

Romeo and Juliet



William Shakespeare

PART ONE

The Montagues and the Capulets

In the beautiful city of Verona,
there **were** two families:
the Montagues and the Capulets.

They **hated** each other.

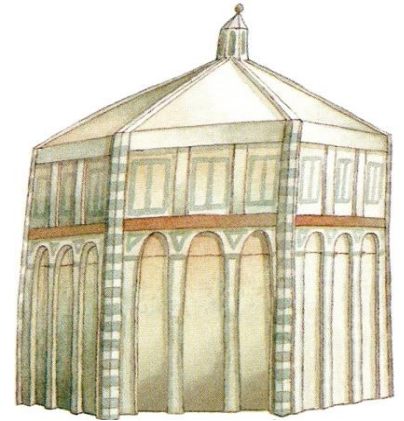
They had hated each other for hundreds of years.

One day, two servants of the house of Capulet **were** walking
in the streets.

Just then, two servants from the house of Montague
came into the street.

The two groups of servants **began** to fight.

'The Montagues are better than the Capulets,' **shouted**
the servants of the Montagues.



'Our masters, the Capulets, are better,' shout**ed**
the servants of the Capulets.
They **began** to fight.

Then Benvolio, a member of the Montague family, arriv**ed**.
He tri**ed** to make peace.

'Stop, fools! Put away your swords.'

But no-one listen**ed** to him.

The servants continu**ed** fighting and
Benvolio **took out** his sword to stop them.



Then, Tybalt arriv**ed**.

He **was** a Capulet, the most dangerous member of the family.

He lov**ed** fighting.

'Benvolio, you must fight with me. Look at your death!'
'I am only trying to separate these fools,' replied Benvolio.
'Help me keep the peace.'
'Peace!' snarled Tybalt.
'I hate the word. I hate all the Montagues and I hate you!'

With those words, Tybalt attacked Benvolio with his sword.
Then Lord and Lady Capulet arrived.
Lord Capulet was old but he wanted to fight too.
Then, Lord and Lady Montague arrived.
More and more people came.
Soon everyone was fighting. It was very dangerous.
At last, the Prince of Verona arrived. He was very angry.



*'Stop fighting! I want peace in my city.'
Drop your weapons or you will all die!
Lord Capulet and lord Montague,
If your two families fight again, you will both die!'*



Everyone **went away** except the Montagues. The fight **was over**.

*How **did** it begin?* Lord Montague asked **ed** Benvolio.

*'The servants **were** fighting. I **drew** my sword to stop them.*

*The Tybalt arrived **ed**. He **began** fighting with me.*

*Soon everyone **was** involved.*

Where is my son, Romeo? Is he safe? asked **ed** Lady Montague.

*'I **saw** him this morning, an hour before the sunrise,'* replied **ed**

Benvolio.

'He **was** walking alone in the fields.

He **saw** me but he **didn't** want my company. He **went into** the forest.'

*'But look, he is coming now,' **said** Benvolio,*

'I will ask him about his problems.'

'I hope he will answer you.'

*We will leave you to speak privately,' **said** Lord Montague.*



*Good morning, cousin,' **said** Benvolio.*

*'It is a sad morning' replied **Romeo**.*

*Why? Why are your days sad and long?' asked **Benvolio**.*

'I am.. in love?' I love her but she does not love me.

Love is a terrible thing, Benvolio. I love and hate.

*Love comes from nothing. It is heavy and light, serious and foolish,
hot and cold, sick and healthy. Are you laughing at me?'*

'No, I am sad because you are sad.'

But tell me, who do you love?

'I love a woman.'

'I know that. But who?'

'I love sweet Rosaline.'

She is beautiful, intelligent and good. But she does not love me.'

Forget her. There are many other girls.'

'No, I can never forget her.'

Lord Capulet decided **ed** to have a party.

'I will invite all the important people from Verona.'

But not the Montagues.'

He wanted **ed** his daughter, Juliet, to meet Paris, a lord from Verona, the friend of the Prince. He **said** to his servant.

Here is a list of names. Go and invite the guests.'

