

ROMEO AND JULIET – Knowledge Organiser: Narrative / Quotations / Language features

| Prologue | | The prologue suggests the play's focus is the long-standing conflict between the families. It tells the audience that R&J will die, and also suggests that their deaths are inevitable. | 1 | "ancient grudge" | Chorus | Adjective |
|--|---|--|---|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday | 1,1- Morning FIGHT / UNREQUITED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fight between the Capulet and Montague servants. | 2 | "star-cross'd lovers take their life" | Chorus | Dramatic irony |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benvolio tries to deescalate the situation. Tybalt tries to escalate the conflict. | 3 | "My naked weapon is out" | Sampson | Innuendo |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prince threatens families with execution. | 4 | "Part fools! Put up your swords!" | Benvolio | Exclamation |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord & Lady M ask Benvolio to discover the cause of Romeo's sadness. | 5 | "Peace? I hate the word" | Tybalt | Rhetoric |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benvolio and Romeo discuss unrequited love. Romeo is confused by love. | 6 | "you beasts!" "On pain of death, depart." | Prince | Metaphor |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capulet talks to Paris about marrying Juliet and invites him to the party | 7 | Romeo "locks fair daylight out". | Montague | Metaphor |
| | 1,2 - Morning MARRIAGE? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo and Benvolio find out about the Capulet party. Benvolio encourages Romeo to meet other women. Romeo decides to go as he hope to see Rosaline there | 8 | "Love is a smoke" | Romeo | Metaphor |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lady Capulet talks with Juliet & the Nurse about marrying Paris. The Nurse says that Paris is a perfect man. We learn that Juliet is only 13 years old | 9 | "My child is yet a stranger in the world" | Capulet | Metaphor |
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo and Mercutio discuss attitudes to love. Mercutio has a much more pragmatic attitude to love: have sex and fulfil your desires. He is not a romantic like Romeo. | 10 | "Compare her face" | Benvolio |
| | 1,3 - Afternoon PARIS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo and Mercutio discuss attitudes to love. Mercutio has a much more pragmatic attitude to love: have sex and fulfil your desires. He is not a romantic like Romeo. | 11 | "he's a man of wax" | Nurse | Metaphor |
| | | | 12 | "It is an honour that I dream not of" | Juliet | Euphemism |
| | 1,4 - Evening MERCUTIO | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo and Mercutio discuss attitudes to love. Mercutio has a much more pragmatic attitude to love: have sex and fulfil your desires. He is not a romantic like Romeo. | 13 | "If love be rough with you, be rough with love" | Mercutio | Repetition |
| | | | 14 | "Prick love for pricking" | Mercutio | Innuendo |
| | 1,5 - Night BALL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo sees Juliet at the ball and immediately falls in love. | 15 | "she doth teach the torches to burn bright!" | Romeo | Imagery |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tybalt sees Romeo and wants to fight him. He immediately calls for his sword | 16 | "Fetch me my rapier" | Tybalt | Imperative |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capulet restrains him | | "Am I the master here, or you?" | Capulet | Rhetoric |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo and Juliet flirt, mixing holy and passionate imagery and sharing a <u>sonnet</u> | 17 | "dear saint, let lips do what hands do" | Romeo | Metaphor |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo and Juliet realise that they are "enemies" | 18 | "You kiss by the book" | Juliet | Metaphor |
| | 2,1 - Late night FRIENDS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo sneaks into the Capulet orchard; his friends search for him | 19 | "If he be married, my grave will be my wedding bed..." | Juliet | Foreshadowing |
| 20 | | | "Madman! Passion! Lover!" | Mercutio | Exclamation Mocking | |
| 2,2 - Very late BALCONY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo, in hiding sees Juliet at her balcony and listens to her express her feelings They meet. Romeo is passionate and headstrong. Juliet is wary. | 21 | "Juliet is the sun" | Romeo | Metaphor/Imagery | |
