



# Romeo and Juliet





Hi! I think,  
it's now time  
you see me  
at work.

Let's start  
with one of  
my hits!

Romeo  
and Juliet!





Romeo and Juliet was first published in quarto in 1597, and republished in a new edition only two years later.

My primary inspiration for the play was Arthur Brooke's *Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet* (1562), a long and dense poem. Brooke's poem, in turn, was based on a French prose version, which derived from an Italian version written by Bandello in 1554.

Let me introduce you to the two main characters.





# Romeo Montague



## Features :

- Young – 16 years old
- Handsome

## Character:

- Romantic
- Impulsive
- Immature

## Relations:

- The House of Montague

## Friends:

- Benvolio and Mercutio





# Juliet Capulet



## Features:

- Young -13 years old
- Beautiful

## Character:

- Sweet
- Romantic
- Decided

## Relations:

- The House of Capulet

## Friends:

- The Nurse





# How Things Started....

- There has been a long time **feud** between the Capulets and the Montagues.
- Romeo has been in strange mood lately

## Why ?

- He pines for a woman named **Rosaline**, who plans to remain chaste for the rest of her life.
- This unrequited love is the cause of Romeo's depression.





- Juliet is promised to Count Paris, but her family wants him to wait as, being only 13, she is too young.
- They also want her daughter to be happy and would like Paris to win her heart first.
- The oncoming ball, the Capulets are hosting that evening, could be the occasion.
- Romeo and Benvolio discover that Rosaline will be at the Capulets' party.
- They decide to attend, even though it is dangerous.
- They will be able to disguise their identities by wearing masks.





- Lady Capulet tells Juliet about Paris's intention to marry her, Juliet does not promise anything to her mother, but agrees to study Paris that night.
- Once at the party, Romeo mopes in the corner, away from the dancing.
- From this vantage point, he notices Juliet, and falls in love with her immediately.
- Romeo approaches Juliet and touches her hand. They speak together in a sonnet, and Romeo eventually earns Juliet's permission for a kiss.
- After Juliet leaves, Romeo apprehends that his new object of desire is a Capulet.
- When Juliet learns about Romeo's identity, she is heartbroken to find out that she has fallen in love with a "loathed enemy" .....





# Shakespearean language babysteps:

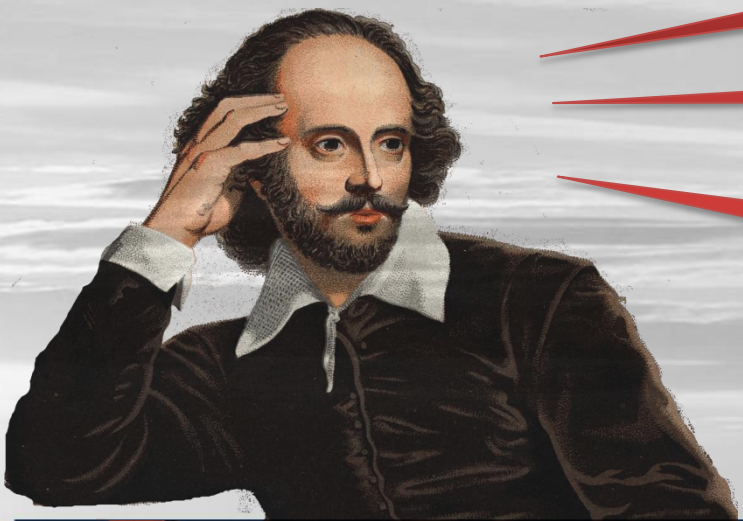
My works are in  
Modern English, but  
«modern» doesn't  
mean today's  
English!

For example: YOU (Subj) =  
THOU

YOU (Obj)= THEE

YOUR= THY

«You are  
beautiful»= Thou  
art beautiful!





# The Balcony Scene



*O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore  
art thou Romeo?*

*Deny thy father and refuse  
thy name;*

*Or, if thou wilt not, be but  
sworn my love,*

*And I'll no longer be a  
Capulet.*





*(aside) "Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?"*





## Two different attitudes



- **Juliet:**
  - Daydreams about her Romeo.
  - She is well aware that his «name» Montague/ his family will be a huge obstacle.
  - She is ready to give up her family if he swears love to her.
- **Romeo:**
  - Does not act gentlemanly.
  - Lets her keep on musing, while she is unaware of his presence.
  - Asks the audience to help him decide whether to reveal his presence there or not.





