

THE TRAGEDY OF
Romeo & Juliet

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

**GO BEHIND
THE CURTAIN**

One Play, Many Productions

The images at the top of page 941 capture five different interpretations of *Romeo and Juliet*. Though the productions were staged at different times in different countries, each director had the same goal: to thrill audiences with Shakespeare's timeless tale of two reckless, lovesick teenagers. As you read the play, you will discover many more images from a variety of productions. You'll also encounter **Behind the Curtain** feature pages that will help you explore the stagecraft used to create moving theatrical productions of this famous play.

TIME

The 14th century

CAST

THE MONTAGUES

Lord Montague (mŏn'tə-gyŏŏ')

Lady Montague

Romeo, son of Montague

Benvolio (bĕn-vŏ'lĕ-ŏ), nephew of Montague and friend of Romeo

Balthasar (bāl'thə-sār'), servant to Romeo

Abram, servant to Montague

THE CAPULETS

Lord Capulet (kăp'yŏŏ-lĕt')

Lady Capulet

Juliet, daughter of Capulet

Tybalt (tĭb'ŏlt), nephew of Lady Capulet

Nurse to Juliet

Peter, servant to Juliet's nurse

Sampson, servant to Capulet

Gregory, servant to Capulet

An Old Man of the Capulet family

PLACE

Verona (və-rŏ'nə) and Mantua (măn'chŏŏ-ə) in northern Italy

OTHERS

Prince Escalus (ĕs'kə-ləs), ruler of Verona

Mercutio (mĕr-kyŏŏ'shĕ-ŏ), kinsman of the prince and friend of Romeo

Friar Laurence, a Franciscan priest

Friar John, another Franciscan priest

Count Paris, a young nobleman, kinsman of the prince

Apothecary (ə-pŏth'ĭ-kĕr'ĕ)

Page to Paris

Chief Watchman

Three Musicians

An Officer

Chorus

Citizens of Verona, **Gentlemen** and **Gentlewomen** of both houses,

Maskers, **Torchbearers**, **Pages**, **Guards**, **Watchmen**, **Servants**, and **Attendants**

Review for William Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*

General Content of the Plot – answers only double-spaced on notebook paper – If any answers are missed in class, the full text is available online in a link in the main menu at the top of the website. Also, the stage production video we use in class is online as well.

1. What was the initial incident that led to the fight in the town square of Verona?
2. Who tries to stop this fight, who restarts it, and who ultimately ends the confrontation?
3. What was the consequence for one more disturbance in the streets of Verona?
4. Why was Romeo upset and distraught when he spoke with Benvolio following the fight?
5. What was Paris' request of Capulet prior to the party?
6. Where is Juliet to meet County Paris?
7. Why is Romeo going to the party?
8. Why are Romeo's friends taking him to the party?
9. What reasons does Lady Capulet give to convince Juliet to marry Paris?
10. What reason does Romeo give for not wanting to go inside of Capulet's house?
11. Who recognizes Romeo, and what does he want to do about him being there?
12. What reason does Capulet give for not allowing any harm to come to Romeo?
13. What action do Romeo and Juliet engage in during the party that they compare to a sin of pilgrims?
14. How do they learn of each other's identity? How do they feel when they learn the truth?
15. Where does Romeo hide, and from whom is he hiding?
16. Where specifically are Romeo and Juliet after the party, and what do they profess?
17. What does Juliet see as the potential solution that would allow them to be together?
18. How does Juliet plan to confirm the plans for their marriage?
19. Who does Romeo seek out for help in the marriage?
20. Why does Friar Laurence change his mind concerning his involvement in their marriage?
21. What does the Nurse demand to know before delivering Romeo's message to Juliet?
22. What were the arrangements for the wedding?
23. Why does the Nurse not tell Juliet of the plans immediately upon her return? [2 reasons]
24. What warning does Benvolio try to give to Mercutio and Tybalt?
25. Why does Tybalt want to fight Romeo?
26. What reason does Romeo give for not wanting to fight Tybalt? Explain real reason!
27. Why does Mercutio feel he must fight Tybalt instead of Romeo?
28. What is the final event that allows Tybalt to be able to stab Mercutio?
29. Why is Romeo not killed for murdering Tybalt, and what is his consequence?
30. Why does Romeo attempt suicide in the Friar's cell, and what changes his mind?
31. Why does the Friar tell Romeo to go to Juliet, and when will he have to be gone?
32. Where is Romeo going, and when does he get to return?
33. Why does Lady Capulet believe Juliet is upset, and why is she really?
34. What does Lady Capulet offer to do to Romeo to make Juliet feel better?
35. What good tidings does Lady Capulet bring to Juliet?
36. Explain the ultimatum Lord Capulet gives to Juliet, and why he gives it?
37. For what two reasons does the Nurse believe it might be best for Juliet to marry Paris?
38. What reason does Juliet give the Nurse to tell her mother for why she goes to the Friar?
39. Why is Juliet really going to the Friar?
40. Describe in detail the Friar's plan for Juliet to escape marrying Paris and meet Romeo?
41. What is Juliet to tell her father upon her return from the Friar?
42. What problems does this message cause for Juliet?
43. What does Balthasar go to tell Romeo, and why does he believe what he does?
44. What did Romeo give for the poison from the apothecary?
45. What was the main reason the apothecary did not want to give the poison to Romeo?
46. What are the details of the conversation between Balthasar and Romeo outside of the tomb?
47. Why does Paris try to apprehend Romeo?
48. What reason does Romeo give for trying to have Paris leave the tomb?
49. While in the tomb, what favor does Romeo say he will do for Tybalt?
50. After Juliet awakens, what method of suicide failed? How was she successful?
51. What loss has the Prince had as a result of the feud?
52. What is the global punishment everyone connected with the families received?
53. What is the symbolic offering to end the feud the father's offer?
54. Name in order all who die.