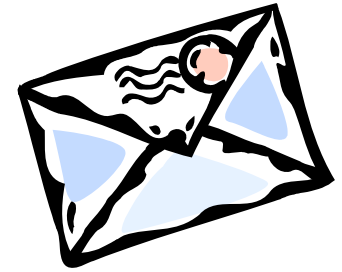
The servant **met** Romeo and Benvolio in the street.
He **did not** know that they **were** Montagues.

'Can you help me?' he asked.

'I can't read the names on this piece of paper.'

Look, Romeo. Rosaline will be at the party.'

'I have an idea,' **said** Romeo suddenly.



Meanwhile, Lady Capulet **was** talking to Juliet,
her thirteen year-old daughter.

Juliet **had** an old nurse who looked **ed** after her.

'You will meet Paris at the party,' Lady Capulet **told** Juliet.

'Perhaps you will marry him one day.'

'Mother, I am too young to get married,' replied Juliet.



PART TWO

The Garden of the Capulets



Romeo **went** to the party with Benvolio and his friend, Mercutio. They **were** all wearing masks.

It **was** very dangerous for the Montagues and their friends to go to party in the house of the Capulets.

'I cannot wait to see fair Rosaline,' **said** Romeo as they approached**ed** the house.

Lord Capulet welcomed**ed** them.

'Come in, gentlemen. Dance and drink and eat. Enjoy yourselves.'

He **did not** recognise the son of his enemy, Lord Montague.

He **spoke** to all the guests. *'Now, girls, dance to the music.'*

As they **went into** the house, Romeo **saw** Juliet for the first time.

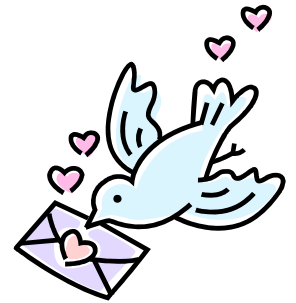
He **forgot** Rosaline! He **fell in love!**

'Who is that lady? asked **ed** *Romeo.*

'She is more beautiful than the moon.'

'She is like a bright jewel in the darkness.'

'She is like a dove among crows. I have never loved until now.'

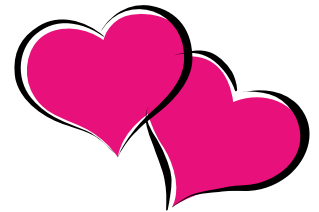


But Tybalt recognis**ed** Romeo's voice.

'It is a Montague. Bring me my sword. I will kill him.'

'What's the matter, Tybalt?' **asked** Lord Capulet.

'That man in the mask is a Montague, uncle.'



Be calm, Tybalt. Is it Romeo?

He has a good reputation in Verona. This is a party.

I want no trouble in my house. Let him enjoy himself.'

'No, uncle. He is our enemy.'

'Don't be cheeky, young man.

I am the master in this house.

You must do as I say.'



Tybalt **did not** agree but he **did not** want to make Lord Capulet angry.

'I will leave the party.

I cannot stay here with a Montague in the room.

But I will not forget.

Romeo will have a good time tonight but tomorrow he will pay!'

Romeo **went to** Juliet and talked **ed** to her.

He **did not** know who she **was**.

He **took** her hand gently in his.

'My lips are ready to kiss you,' he **said** softly.

'I do not know you,' protested **ed** Juliet.

'I must kiss you,' insisted **ed** Romeo.

'Here I am,' said Juliet. *'My lips are here.'*

Romeo kissed **ed** Juliet.

He kissed **ed** her a second time.



Then the Nurse **came** to take Juliet to her mother.

'That is Juliet. She is a Capulet,' the Nurse **told** Romeo.

Romeo **was** very surprised and upset.

He **was** in love with the daughter of the enemy of his family.

'Quickly, let's go,' said Benvolio. 'It is dangerous here.'

Juliet asked **ed** the Nurse. *'Who is that young man?'*

'That is Romeo. He is a Montague.'

Juliet **was** also very surprised and upset. She **was** in love with the son of the enemy of her family. *'We can never get married,'* she **thought**.

After they **left** the party, Mercutio and Benvolio looked **ed** for Romeo.

