo:** It doesn't matter. I want to die. *(The Nurse enters.)*  
**Father Lawrence:** I'm happy to see you, Nurse. Have you been with Juliet?  
**Nurse:** Yes. I saw her a few minutes ago, crying and shaking, just like Romeo here.  
**Romeo:** But I killed her cousin. Does she still love me?  
**Nurse:** Yes, of course she does. *(She gives Romeo Juliet's ring.)* She sends you this ring.  
**Father Lawrence:** Listen, Romeo. You can go to see Juliet tonight. But then you must leave Verona. Later, I will tell everybody that you and Juliet are married, and I will ask the Prince to think again. Perhaps you can come back to Verona soon. But you have to leave Verona tonight and go to Mantua. Do you agree to do that?  
**Romeo:** Yes, Father. How long must I stay in Mantua?  
**Father Lawrence:** I'm not sure. Stay there until I send you a message. Don't come back until you hear from me. Now go and say goodbye to Juliet.

## *Act Three, Scene Four: Lord Capulet's Plan*

*The Capulets' house. Lord and Lady Capulet and Paris are talking.*

**Lord Capulet:** Paris, my daughter is very unhappy. Her cousin Tybalt died this morning. Lord Montague's son killed him.  
**Paris:** I'm sorry to hear that. Can I talk to Juliet?  
**Lady Capulet:** Not at this moment, Paris. She is in her room. It's very late, and she needs to rest.  
**Lord Capulet:** Listen. I've just thought of something. I want Juliet to forget about Tybalt's death. I think that she'll be happy when she marries. I know that you love Juliet, and that you would like to marry her. The two of you must marry as soon as possible. What day is it today?  
**Paris:** It's Monday night, sir.  
**Lord Capulet:** Right. The wedding will be on Thursday.  
**Paris:** That's wonderful.  
**Lord Capulet:** *(To his wife)* Go and tell Juliet what I have decided, my dear. We must hurry! Don't forget, Paris – the wedding will be in three days!  
**Paris:** I won't forget, sir.

## *Act Three, Scene Five: Trouble for Juliet*

*Juliet's room. Romeo and Juliet are together.*

**Romeo:** I'm sorry, my love, but I have to go. Look outside – it's nearly morning.  
**Juliet:** Please don't say that. I want you to stay with me. You are my husband now. You needn't go.  
**Romeo:** You know that I have to go. If anyone finds me here, the Prince will execute me. I'm going to stay in Mantua. Father Lawrence is going to talk to our families, and to the Prince. Then I'll be back soon.  
**Juliet:** I hope so. Romeo, my only love! *(There is a knock at the door.)*  
**Romeo:** Kiss me! Goodbye, my love. *(He climbs out of the window.)*  
**Lady Capulet:** *(Entering)* Juliet – you're already out of bed. It's very early.  
**Juliet:** I know. I can't sleep.

**Lady Capulet:** You're still very unhappy about your cousin Tybalt. Don't worry, my dear. We'll find Romeo. And when we find him, he'll die. Now listen, I have some exciting news. Your father has said that Paris and you can marry. And the wedding will be on Thursday. *(Juliet screams.)*

**Juliet:** I won't marry Paris. It's just not possible!

**Lady Capulet:** What do you mean? *(Lord Capulet and the Nurse enter.)*

**Lord Capulet:** Have you told her the news?

**Lady Capulet:** She says that she won't marry Paris.

**Lord Capulet:** What? Why not? Listen, Juliet. Paris is a good, kind man. He's an important man, too, and a friend of the Prince's. You are a very lucky girl!

**Juliet:** Father, listen. I know that you're trying to help me, but I will never marry Paris. I don't love him. I don't even know him.

**Lord Capulet:** That doesn't matter. You will marry him on Thursday. Do you understand? *(Lord and Lady Capulet leave.)*

**Juliet:** This is terrible. What shall I do? They don't know that I've married Romeo!

**Nurse:** Listen, my dear. Romeo is in Mantua. Perhaps you'll never see him again. Your mother and father are right, you know. Paris is a kind man, and good-looking too. He'll be a better husband than Romeo. Marry him. Forget about Romeo. That's the best thing to do. *(She leaves.)*

**Juliet:** I will never listen to my Nurse again. I thought that she would help me, but she won't. I'm going to see Father Lawrence. Perhaps he can help me.