| | | 22 | "this contract is...Too like the lightning" | Juliet | Simile | |
| Monday | 2,3 - Early morning FRIAR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Friar is cynical, believing that Romeo feels sexual passion, not love | 23 | "young men's love lies not truly in their hearts" | Friar Laurence | Metaphor |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friar Laurence then supports the secret marriage, hoping it will end the feud | 24 | "This alliance may...turn...rancour to pure love" | Friar Laurence | Metaphor |
| | 2,4 - Noon PLANS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mercutio learns of Tybalt's challenge to Romeo. Mercutio mocks Tybalt, but also notes his skill as a swordsman and the threat that he poses | 25 | " <u>More</u> than Prince of Cats" | Mercutio | Irreverence Foreshadowing |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet has sent the Nurse to talk to Romeo to confirm his promise of marriage. The Nurse warns Romeo against misleading Juliet | 26 | Do not lead her into a "fool's paradise" | Nurse | Metaphor |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo tells the Nurse to collect a rope-ladder that will allow him to climb into Juliet's bedroom after they are married. | 27 | "bring the cords" | Romeo | - |
| | 2,5 - Afternoon WAITING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet waits for the Nurse to bring news. She is impatient at how slow she is. | 28 | "O, she is lame!" | Juliet | Exclamation Hyperbole |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nurse teases Juliet, drawing attention to how physically attractive Romeo is | 29 | "his leg excels all men's" | Nurse | Hyperbole |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nurse tells Juliet that she will soon be able to have sex with Romeo | | 30 | "you shall bear the burden soon at night" | Nurse | Innuendo | |

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| | 2,6 - Afternoon MARRIAGE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo and Juliet marry in secret Friar Laurence warns Romeo that intense passion can lead to intense outcomes | 31 | “these violent delights have violent ends” | Friar Laurence | Foreshadowing |
| | 3,1 - Afternoon FIGHT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benvolio warns that the day is so hot that people will be impatient and overreact Tybalt confronts Romeo. Romeo regards himself as related now, and refuses. Mercutio’s pride/loyalty/impulsiveness cause him to fight Tybalt. Mercutio dies. Mercutio blames both families for his death. Enraged, Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge. The Prince – a relative of Mercutio’s – banishes Romeo on pain of death | 32 | “the mad blood is stirring | Benvolio | Metaphor |
| | | | 33 | “I love thee better than thou canst devise” | Romeo | Enigmatic |
| | | | 34 | “A plague a’both your houses” (used three times) | Mercutio | Metaphor Repetition |
| | | | 35 | “Fire-ey’d fury be my conduct now!” | Romeo | Personification |
| | 3,2 - Afternoon NEWS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet is impatient night to fall so that Romeo will be able to visit her secretly. Juliet is shocked to hear that Romeo is capable of murder, but remains loyal. | 36 | “Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night” | Juliet | Metaphor Personification |
| | | | 37 | “Beautiful tyrant! Fiend angelical!” | Juliet | Oxymoron Exclamation |
| | 3,3 - Early evening BANISHED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Friar tells Romeo that he’s been banished and notes how unusually unlucky he is. Romeo says he may as well be dead, as banishment means he cannot see Juliet. Romeo considers killing himself with his dagger. The Friar stops him. Romeo leaves to spend the night with Juliet before leaving for exile in Mantua. | 38 | “Thou art wedded to calamity” | Friar Laurence | Metaphor Irony |
| | | | 39 | “Exile is death” | Romeo | Hyperbole |
| | | | 40 | “Hold thy desperate hand!” | Friar Laurence | Exclamation |
| 3,4 - Late Evening PARIS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cap. allows Paris to marry Juliet, thinking it will help her get over Tybalt’s death. | 41 | “she will be ruled in all respects by me” | Lord Capulet | Verb → “ruled” | |
| Tuesday | 3,5 - Early morning PARTING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&J wake up. The sun is rising, putting pressure on Romeo to leave quickly. The Nurse warns them that Lady Capulet is coming. Lady Capulet promises to arrange Romeo’s death as revenge for killing Tybalt Juliet refuses to marry Paris. Lord Capulet reacts aggressively. The Nurse discourages Juliet from holding out hope for Romeo | 42 | “more light and light, more dark and dark our woes!” | Romeo | Repetition |
