

## ROMEO & JULIET - Character Sort

Match the character names with their descriptions. Try and put the Montagues and Capulets all together.

**JULIET**

The Prince of Verona, the most important person in the City of Verona. He is a wise and fair man. He is well liked and tries to be a tough leader but is caught between the two warring families. He wants the Capulets and Montagues to live in peace, but isn't strong enough to sort them out

**TYBALT**

Romeo's friend. He is young, lively and a very likeable young man. He is always talking, joking, he is also arrogant and a powerful fighter. He is honourable and very loyal to Romeo.

**NURSE**

Romeo's cousin and close friend. He is a sensible, trustworthy young man who is very loyal to Romeo.

**LADY CAPULET**

A man about fifty, a wise and holy man. He is a priest and usually gives good advice. His is well liked, kind and gentle, always wants to help people and is anxious to avoid sin. He secretly marries Romeo and Juliet.

**CAPULET**

Juliet's cousin, a little older than Romeo. He is an argumentative young man, a troublemaker who loves fighting. He likes violence and plays dirt

**ROMEO**

Juliet's mother, She is younger than Lord Capulet (about 30). A capable organiser accustomed to doing her husband's wishes and running the household. She loves her daughter but is not as close to Juliet as the nurse.

**BENVOLIO**

A woman in her 40s. Practical. Rather stupid? She works for the Capulets and has looked after Juliet since she was a baby, so she has a good position in the family. She loves Juliet like her own child. Juliet is very fond of her.

**LADY MONTAGUE**

Lord and Lady Capulet's daughter. She is 14 years old. She is a gentle girl and obedient to her parents. She has a nurse who has looked after her since she was a baby. She is very romantic.

**MONTAGUE**

Romeo's Father. Head of the family, he is a strongly built powerful man, who doesn't like to be crossed. Although he is not a very quarrelsome man but wants the best for his son.

**MERCUTIO**

Young son of Lord and Lady Montague. Aged 16-17. He is a hot-headed young man and rushes into things without thinking. He is very romantic. His two best friends are Benvolio and Mercutio.

**PARIS**

Romeo's mother. She loves her son very much.

**FRIAR LAWRENCE**

Juliet's father who is about fifty and a wealthy member of the upper classes. He is a stubborn old man, who is used to getting his own way. Therefore he sometimes has a bad temper. He loves his only daughter very much and wants the best for her. He is Tybalt's uncle.

**ESCALUS**

A handsome young man, pleasant and polite. He is the cousin of the Prince of Verona. He is very fond of Juliet. Lord and Lady Capulet think he is a suitable husband for Juliet.

**ROMEO & JULIET - Character Sort (correct order)**

JULIET	Lord and Lady Capulet's daughter. She is 14 years old. She is a gentle girl and obedient to her parents. She has a nurse who has looked after her since she was a baby. She is very romantic.
TYBALT	Juliet's cousin, a little older than Romeo. He is an argumentative young man, a troublemaker who loves fighting. He likes violence and plays dirty
NURSE	A woman in her 40s, a practical but rather stupid. She works for the Capulets and has looked after Juliet since she was a baby, so she has a good position in the family. She loves Juliet like her own child. Juliet is very fond of her.
LADY CAPULET	Juliet's mother, She is younger than Lord Capulet (about 30). A capable organiser accustomed to doing her husband's wishes and running the household. She loves her daughter but is not as close to Juliet as the nurse.
CAPULET	Juliet's father who is about fifty and a wealthy member of the upper classes. He is a stubborn old man, who is used to getting his own way. Therefore he sometimes has a bad temper. He loves his only daughter very much and wants the best for her. He is Tybalt's uncle.
ROMEO	Young son of Lord and Lady Montague. Aged 16-17. He is a hot-headed young man and rushes into things without thinking. He is very romantic. His two best friends are Benvolio and Mercutio.
BENVOLIO	Romeo's cousin and close friend. He is a sensible, trustworthy young man who is very loyal to Romeo.
LADY MONTAGUE	Romeo's mother, she loves her son very much.
MONTAGUE	Romeo's Father. Head of the family, he is a strongly built powerful man, who doesn't like to be crossed. Although he is not a very quarrelsome man but wants the best for his son.
MERCUTIO	Romeo's friend. He is young, lively and a very likeable young man. He is always talking, joking, he is also arrogant and a powerful fighter.. He is honourable and very loyal to Romeo.
PARIS	A handsome young man, pleasant and polite. He is the cousin of the Prince of Verona. He is very fond of Juliet. Lord and Lady Capulet think he is a suitable husband for Juliet.
FRIAR LAWRENCE	A man about fifty, a wise and holy man. He is a priest and usually gives good advice. His is well liked, kind and gentle, always wants to help people and is anxious to avoid sin. He secretly marries Romeo and Juliet.
ESCALUS	The Prince of Verona, the most important person in the City of Verona. He is a wise and fair man. He is well liked and tries to be a tough leader but is caught between the two warring families. He wants the Capulets and Montagues to live in peace, but isn't strong enough to sort them out.