## *Act Four, Scene One: Father Lawrence's Medicine*

*Father Lawrence's house. Paris and Father Lawrence are talking.*

**Father Lawrence:** What! On Thursday! That's in two days. This is very sudden!

**Paris:** I know. I'm very excited. I've loved Juliet for a long time, and soon we'll be married!

**Father Lawrence:** But you don't know her very well. You wait, Paris. Thursday is too soon.

**Paris:** But her father has already decided. I'm very happy!

**Juliet:** *(Entering)* Good morning, Paris.

**Paris:** Hello, Juliet, my love. *(Laughing)* You'll soon be my wife.

**Juliet:** Perhaps. I've come to talk to the priest.

**Paris:** Are you going to tell him how much you love me?

**Juliet:** I've come to talk to him alone.

**Father Lawrence:** Can you leave us, please, Paris?

**Paris:** Of course, Father. Goodbye, my love. *(He kisses Juliet.)* We'll be married soon! *(He leaves.)*

**Juliet:** What shall I do? *(She starts crying.)* I want to die.

**Father Lawrence:** You must marry Paris. What else can you do?

**Juliet:** Father, I'll never marry Paris. Don't you understand? I love Romeo. He is my husband. Look, I have a knife. *(She pulls out a knife.)* If you tell me to marry Paris, I'll kill myself.

**Father Lawrence:** Stop! Put down the knife. Listen, Juliet, I've just thought of something.

*(He goes to a cupboard and takes out a bottle.)*

**Juliet:** What's that? Is it poison? Will you kill me?

**Father Lawrence:** No, Juliet, it's not poison, but it's a very, very strong medicine.  
Anyone who drinks this will sleep for two days.

**Juliet:** What do you want me to do?

**Father Lawrence:** I want you to drink this medicine the night before your wedding.

You'll sleep very, very deeply, and it won't be possible to wake you up. You will be cold and still. Everyone will think that you are dead.

**Juliet:** What'll happen then?

**Father Lawrence:** They will put your body in your family's tomb, next to your cousin Tybalt. Later, you'll wake up. (*Juliet screams.*) Don't worry, I'll send a message to Romeo in Mantua and tell him to come back to Verona when it's dark, I'll tell him to go to the tomb and open it at night. Then the two of you can run away together to Mantua. Will you do it? It's very dangerous, but if you don't do this, you have to marry Paris.

**Juliet:** Yes, Father, I'll do it. I'll do anything to be with Romeo. Thank you, Father. (*Juliet takes the bottle and leaves.*)

**Father Lawrence:** Father John! Father John! (*Father John enters. Father Lawrence quickly writes a message and gives it to him.*) Take this message to Romeo in Mantua. It's very, very important.

## *Act Four, Scene Two: Another Wedding*

*The Capulets' house. Lord and Lady Capulet, the Nurse and servants are all busy.*

**Lord Capulet:** (*To a servant*) Go and ask all our friends to come to the wedding. (*To another servant*) Go and find the best cooks in Verona. This will be a very special wedding. (*To the Nurse*) Where's Juliet?

**Nurse:** She's with the priest, sir. She'll be back soon. Look, here she is now. She looks very happy.

**Juliet:** (*Entering*) I'm sorry, father.

**Lord Capulet:** What?

**Juliet:** You told me to marry Paris, and you were right. I'm not going to cry any more. He is the right man for me. I'm sorry that I didn't agree at first.

**Lord Capulet:** This is wonderful news! Oh, I'm so happy! Listen, everybody! The wedding will be tomorrow morning. Go and tell Paris.

**Lady Capulet:** Tomorrow? But tomorrow is Wednesday. You said that the wedding would be on Thursday. We won't be ready tomorrow!

**Lord Capulet:** That doesn't matter. Juliet and Paris must marry as soon as possible. Hurry, hurry! Nobody will sleep tonight – we're all going to be too busy. Nurse – go and help Juliet with her wedding-dress! Oh, I'm so happy!