*'Tis but thy name that is my enemy: (40)  
Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.  
What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor  
foot,  
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part  
Belonging to a man*

*O, be some other name.  
What's in a name? That which we call a rose  
By any other name would smell as sweet;  
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,  
Retain that dear perfection which he owes  
Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,  
And for that name, which is no part of thee,  
Take all myself.*





## «Take all myself?»

**Remember:** the body of conventions which governed the relation of aristocratic lovers was called “**courtly love**”.

- The knight consecrated himself to a woman often superior in rank
- The “mistress” was thought to be pure like an angel, distant, unattainable.
- In short: a woman should have played hard to get.

The **BALCONY** is the physical representation of that required distance.

- When Juliet innocently reveals her feelings for Romeo **distance** becomes **closeness**, thus breaking the rule of courtly love.
- Juliet ends her musing with a shocking line: “**take all myself**” (soul, body or both?). Hence, she confesses she is ready to yield.





*I take thee at thy word.  
Call me but love, and I'll be  
new baptis'd;  
Henceforth I never will be  
Romeo.*





*What man art thou  
that, thus bescreened in  
night,  
So stumblest on my  
counsel?*



*By a name  
I know not how to tell thee who I  
am:*

*My name, **dear saint**, is  
hateful to myself,  
Because it is an enemy to thee. (60)  
Had I it written, I would tear the  
word.*





*My ears have yet not drunk  
a hundred words  
Of thy tongue's uttering, yet  
I know the sound.  
Art thou not Romeo, and a  
Montague?*

*Neither, fair  
maid, if either  
thee dislike.*





*How cam'st thou hither, tell  
me, and wherefore?  
The orchard walls are high  
and hard to climb,  
And the place death,  
considering who thou art,  
If any of my kinsmen find  
thee here.*



*With love's light wings did I  
o'erperch these walls,  
For stony limits cannot hold  
love out,  
And what love can do, that  
dares love attempt:  
Therefore thy kinsmen are no  
stop to me.*





*If they do see  
thee, they will  
murder thee.*

*Alack, there lies more peril in  
thine eye  
Than twenty of their swords.  
Look thou but sweet  
And I am proof against their  
enmity.*





*I would not for  
the world they  
saw thee here.*

*I have night's cloak to hide me  
from their eyes,  
And, but thou love me, let them  
find me here; My life were  
better ended by their hate  
Than death prorogued, wanting  
of thy love.*





## The Wise and the Bold lover



- All the rules of courtly love have been crushed.
- She is unprepared to play this “love game” as, in a way, she is displaced.
- She is perfectly aware of how risking Romeo’s being there is.
- Romeo likes playing the role of the bold lover.
- He wishes somehow to reassure Juliet for his temerity

### HENCE

- Despite her being only 13, **Juliet** is wise, sensible, mature.
- **Romeo** is passionate, immature, imprudent.





*By whose  
direction found'st  
thou out this  
place?.*

*By love, that first did prompt me  
to enquire.  
He lent me counsel, and I lent  
him eyes.  
I am no pilot, yet, wert thou as  
far  
As that vast shore wash'd with  
the furthest sea,  
I should adventure for such  
**merchandise.***





Merchandise???





## But....Dost Thou Love Me?



- Juliet understands that Romeo had overheard what he had said.
- His way of addressing her slowly changes.
- Before hearing Juliet's words, Romeo had called her “**angel**”, that is perfectly in line with courtly love canons.
- The first time he speaks to her, she becomes “**saint**”, thus preserving the requested idea of unattainability
- After a while Romeo calls her “**maid**”. He surely means: virgin, untouched, but undoubtedly a “maid” is more accessible than a “saint”.
- It's only when Romeo eventually refers to her as “**merchandise**” that Juliet urges Romeo to speak clearly and declare his love for her.