## What is Romeo like before he meets Juliet?

Romeo has conversations with his friends, Benvolio and Mercutio. Benvolio is worried about him and tries to discover why Romeo is down in the dumps. They think going to the Montague party will cheer him up. Mercutio tries to get him in more of a party mood, before they set off to the Montague's house.

**TASK:** fill in the meaning/feelings column with an explanation of what the quote tells us about Romeo, or about love.

**HELPFUL HINT:** try and think whether the ideas/feelings are negative or positive. Also think about how you would express the ideas/feelings in Modern English.

### QUOTATIONS

#### Act 1 Scene 1

♥ 'Ay me, sad hours seem long'

### MEANING/FEELINGS

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♥ 'Out of her favour where I am in love'

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♥ 'Alas that love, whose view is muffled still,  
Should without eyes see pathways to his will.'

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♥ 'O brawling love, o loving hate'

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♥ 'This love I feel I, that feel no love in this'

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♥ 'Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs  
Being purg'd, a fore sparkling in lovers' eyes  
Being vexed, a sea nourished with lovers' tears,  
*What else is it? A madness most discreet*  
A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.'

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♥ 'I have lost myself ... This is not Romeo'

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♥ 'O teach me how I should forget to think' [of Rosaline]

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**Act 1 Scene 2**

♥ '...bound more than a madman is/  
shut up in prison, kept without food,  
whipped and tormented'

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**Act 1 Scene 4**

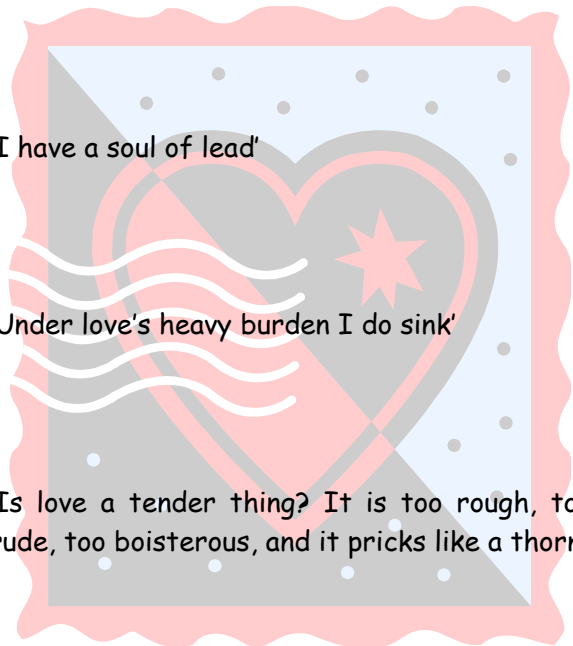
♥ 'I am not for this ambling. /being but heavy,'

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♥ 'I have a soul of lead'



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♥ 'Under love's heavy burden I do sink'

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♥ 'Is love a tender thing? It is too rough, too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn.'

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**Romeo's feelings for Rosaline**

**Act 1 Scene 1**

♥ 'She'll not be hit / with Cupid's arrow ... in strong proof of chastity well armed...'

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♥ 'She will not stay the siege of loving terms / Nor bide th' encounter of assailing eyes'

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♥ 'O, she is rich in beauty, only poor / That when she dies, with her beauty dies her store.

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♥ 'She hath forsworn to love, and in that vow Do I live dead that live to tell it now.'

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**Act 1 Scene 2**

♥ 'One fairer than my love? The all-seeing sun / Ne'er saw her match since first the world begun.'