## *Act Four, Scene Three: Juliet Drinks the Medicine*

*Juliet's room. Juliet is wearing her wedding-dress. The Nurse and Lady Capulet are with her.*

**Nurse:** You look beautiful, my dear.

**Lady Capulet:** You must go to bed now, Juliet. It's very late, and you need to rest.  
Good night. (*The Nurse and Lady Capulet leave.*)

**Juliet:** They think that I'm going to marry Paris tomorrow, but they're wrong, (*She takes out Father Lawrence's bottle.*) When I drink this, I'll fall asleep. They'll think I'm

dead. Oh, I'm so afraid! I won't wake up for two days. When I wake up, I'll be in the tomb, with dead bodies around me. But I must do it. Romeo will come and find me, and we'll be together again! *(She drinks the medicine and lies down on her bed.)*

## *Act Four, Scene Four: The Capulets Find Juliet*

*The Capulets' house. It is early in the morning, and Lord and Lady Capulet, the Nurse, servants and cooks are all moving around busily.*

**Lady Capulet:** We need more food! And more tables and chairs!

**Lord Capulet:** Bring those flowers over here! Hurry up, there isn't much time left!

**Nurse:** Why don't you go to bed, sir? It's very late.

**Lord Capulet:** I can't sleep – I'm too excited! My daughter is going to marry Paris in the morning! After the wedding, we're going to have a party. It'll be the best party I've ever had!

**Lady Capulet:** Paris will be here soon. Nurse – go and wake Juliet up. *(The Nurse goes out.)*

**Lord Capulet:** I can hear music. Paris is coming, with his musicians. *(The musicians play outside.)*

**Nurse:** Help! Help! *(Some servants run to help her.)*

**Lady Capulet:** What's the matter? *(The Nurse and servants come back, carrying Juliet. They are crying.)*

**Nurse:** She is dead! *(Everyone stops moving.)*

**Lady Capulet:** Juliet! My only child! *(Holding Juliet)* Please, wake up! Oh, she's cold! She's dead!

**Lord Capulet:** She was the sweetest child in the world. She was only thirteen, and now she's dead. *(Father Lawrence, Paris and the musicians enter. The musicians are still playing.)*

**Paris:** I've come here to take Juliet to church! *(They see Juliet's body. The musicians stop playing.)*

**Lady Capulet:** She was our only child. Now our lives are empty. We will never be happy again.

**Paris:** Juliet – dead? This is the worst day of my life.

**Father Lawrence:** Carry her to the church. We will put her in your family's tomb, next to her cousin. Put flowers on her body. *(They put flowers on her body and carry her out.)*

## *Act Five, Scene One: News from Verona*

*Romeo is walking along a street in Mantua. There are some shops in the street.*

**Romeo:** Oh, I'm so lonely without Juliet I want to go back to Verona, but I can't go back yet. I must wait until Father Lawrence sends a message. I'll hear some news soon, I hope. *(One of Lord Montague's servants enters.)* Did Father Lawrence send you?

**Servant:** No, but I've got some news. It's bad news, I'm afraid. Juliet is dead. I saw them put her body in the Capulets' tomb yesterday.

**Romeo:** What! I must go back, I must find out what's happened.

**Servant:** Wait, my lord. Don't go back yet. Wait until Father Lawrence sends some news.

**Romeo:** No! I'm going to Verona now. Leave me alone. *(The servant leaves)* If Juliet is dead, I want to die too. I'm going to see Juliet once more, and then I'm going to die.

I need some poison. Where can I find some poison? I remember seeing a shop near here. Where was it? Here it is. (*He stops outside a shop.*) You! You sell medicines, don't you?

**Shopkeeper:** Yes, sir.

**Romeo:** I want some poison. It must be strong. Do you understand?

**Shopkeeper:** Sir, I sell medicines to help people, not poison to kill them.

**Romeo:** Here. (*He takes some gold from his pocket.*) I will give you as much gold as you want. You look poor and hungry.