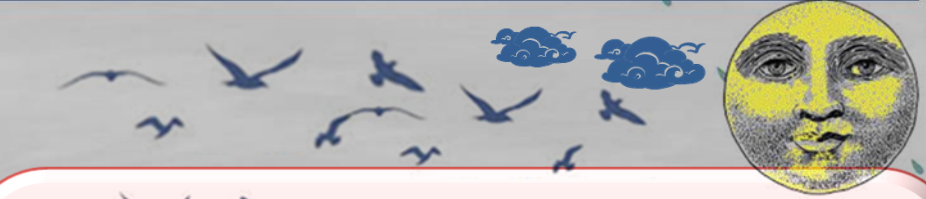




*Thou knowest the mask of night is  
on my face,  
Else would a maiden blush bepaint  
my cheek For that which thou hast  
heard me speak tonight.  
Fain would I dwell on form; fain,  
fain deny  
What I have spoke. But farewell  
compliment.*

*Dost thou love me? I  
know thou wilt say 'Ay',  
And I will take thy word. Yet,  
if thou swear'st,  
Thou mayst prove false. At  
lovers' perjuries,  
They say, Jove laughs.*





O gentle Romeo,  
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully:  
Or if thou thinkest I am too quickly won,  
I'll frown, and be perverse, and say thee nay,  
So thou wilt woo: but else, not for the world.  
In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond;

And therefore thou mayst think my 'haviour light:  
But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true  
Than those that have more cunning to be strange.  
I should have been more strange, I must confess,  
But that thou overheard'st, ere I was 'ware,  
My true-love passion:





*therefore pardon me;  
And not impute this yielding to  
light love  
Which the dark night hath so  
discovered*





*Lady, by yonder blessed  
moon I swear,  
That tips with silver all  
these fruit-tree tops --*





*O, swear not by the moon,  
the inconstant moon,  
That monthly changes in her  
circled orb,  
Lest that thy love prove  
likewise variable.*



*What shall I  
swear by?*





# «The Fruit Tree Tops.....»



- When Romeo refers to Juliet as “merchandise” the girl decides not to “ *dwell on form*” .
- Urging Romeo to speak clearly and swear love to her, Juliet is actually only looking for a sincere, direct “I love you too”.
- Romeo keeps using his courtly lover repertoire and at Juliet’s request he babbles some nonsense like “*Lady, by yonder blessed moon I vow, That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops....*”
- It is not the answer Juliet was expecting.





*Do not swear at all.  
Or if thou wilt, swear by thy  
gracious self,  
Which is the god of my  
idolatry,  
And I'll believe thee.*



*If my heart's  
dear love --*





*Well, do not swear: although I joy in  
thee,  
I have no joy of this contract to-night:  
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;  
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to  
be  
Ere one can say 'It lightens.' Sweet, good  
night!*

*This bud of love, by summer's ripening  
breath,  
May prove a beauteous flower when next  
we meet.  
Good night, good night! as sweet repose  
and rest  
Come to thy heart as that within my  
breast!*