'Look! He is there in the shadows. What is he doing?' said Mercutio.

'He is jumping the wall.'

'He is going into the garden of the Capulets.'

'He is going to look for Rosaline.'

'His love is blind.'

Mercutio and Benvolio **went** home. The night was silent.



In the dark garden, Romeo Suddenly **saw** a light.

Juliet was standing on her balcony.

*'She is beautiful,' he **thought**.*

'Her eyes are stars. They give light to the night.

Her glove touches her cheek — I would like to be her glove!'

Juliet **began** to speak.

She **did not** know what Romeo **was** listening.

*'Ah, Romeo,' she sigh**ed**. 'O Romeo, Romeo!*

Why is your name Romeo? Let's change our names.

Then we can love. Forget that you are a Montague.

Or, if you love me, I will not be a Capulet.

Montague and Capulet are only names.

A rose can have any name. It always smells sweet.

Romeo called **ed** out. *'I will change my name for you.'*

'Who's there?' asked **ed** Juliet.

'Who is listening in the middle of the night?'

'I will not tell you my name because it is your enemy.'

'I know your voice. Are you Romeo?'

'If my family find you. They will murder you.'

'The night hides me. I am safe.'

Love has sent me here to you.'



Romeo and Juliet talked **ed** together.

Romeo **knew** Juliet's secret — She loved **ed** him.

They decided **ed** to get married secretly.

'Will you be honest?' asked **ed** Juliet.

'Yes, my darling,' replied **ed** Romeo, *'I promise by the moon.'*

'But the moon changes. Will your love change?

"Never. I will always love you. Do you love me?"

'Yes, but the Nurse is calling. Good night, Romeo.'

'Good night, Juliet.'

The nurse called: *'Juliet! Juliet!'*

'I'm coming, Nurse. Good night.'

'Good night'

'It is very sad and very sweet to say good night.

But tomorrow we will be married.'



PART THREE

The Prince of Cats

Romeo **went** to see Friar Lawrence, his friend and teacher.

The sun **was** rising and it **was** a beautiful morning.

The Friar was working in his garden.

He **was** an expert gardener who **knew** all the plants.

*'Friar' **said** Romeo, 'I want to get married.'*

*'To Rosaline?' **asked** the Friar.*

'No, she is nothing to me.

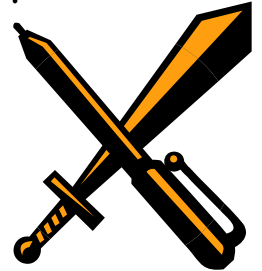
I love Juliet and she loves me. You must help us.

We want to get married today.'

'What?

I see that young men's love is not in their hearts but in their eyes!'

'But Friar, Juliet is my true love.'



'Well, perhaps your marriage will make the Capulets and the Montagues friends.

It is a good thing for Verona. I will help you.'

The two lovers **got ready** for their secret wedding.

In the afternoon, the sun was shining.

Romeo **went** secretly to Friar Lawrence's cell.

'The day is bright.' said the Friar.

'It is a sign that the future will be happy.'

'I do not care if I die tomorrow.

It is enough that Juliet is mine.'

Don't be so passionate. It is better to love moderately.

Then love will last longer.'



At last Juliet arrived. She **was** very nervous.

So **was** Romeo.

They **were** very young but very much in love.

Friar Lawrence **was** like a father to them.

He **took** them into his cell and they **were married**.



Meanwhile, Benvolio and Mercutio **were** walking in the streets of Verona. *'Let's go home,'* **said** Benvolio.

The Capulets are out in the streets.

If we meet them, we will have to fight.'

We have bad luck.'

'Here come the Capulets.

Tybalt is there!'

'The Prince of Cats. I am not afraid.'

Tybalt approached **ed** Mercutio.

'I want to speak with you.'

"You are not a Montague but a friend of Romeo.

That makes you my enemy.'

*'Be careful,' **said** Benvolio.*

'We are in the public streets.

If you fight, the Prince will be angry.'



At that moment, Romeo **came back** from his secret wedding.

'Fight, you villain!' shouted **ed** Tybalt.