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**Views of love from other characters  
(Act 1 Scenes 1-4)**

♥ **Benvolio** (Act 1 Scene 1):

'Alas that love, so gentle in his view, / Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!'

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♥ **Mercutio tells Romeo** (Act 1 Scene 4):

'You are a lover. Borrow Cupid's wings / and soar with them above a common bound.'

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♥ **Mercutio** (Act 1 Scene 4):

'If love be rough with you, be rough with love. Prick love for pricking, and you beat love down.'

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*Juliet: Act 1 scene 3*

**TASK:**

Write underneath each quote what we learn about Juliet, or the situation she is in, at the beginning of the play.

† **NURSE'S VIEW OF JULIET**

'Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed. / An I might live to see thee married once, ...'

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† **JULIET'S ATTITUDE TO MARRIAGE**

'It is an honour that I dream not of.'

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† **HER MOTHER'S (LADY CAPULET) VIEW OF MARRIAGE**

'Here in Verona, ladies of esteem / are made already mothers.'

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† **HER MOTHER'S OPINION OF PARIS**

'Verona's summer hath not such a flower.'

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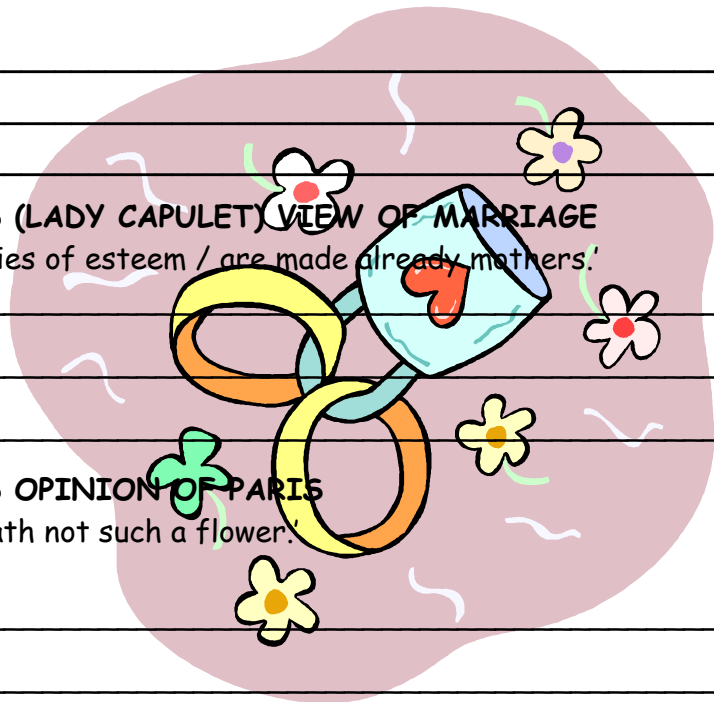
† **JULIET'S ATTITUDE TOWARD LOVING PARIS**

I'll look to like, if looking liking move.  
But no more deep will I endart mine eye  
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.'

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## GCSE - SPEAKING AND LISTENING TASK

Pair talk: explore, analyse, imagine

**ACT 2 SCENE 2** (The 'balcony' scene). This is the second time Romeo and Juliet meet. This famous scene may seem sentimental and long-winded in today's world. However it is still possible that two young people could find themselves in the same situation, being in love with someone from an enemy family.

### TASK

- In pairs you will produce a modern day version of Act 2 Scene 2.
- You need to think of a modern day situation where two people are in love from an enemy family.
- Then you need to cut down the 189 lines of Act 2 Scene 2 to just 14 lines.
- Your talk will consist of an explanation of your modern day version i.e. where you would set it, why the families are enemies, who would play the leads, etc.
- Also, you must do a dramatic reading of your 14-line version.

### YOUR 14-LINE VERSION

- You can use the original words, but try and change it into language you would use in this situation

Here is a breakdown of the scene to help you:

- Lines 1-32: Romeo describes Juliet's beauty (one line)
- Lines 38-49: Juliet wishing Romeo was not a Montague (one line)
- Lines 52-60 Juliet realises Romeo is there. Romeo says he will give up his name (two lines)
- Lines 62-78 Juliet worries about Romeo being seen. He is not (two lines)
- Lines 95-167 they exchange vows of love (four lines)
- Lines 167-168 they agree to meet the next day (two lines)
- Lines 169-189 they say goodbye (two lines)
- Try to capture the serious and passionate nature of the original.
- You can include stage directions (not counted in the 14 lines), to indicate movement, tone of voice, gestures etc.