*O, wilt thou leave me  
so unsatisfied?*





*What satisfaction canst  
thou have to-night?*



*The exchange of thy  
love's faithful vow for  
mine.*

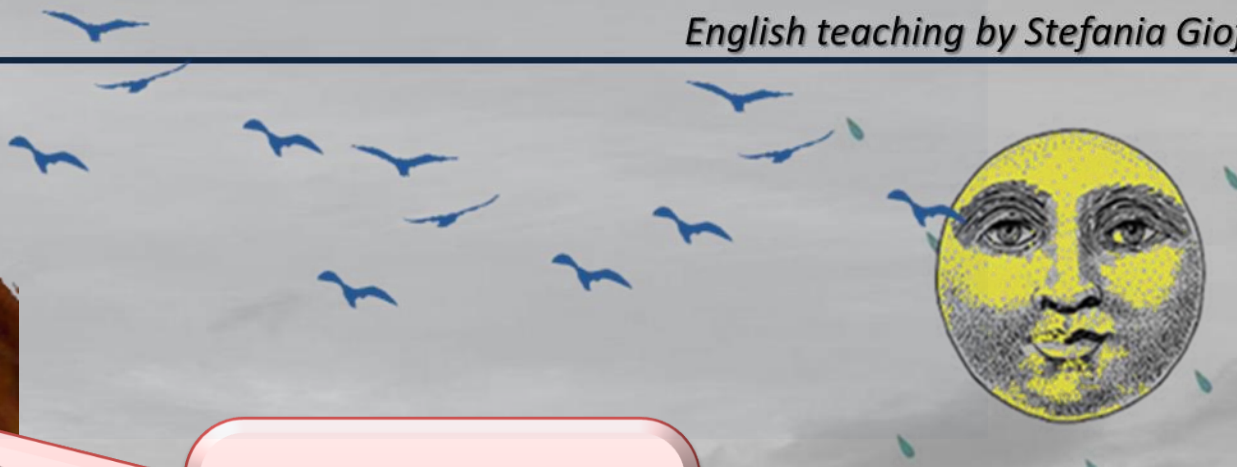




## PUNS and ALLUSIONS

- At first Juliet thinks Romeo means sexually satisfied.
- Then he corrects her by saying emotionally satisfied.
- This line matches Juliet's statement : «take all myself».
- The audience enjoyed sexual allusions.





*I gave thee mine before  
thou didst request it:  
And yet I would it  
were to give again.*

*Wouldst thou  
withdraw it? for  
what purpose,  
love?*





*But to be frank, and give it thee  
again.*

*And yet I wish but for the  
thing I have:*

*My bounty is as boundless as  
the sea,*

*My love as deep; the more I  
give to thee,*

*The more I have, for  
both are infinite.*



**Nurse calls within**  
*I hear some noise  
within; dear love,  
adieu!*





*O blessed, blessed night! I am  
afraid.  
Being in night, all this is but a  
dream,  
Too flattering-sweet to be  
substantial.*





# Tybalt kills Mercutio



- Romeo meets with Mercutio and Benvolio to tell them about his marriage to Juliet.
- However, he is soon stopped when he sees Tybalt Capulet there arguing with Mercutio.
- Tybalt challenges Romeo to fight, but Romeo declines.
- Tybalt is confused and angry at his response and repeats his demand.
- When Romeo declines again, Mercutio loses his temper and cannot believe Romeo will not fight like a man.
- He takes Romeo's place and Tybalt and Mercutio fight.
- Romeo tries to stop the fighting. Tybalt, trying to injure Romeo, accidentally stabs Mercutio.
- Mercutio dies a slow, painful death. He curses the Montague and Capulet houses, blaming them for his death.





# Romeo kills Tybalt and is banished

- Romeo, angered by Mercutio's death, goes searching for Tybalt.
- Eventually Romeo kills Tybalt
- The Prince arrives on the scene and declares that Romeo must be banished and must leave Verona immediately.
- Juliet finds out the news of her cousin's death and Romeo's banishment and cannot cope with the sadness.
- Before Romeo leaves Verona forever, he and Juliet spend the night together and consummate their marriage.
- Romeo leaves in the morning and they are both heartbroken.





# Juliet refuses to marry Paris

- Capulet decides Juliet should marry Paris.
- He relays this news to his daughter and she is furious.
- Juliet defies her father and tells him she won't marry Paris and she will not be at the church as arranged.
- He is horrified with her response and tells her she must be married to Paris or else he will disown her forever.
- Juliet flees to Friar Laurence where she tells him this news.
- Friar Laurence and Juliet come up with a plan where she will fake her own death.

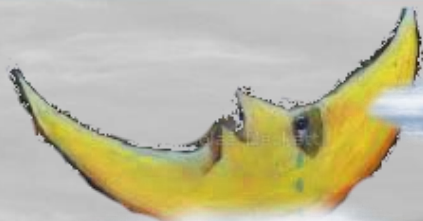




# Juliet fakes her death

- Juliet drinks a sleeping potion the night before her marriage to Paris.
- In the morning, she does not wake and she is pronounced dead.
- They take her to the Capulet tomb where she will wait for Romeo.
- Friar Laurence writes a letter to Romeo informing him of their plan, however, the letter doesn't get delivered to Romeo .
- Romeo is told that Juliet is dead.