Romeo **did not** want to fight because Tybalt **was** Juliet's cousin.

'I am not a villain. But I will not fight with you.'

Mercutio **was** angry because

he **thought** that Romeo **was** a coward. He **took out** his own sword.

What do you want?’ asked Tybalt.

‘I want one of your nine lives, Prince of Cats!’ replied Mercutio.

‘I will fight as Romeo is too afraid to fight,’ agreed Tybalt.

Romeo **came** between Mercutio and Tybalt as they **began** to fight.

‘Stop fighting. The Prince will be angry. He will punish you.

Stop fighting! Stop, Tybalt! Stop, good Mercutio!’ **shouted** Romeo.

But Tybalt **took** the opportunity to kill Mercutio.

The sword passed under Romeo’s arm as he **stood** between them.

Then Tybalt **ran** quickly **away**.

Mercutio **groaned**. *‘Aaaagh! I am hurt. I am dying.’*

‘Are you badly hurt?’ asked Romeo.

‘A scratch, a scratch. It’s enough. Bring me a doctor.’

‘Be brave, Mercutio. It cannot be so bad.’



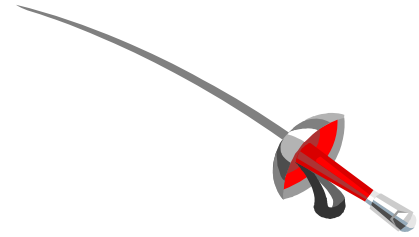
'Look for me tomorrow in my grave.

*Why **did** you come between us?'*

*'I **wanted** to help...'*

Mercutio **fell** to the ground and died.

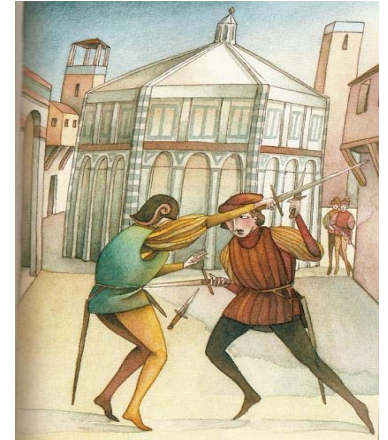
It **was** Romeo's fault. His friend **was** dead.



PART FOUR

Fortune's Fool

At the moment Tybalt returned. *'Boy!'* shouted Tybalt. *'You came here with Mercutio and you will die, too.'*



Romeo was so angry that he lost control.

He took out his sword and fought with Tybalt. He killed him.

'He killed my friend. Now he is dead. He is with Mercutio.'

Benvolio took his arm. *'Romeo, you must escape.'*

'The people are coming. The Prince will punish you with death.'

'Oh, I am Fortune's fool.'

With those words, Romeo ran away.

Soon the citizens arrived, followed by the Prince.

They saw Mercutio and Tybalt lying dead on the ground.

*'Where are the people who **began** this fight?'* asked the Prince angrily.

'I can tell the complete story,' promised Benvolio.

'Romeo wanted to stop the fight,' explained Benvolio.

'But Tybalt killed Mercutio.'

'Then Romeo killed Tybalt.'

The Prince spoke seriously. *'It is wrong to kill.*

We banish Romeo from Verona!

If I find him in the city, he will die!

We must not show mercy to murderers.'

Those were the Prince's final words.

Romeo had to leave Verona and never return.



Juliet **was** waiting for Romeo, her new husband.
She wanted **ed** the night to come quickly so that they could be together. But when the Nurse arrived, she **brought** bad news.

'He is dead!'

*'I **saw** the body with my own eyes. He is dead.'*

'What? Is Romeo dead?'

'No, Tybalt is dead. Romeo has killed him.'

'Romeo is banished. He must leave Verona.'

*'**Did** Romeo kill my cousin? He is a villain. But I love him.'*

'Juliet was very unhappy.'

*'Your father and mother are crying for Tybalt,' the Nurse **told** her.*

*'I will cry for him too,' **said** Juliet. 'But I will cry more for Romeo.'*

*'No,' **said** the Nurse. 'Romeo is hiding with Friar Lawrence.'*



Romeo **was** talking to Friar Lawrence .