| | | | 43 | “be wary” | Nurse | Adjective → wary |
| | | | 44 | “we will have vengeance for it” | Lady Capulet | Noun → vengeance |
| | | | 45 | “hang, beg, starve, die in the streets” | Lord Capulet | Listing |
| | | | 46 | “Romeo’s a dishclout” | Nurse | Metaphor |
| | | | 47 | “I long to die” | Juliet | Emotive |
| | 4,1 - Morning FRIAR’S PLANS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet tells the Friar that she intends to kill herself if she cannot be with Romeo The Friar stops her. He has a plan to fake her death and will write to Romeo in Mantua Juliet emotionally lists all of the horrific things she would endure to be with Romeo | 48 | “hold, daughter, I do spy a kind of hope” | Friar Laurence | Verb → hold |
| | | | 49 | “chain me with roaring bears” etc. | Juliet | Hyperbole |
| | | | 50 | “I am ever rul’d by you” | Juliet | Verb → Ru’ d |
| | 4,2 - Afternoon DECEPTION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet tells her father that she will obey his orders. Capulet brings forward the wedding, meaning less time for Romeo to be contacted. | 51 | “What if it be a poison?” | Juliet | Rhetorical Q Foreshadowing |
| 4,3 - Night DRUGGED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet’s soliloquy shows that she is frightened & irrational. She thinks the Friar might be trying to poison her; she fears she might find haunted or try to kill herself in the tomb | | | | | |
| Wednesday | 4,5 - Early morning TRICKED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juliet cannot be woken – she appears to be dead. Her family express their sorrow. Ironically, Capulet explains to the Friar that Juliet has metaphorically married death | 52 | “Death is my son-in-law” | Lord Capulet | Irony |
| | 5,1 - Morning APOTHECARY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romeo learns that Juliet has died – The Friar’s letter has not arrived in time. Romeo challenges his fate/destiny. He buys poison so that he can kill himself. | 53 | “I defy you stars!” | Romeo | Exclamation |
| | 5,3 - Night→Dawn SUICIDES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paris, praying at Juliet’s tomb, sees Romeo. He warns Paris, but they fight. Paris dies. Romeo sees Juliet dead and drinks the poison to kill himself The Friar talks to Juliet then runs away. Seeing Romeo, she stabs herself with his dagger. The Prince blames both families for the tragedy. Montague & Capulet make peace. | 54 | “Temp’t not a desp’rate man” | Romeo | Adjective |
| | | | 55 | “with a kiss I die” | Romeo | |
| | | | 56 | “O happy dagger, this is thy sheath” | Juliet | Metaphor |
| 57 | | | “All are punish’d” | Prince | Pronoun → “all” | |

| <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare, 1597 | | | Core Knowledge | | |
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| SECTION A: VOCABULARY | | | SECTION C: CONCEPTS | | |
| 1 | impulsive | Acting suddenly without careful consideration of consequences. <i>Romeo's impulsive decision to marry Juliet leads to escalating tensions.</i> | 1 | Patriarchy | A patriarchal system encourages men to assert power and control, and limits the power and independence of women. Men <u>and</u> women can suffer as a result of a patriarchy. |
| 2 | unrequited | Not returned or rewarded. <i>Romeo's love for Rosaline is unrequited</i> | 2 | Predestination | Predestination is the idea that all events are determined by God. In particular, it suggests that God has already planned all events and outcomes. |
| 3 | tormented | Experiencing severe physical or mental suffering. <i>Juliet is tormented by conflicting loyalties.</i> | 3 | Divine Order | The belief that all life was ordered into a strict hierarchy by God – a “Great chain of being” or a “divine order”. To challenge this hierarchy was to challenge God. |
| 4 | ephemeral | Lasting for a very short time; fleeting. <i>The love between Romeo and Juliet is presented as ephemeral.</i> | 5 | Courtly love | An idealised form of love that is formal, polite, chivalrous and distant, not passionate. |
| 5 | melancholic | A feeling of deep sadness or sorrow. <i>Romeo is melancholic at the beginning of the play</i> | 6 | Romantic love | A type of love that is ruled by powerful emotion, desire, intimacy & shared experience |