*O my love, my wife,  
Death, that hath sucked the honey  
of thy breath,  
Hath had no power yet upon thy  
beauty.  
Thou art not conquered; beauty's  
ensign yet  
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy  
cheeks,  
And death's pale flag is not  
advanced there*





*O true  
apothecary,  
Thy drugs are  
quick. Thus with a  
kiss I die.*





# Romeo takes poison

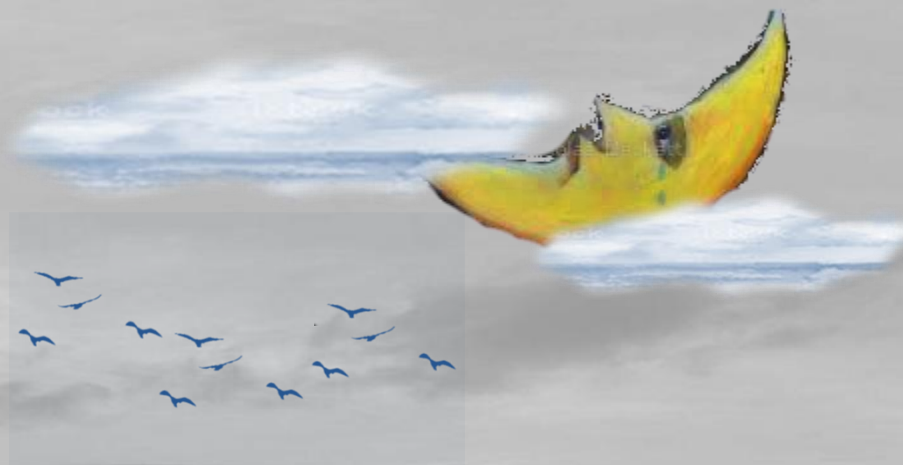


- Distraught, Romeo buys some deadly poison and heads to the Capulet vault.
- On seeing Juliet, he drinks the poison so he can be with her in heaven.
- Juliet finally awakens to see Romeo there with her - however, she quickly realises he has drunk poison.
- She kisses his lips to try and taste the poison herself, but it doesn't work.
- So, instead, she kills herself with Romeo's dagger.





*I will kiss thy lips.  
Haply some poison yet  
doth hang on them  
To make me die with a  
restorative*





# Capulet and Montague repent

- Capulet and Montague realise that their two children have died because of their conflict.
- They are mortified and declare they will honour their children's names for ever more.
- They vow never to argue again.

*The End*





## Some questions for you.....

- Act 5 marks the resolution of the story – Romeo and Juliet both die, believing the other to be dead, and their families agree a truce after witnessing so much death.
- 1. How many people have died and what are their relationships to the Prince, Lord Capulet and Lord Montague?
- 2. Why would Shakespeare include this reconciliation?
- 3. How does it make the audience feel at the end of the play?
- 4. Why is this important?
- 5. This play takes place over a very short timescale, lasting no more than five days. What is the impact of this?



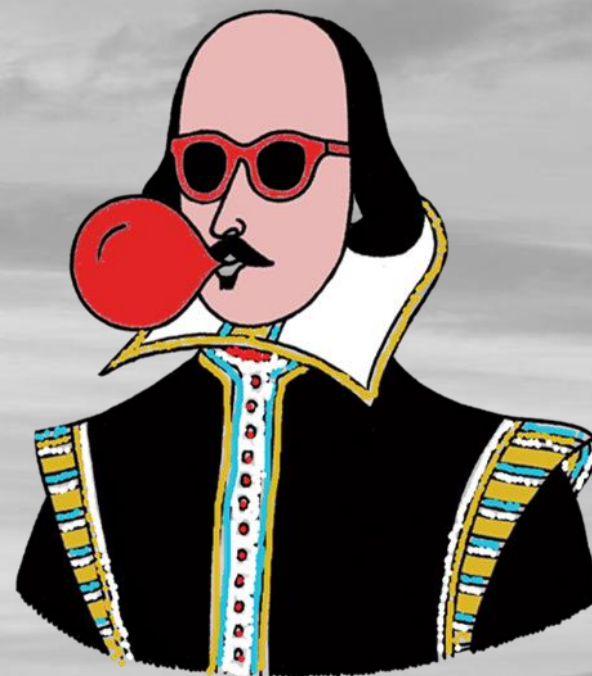


Hungry for more?

You must be. Don't  
disappoint me!

Next time, I am  
going to tell you the  
story of a certain  
Prince of Denmark!

See U!





*Applause!!*