## Romeo and Juliet - Act 1 scene 5 questions

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- Answer these questions in COMPLETE SENTENCES.
  - Try and use QUOTES from the TEXT to support your answers.
1. How would you describe the atmosphere at the beginning of the scene?
  2. Which lines of Romeo's are spoken to himself? How would you make this moment quite private and personal if you were a director?
  3. Why is Tybalt angry initially?
  4. Describe Tybalt's mood as the scene develops.
  5. How does Capulet react to Tybalt's mood?
  6. What kind of person does Capulet seem to be?
  7. How do Romeo and Juliet react when they meet in this scene?
  8. When does Romeo find out who Juliet is?
  9. When does Juliet find out who Romeo is?
  10. How do you imagine Romeo and Juliet feel at the end of the scene?

## ESSAY QUESTION

Explore the ways that Shakespeare makes Act 1 Scene 5 of *Romeo and Juliet* dramatically effective.

### Make sure you consider:

- The expectations of the audience and Capulet's mood at the beginning.
- The contrast between Tybalt and Romeo's language.
- The meeting of Romeo and Juliet.
- How the atmosphere of this meeting is changed when they realise their families are enemies.

## ESSAY PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

- Outline the main idea of the play - a tragic love story (we learn this from the prologue). Also mention the major conflict and themes in the play - love and hate.
- Briefly outline what the audiences know about Romeo and Juliet before they meet (briefly).
- Explain the audiences expectations of Act 1 Scene 5: Juliet will judge Paris; Romeo will cheer up and try to find Rosaline.

### **1st paragraph:**

- Discuss the dramatic effect of the opening and Capulet's speech. LOOK at your NOTES on lines 1-40
- Remember the atmosphere is happy and everyone is in the party mood - very different from the fight at the beginning.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph:**

- Discuss the dramatic effect of Romeo's speech about Juliet. LOOK at your NOTES on lines 41- 58
- Remember that Romeo's language contrasts with the happy and teasing character of Capulet

### **3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph:**

- Discuss the dramatic effect of Tybalt's speech and how this contrasts with Romeo's very romantic speech about Juliet. Also how Capulet reacts to Tybalt's actions. LOOK at your NOTES on lines 60 - 91
- Remember Tybalt is vicious and wanting a fight - think about the audience reaction here.

### **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph:**

- Discuss the dramatic effect of the meeting between Romeo and Juliet. LOOK at your NOTES on lines 92 -109
- Remember to really concentrate on the use of language here - especially in their shared sonnet.
- Decide whether this is infatuation / real love or more genuine than the love Romeo expressed for Rosaline.

### **6<sup>th</sup> paragraph:**

- Discuss the dramatic effect of the ending - examine Romeo and Juliet's reactions when they discover they have fallen in love with their family's enemy. LOOK at your NOTES on lines 111 - 143.
- Remember that this is a tension / high point. What will happen to them? There is uncertainty here.

**Conclusion:**

- Decide if Shakespeare has successfully made the scene dramatically effective and sum up why.
- Explain how this scene is crucial to the rest of the play - some must be dramatic and engage the audience
- Mention here about universal themes - love and hate. How are they still relevant to audiences today?
- Remember to express your personal opinions about the scene.

**Topic sentence starters: use these at the beginning of each paragraph to ensure your writing is focussed on the question**

- At the start of Act 1 scene 5...
- One of the ways Shakespeare makes this scene dramatically effective is by...
- Act 1 Scene 5 is made dramatic effective in various ways such as...
- Shakespeare uses ... This makes the scene more dramatic/dramatically effective because...
- Shakespeare creates effective drama by...

**Sentence starters: use these to develop your ideas in your paragraphs and ensure you're focused on the question.**

- The drama is built up again when...
- The effect of the build up of tension is that...
- Shakespeare makes this dramatic by...
- This is effective because the audience...
- The reason this is dramatic is because...
- Shakespeare refers to ... the effect of this is...
- Shakespeare reveals ... this is made dramatic because...
- In conclusion, Act 1 scene 5 is very dramatic because...