'Everything is finished. I must leave Verona and never see Juliet again.

'Give me poison or a knife to kill myself.' I am in love. I want to die.'

'No, be brave. You must go to Mantua. You will be safe there.

I will send you news about Juliet. One day, you will be together again.

But here is the nurse.'

How is Juliet?' Romeo asked **ed** *her immediately.*

'She cries and cries', answered **ed** *the Nurse.*

'Tonight, go with the Nurse', said **ed** *the Friar.*

'See Juliet for the last time.'

So Romeo **spent** his marriage night with Juliet.

In the morning, Romeo **left** Juliet.

He **had** to escape to Mantua before the Prince **found** him.



PART FIVE

My Lady's Dead!

Early next morning,
Lady Capulet visited Juliet in her bedroom.

'Daughter, are you awake?'

'It is very early. I am not well,' answered Juliet.

'Juliet, I have good news for you. You will get married to Paris early next Thursday. Then, you will be happy.' said Lady Capulet.

'No, mother. It is impossible. I don't want to get married so soon. Tell my father this.'

'Here comes your father. Tell him yourself.'

'What,' said Lord Capulet. *'Are you still crying?'*

Wife, have you told her the news?'

'Yes, the little fool thanks you but she won't get married.'



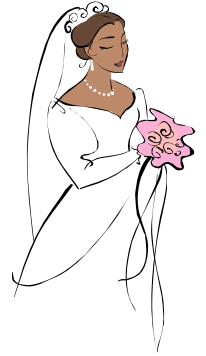
Lord Capulet **was** very angry.

'Lord Paris is a very fine gentleman. This is great opportunity.'

'Good father, listen to me.'

'Don't argue with me. Go to the church next Thursday.

If you don't obey me I will throw you out in the street.'



When her parents had gone, Juliet asked **ed** the Nurse for advice.

'I already have a husband that I love. What should I do?'

'Well, Romeo is not here. Paris is a fine gentleman. It's true.

He is more handsome than Romeo.

Forget Romeo and marry Paris.'

Juliet realised **ed** that she **could** not trust the Nurse.

She **went to** Friar Lawrence to ask his advice.

The Friar talked **ed** to Juliet.

*'If you are brave . I have a plan that will help you and Romeo.
You will be together again.'*

'What must I do?'

'Go home and agree to marry Paris'.

'No, I cannot'.

*'Listen carefully. On Wednesday night, go to your bedroom alone.
Take this bottle and drink the liquid. It is a special potion.
You will sleep for forty-two hours.*

Your family will think that you are dead.

They will carry you to the tomb of the Capulets.

Meanwhile, I will send a message to Romeo.

*He will come secretly to the tomb. When you wake up,
you can escape together.'* Are you brave to do this, Juliet?

Give me the bottle, Friar. Love will give me strenght.'



Juliet **went** home. Lord and Lady Capulet **were** very happy.

She **told** them that she would marry with Paris.

'Now I am going to my room to pray.

Do not come with me, Nurse, I want to be alone.'

In her room, Juliet pick**ed** up the bottle and rais**ed** it to her lips.

'Romeo, Romeo, I drink to you!'

She **drank**. She **fell** on the bed and **slept**.

The next morning, it **was** Thursday.

The nurse **came** to wake her up for her marriage.

'Help! Help! My lady's dead!'

Lord and Lady Capulet **ran** to their daughter's house.

'She is dead. She's dead', cri**ed** Lady Capulet.

'Her body is cold. I cannot speak,' **said** Lord Capulet.



The Nurse **began** to cry. *'O terrible day! O sad day!
'Do not be sad,' said* the Friar.
'Juliet is in heaven now.

'The wedding must become a funeral,' said Lord Capulet.

Lord and Lady Capulet **took** Juliet to the tomb of the Capulets.
The Nurse, Lord Paris and Friar Lawrence follow**ed** her body.

The Friar **was** the only one who **knew** the secret – Juliet **was**
alive. He **was** thinking:

*'I have sent Friar John to Mantua to tell Romeo to come back to
Verona. He will be here when Juliet wakes up.'*



PART FIVE

With a Kiss, I Die



Balthasar, the servant of Romeo arrived **ed** Mantua.