| 6 | irrational | Not based on reason or logic; unreasonable or illogical in behaviour, decisions, or beliefs. <i>Tybalt's hatred for Romeo is irrational.</i> | 7 | Sexual/ Erotic love | Types of love that focuses on physical attraction, sex and pleasure, instead of romance & emotion. |
| 7 | poignant | Deeply moving. <i>The final scene is extremely poignant.</i> | 8 | Emotion v Reason | The play can be understood as a commentary on self-control. What do you think Shakespeare is suggesting about merits of |
| 8 | Inevitable | Impossible to stop or prevent; relentless. <i>The tragic ending is inevitable.</i> | SECTION D: CONTEXTS | | |
| 9 | flawed | Having imperfections or weaknesses. | 1 | 16th Century | The play was written when Elizabeth I was in power. This period is known as “Elizabethan” |
| | | <i>The flawed decisions contribute to Juliet's tragic fate.</i> | 2 | Renaissance | A period in history marked by a revival of interest in art and literature. This era emphasized the importance of individualism, and the complexities of human emotions. |
| 10 | vengeful | Seeking harm someone / seek revenge | 3 | Monarchy | Written at a time when the monarch held substantial power and influence. The themes of loyalty and obedience to authority figures are reflected in the societal norms depicted in the play |
| | | <i>Romeo's actions are vengeful.</i> | 4 | Duty | Duty was a very important concept. The play can be an exploration of different types of duty: duty to your family, duty to husband, duty to friends, the duty of the courtly lover etc. |
| SECTION B: NARRATIVE – Key Plot / Character / Setting knowledge | | | 5 | Writer's Intention | The play is often interpreted as a cautionary tale . Shakespeare may be warning against impulsivity, the fragility of youth, the power of fate or the complexity of love, for example. |
| 1 | Settings: | Verona: The city in which most of the play is set. Mantua: The city that Romeo is banished to. | 6 | Religion | Religion and religious figures (like priests) played a significant role in Elizabethan society. References to religion are made throughout the play to represent ideas of marriage, purity and sin. |
| 2 | Lord/Lady Capulet | Juliet's parents who, driven by social status and family honour, inadvertently contribute to their daughter's tragic end. | 7 | Fate | Many people at the time believed that their lives were pre-determined, and to challenge this was to challenge God's will. You would be punished by God if you tried to change your destiny. |
| 3 | Lord and Lady Montague | Romeo's parents who, like the Capulets, are ultimately consumed by grief and guilt over their children's deaths, symbolising the senselessness of the feud. | SECTION E: SUBJECT TERMINOLOGY / LITERARY CONCEPTS | | |
| 4 | Benvolio | Meaning “Good will”. A peaceful, calm friend of Romeo's. He breaks up the fight and tries to help him out of his depression. | 1 | [Revenge] Tragedy | A “tragedy” is a play that ends with death / disaster. A “revenge tragedy” was a popular Elizabethan genre in which a cycle of violence and vengeance leads to multiple deaths |
| 5 | Friar Laurence | A well-intentioned but flawed priest. Romeo's trusted friend. He arranges the secret wedding to bring peace, and suggests the use of the sleeping drug. | 2 | Verse / iambic pentameter | Verse is normally used by characters of high status. Breaking the convention of verse can indicate a lack of control or a lack /change of status. |
| 6 | The Nurse | A well-intentioned but flawed carer. She has brought Juliet up since birth. | 3 | Soliloquy | A speech that is directed to oneself. e.g. Romeo and Juliet speak to themselves when they first meet at the balcony, and then when they kill themselves. |
| 7 | Mercutio | Romeo's witty, over-confident friend. He is killed by Tybalt. | 4 | Theme | A recurring idea. In <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , key themes include love, conflict, fate, family. |
| 8 | Paris | A well-meaning suitor chosen by Juliet's parents, whose presence complicates the lovers' plans and contributes to the fatal misunderstandings. | 5 | Sonnet | A formal type of 14-line poem with a specific rhyme scheme. Prologue / 1,5 |
| 9 | Tybalt | Juliet's hot-headed cousin whose aggressive nature escalates the feud with the Montagues and leads to tragic consequences. | 6 | Dramatic Irony | The reader/audience knows something that the character does not |
| | | | 7 | Foreshadowing | The story hints at future events to build tension and expectation. |