**Shopkeeper:** Yes, sir, I am. (*He goes to a cupboard and takes out a bottle.*) I have some poison. It is very dangerous. Anyone who drinks this will die immediately. But I can't sell it to you, I'll be in trouble.

**Romeo:** Don't worry. I won't tell anyone that it came from your shop. (*He takes some more gold from his pocket.*) Here, have all my gold. I don't need it. (*The shopkeeper gives him the bottle, and Romeo leaves.*)

**Father John:** (*Entering*) Where's Romeo? I've got a message for him. It's from Father Lawrence. He said that the message was very important. (*Running up and down the street*) Romeo! Romeo! Where are you? Romeo! Oh, no! He's not here!

## *Act Five, Scene Two: Together Again*

*A garden outside a church. It is late at night. Paris is standing near the Capulets' tomb. It is a very large tomb with a big, heavy door.*

**Paris:** Oh, Juliet! I loved you more than anyone else in the world. I wanted you to be my wife, but now you're dead. (*Putting flowers on the tomb*) I'm going to come to your tomb every night. What's that noise? Someone's coming! (*He hides. Romeo enters.*)

**Romeo:** Juliet – I must see your sweet face again! (*Paris comes out. Romeo opens the door of the tomb.*)

**Paris:** Stop! You're Romeo, aren't you? You're the one of the Montagues. What are you doing to Juliet's tomb?

**Romeo:** Who are you? Leave me alone! (*The two men fight, and Romeo kills Paris. Romeo goes into the tomb, and takes the bottle of the poison out of his pocket.*) Juliet, my love, my wife! You are dead, but you are still beautiful. This will be our last kiss. (*He kisses her, then drinks the poison.*) So with a kiss, he dies. (*He dies.*)

**Father Lawrence:** (*Entering*) Juliet will wake up very soon. Where's Romeo! Father John took a message to him, and the message told him to meet me here. Romeo! (*He goes to the tomb.*) The door's open! What's happened?

**Juliet:** (*Waking up*) Father Lawrence! It's good to see you. Where's Romeo?

**Father Lawrence:** Juliet – something terrible has happened. Romeo is lying next to you, but he's dead! Quickly – get out of the tomb, and come with me. If anyone finds us here, there will be trouble!

**Juliet:** No, Father, I want to be with Romeo. (*Father Lawrence runs away.*) Romeo, my love, what's happened? (*She sees the bottle of poison.*) He's killed himself! Well, I'm going to die too. I can't live without him. Romeo, perhaps there's poison on your lips. (*She kisses him.*) I'm still alive, but I want to die. I'm not afraid of death. (*She takes out a knife, stabs herself and dies. Some people enter.*)

**People:** (*Shouting*) What's happened? Look, here's Paris – he's dead! And Romeo's dead, too! Someone's opened the tomb! Find the Prince! Find the Capulets and the Montagues! (*Prince Escalus, the Capulets, Montagues and servants enter.*)

**Prince Escalus:** Dead! Romeo and Juliet? (*Some more people enter, with Father Lawrence.*) Father Lawrence, do you know anything about this?

**Father Lawrence:** Just a few days ago, Romeo married Juliet. (*Everyone shouts in surprise, and Lady Capulet starts crying.*) I married them secretly, because the Capulets and Montagues are enemies. Juliet didn't want to marry Paris, so I told her to take some special medicine. She wasn't dead, she was asleep. I wanted to send a message to Romeo in Mantua, but he didn't get the message. And they have both killed themselves.

**Prince Escalus:** Lord Capulet, Lord Montague – come here. (*They stand in front of the Prince.*) This has happened because you are enemies. Romeo, Juliet, Paris, Mercutio and Tybalt are all dead.

**Lord Capulet:** Sir, our arguments have finished. We're friends now, and we will never fight again. (*They shake hands unhappily.*)

**Lord Montague:** We'll build a statue of Romeo and Juliet. It will be made of gold. No one will ever forget them.

**Prince Escalus:** Perhaps Verona will be peaceful now. (*He looks up at the sky.*) There is no sun this morning. Go home now, all of you, and remember this unhappy story of Juliet and her Romeo.