

Romeo and Juliet
Introduction to The Prologue

Name: _____

Period: _____

Elizabethan Version (Bryant Translation)

Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the the fatal loins of of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-marked love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
 The which if you with patient ears attend,
 What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

The Shakespearean sonnet (also called the *English sonnet*) has three four-line stanzas (**quatrains**) and a two-line unit called a **couplet**.

A couplet is always indented; both lines rhyme at the end.

The meter of Shakespeare's sonnets is **iambic pentameter**.

The rhyming lines in each stanza are the first and third and the second and fourth. In the couplet ending the poem, both lines rhyme. All of Shakespeare's sonnets follow the same rhyming pattern.

1. What is the setting of the play?

2. What is the conflict?

3. What is the consequence of the conflict?

4. Can you think of any modern day feuds?

The Shakespearean sonnet

4. Mark the rhyme scheme (abab cdcd efef gg).
5. Mark the three quatrains and final couplet.

Name _____

Pd. _____

ROMEO AND JULIET: Act I Reading and Study Guide

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play.

adversary _____

boisterous _____

nuptial _____

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the play.

aside _____

blank verse _____

characterization _____

conflict _____

External: 1. _____ vs. _____

2. _____ vs. _____

3. _____ vs. _____

Internal: 4. _____ vs. _____

couplet _____

epithet _____

figurative language _____

foil _____

foreshadowing _____

iambic meter _____

iambic pentameter _____

metaphor _____

simile _____

pun _____

III. Questions: answer the following questions.

Prologue:

1. In what city does this play take place?
2. Why are Romeo and Juliet called “star-cross’d lovers”?

Scene 1:

3. Who is fighting at the beginning of the first scene?
4. Who tries to break up the fighting?
5. What threat does the Prince make to Lord Montague and Lord Capulet?
6. Benvolio and Montague describe the way Romeo has been acting. What do they have to say about him?
7. Why is Romeo so sad? Explain.
8. What is Benvolio’s advice to Romeo?

Scene 2:

9. Why does Capulet think it will be easy for Montague and him to keep the peace?
10. What does Paris ask about Capulet?
11. What is Capulet’s first answer?
12. A bit later Capulet appears to change his mind about Paris’ question. What does he then tell Paris?
13. What problem does the servant have?
14. What is the name of the woman Romeo loves?

15. What do Romeo and Benvolio decide to do?

Scene 3:

16. How old is Juliet?

17. When Lady Capulet asks Juliet how she feels about marriage, what is Juliet's answer?

18. Following Juliet's answer, what does Lady Capulet then tell Juliet?

Scene 4:

19. According to Mercutio, who or what is Queen Mab, and what does she or it do?

20. What does Mercutio say about dreams?

21. What is Romeo's mood at the end of this scene? Explain.

Scene 5:

22. What does Romeo think of Juliet the first time he sees her?

23. How does Tybalt recognize Romeo?

24. When Tybalt is ready to seize Romeo and throw him out of the party, what does Capulet say to Tybalt?

25. Explain what the conversation is between Romeo and Juliet.

26. How does Romeo find out Juliet's last name?

27. How does Juliet find out Romeo's last name?