He had come with news from Verona.

'Balthasar! What is the news from Verona?

Have you got letters from the Friar? How is my mother?

How is my father? How is Juliet?'

His servant replied **ed** sadly.

'Juliet is dead. She lies in the tomb of the Capulets.'

'What! Get me some horses. I will ride to Verona Tonight.'

When Balthasar had gone, Romeo **made** his plans.

'I will go to the tomb. I will kiss her for the last time.

Then I will drink poison. If Juliet is dead, I will die too.'

He **began** to think carefully.

'There is an apothecary who has a shop near here.

He is very poor. If I pay him well, he will sell me some poison.'

So, Romeo **went to** the apothecary and **gave** him some gold.

'Here is the poison. It is enough to kill twenty men.'

In the middle of the night, Paris **was** at the tomb of the Capulets.
He had come to put flowers on Juliet's grave.

'Sweet Juliet,' said Paris,

I will visit your grave every night and cry for you.

But someone is coming. I will hide and watch...'



Romeo **arrived** at the tomb with his servant.

Give this letter to my father tomorrow, Balthasar. Now go away.'

Romeo used a strong metal bar to open the tomb.

Paris was watching.

'This is Romeo, who murdered Juliet's cousin.

I will arrest him!.

Paris called to Romeo.

'You are a Montague. You killed Tybalt. You must die!'

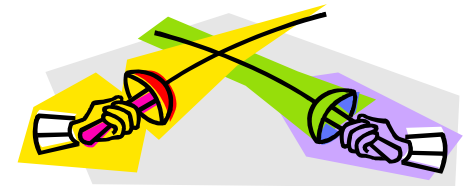
'I do not know you,' said Romeo.

'Go away if you want to live. Do not fight with me. I am desperate.'

'I arrest you, murderer!' said Paris.

They began to fight. Romeo fought like a madman.

He was stronger than Paris and killed him.



Then, Romeo went inside the tomb.

He saw Juliet lying there and thought that she was dead.

*'Oh my love, my wife! You are still beautiful. I will stay here.
Let me hold you in my arms. I love you.'*

Romeo **held** Juliet.

He **took** a cup of poison out of his pocket and raised **ed** it to his lips.

Outside, someone **was** calling him: *'Romeo! Romeo!'*

He kissed **ed** Juliet. *'With a kiss, I die.'*



When Friar Lawrence **knew** that Romeo **did not** receive the letter,
he hurried **ed** to the tomb. He **met** Balthasar.

I can see a light in the tomb.

Who is looking among the skulls and the worms?'

It is my master, Romeo.'

'I must go to him. Romeo! Romeo!'



But when the Friar **went** inside the tomb,
Romeo had already drunk the poison. He **was** dead.
Inside the tomb, it **was** cold and dark.

Juliet **woke up** and **saw** the Friar.

'Where is Romeo?' she asked.

'He is dead,' replied the Friar. *'Paris is also dead.'*

'But we must go. The Watchman is coming. Come with me.'

'No, I will stay with Romeo,' said Juliet.



The Friar **left** her. Juliet **held** Romeo in her arms.

'I will drink poison too –but the cup is empty. Let me kiss his lips.'

'They are still warm. But I can hear people coming.'

Outside the tomb, the Watchman **was** approaching.

'Quick, here is Romeo's dagger. Let me die!'

Juliet stabbed **ed** herself and **fell**.

Everyone arriv**ed** at the tomb of the Capulets.
It **was** too late. Romeo and Juliet **were** dead.
That **was** the end of their great love story.



'Here is the body of Paris,' said the Watchman.

'And here are the bodies of a boy and girl.'

'I can explain everything,' said the Friar.

*'It is all a mistake, a terrible mistake. They lov**ed** each other.*

*The Nurse and I help**ed** them to get married secretly.*

No they are dead.'

Finally the Prince **spoke**:

'My friends Mercutio and Paris are dead. Tybalt is dead.

Romeo and Juliet are dead. This is a terrible day for Verona.

