

## Act 1, Scene 1 – The servants fight and Romeo’s introduction

**ABRAHAM:** Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

**SAMPSON:** I do bite my thumb, sir.

**ABRAHAM:** Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

**SAMPSON:** [Aside to GREGORY] Is the law of our side, if I say ay?

**GREGORY:** No.

**SAMPSON:** No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir.

**GREGORY:** Do you quarrel, sir?

**ABRAHAM:** Quarrel sir! no, sir.

**SAMPSON:** If you do, sir, I am for you: I serve as good a man as you.

**ABRAHAM:** No better.

**SAMPSON:** Well, sir.

**GREGORY:** Say 'better:' here comes one of my master's kinsmen.

**SAMPSON:** Yes, better, sir.

**ABRAHAM:** You lie.

**SAMPSON:** Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow.

*They fight*

*Enter BENVOLIO*

**BENVOLIO:** Part, fools! Put up your swords; you know not what you do.

*Beats down their swords. Enter TYBALT*

**TYBALT:** What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds? Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.

**BENVOLIO:** I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword, Or manage it to part these men with me.

**TYBALT:** What, drawn, and talk of peace! I hate the word, As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee: Have at thee, coward!

*They fight*

INCREASING CHALLENGE

### Activities:

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. What is Benvolio’s reaction to the fight? What is Tybalt’s? How is their reaction different and what does this say about their characters?
3. Underline all examples of repetition between Abraham, Sampson and Gregory. Why do you think this repetition has been used? What is the effect?
4. How do you think an audience in Shakespeare’s time would react to this scene? Is this different to how we would react? Explain.
5. What is Tybalt trying to do when he calls the Montagues ‘heartless hinds’? Research what this is and discuss how this is offensive. Hint: Consider what this reveals about a **patriarchal society**.\*
6. Considering the play is called *Romeo and Juliet*, why does Shakespeare decide not to include them at the beginning of the play? What are his intentions here?

\***Patriarchal Society** – Male dominated society

## Act 1, Scene 1 – Romeo’s introduction

**BENVOLIO:** Good-morrow, cousin.

**ROMEO:** Is the day so young?

**BENVOLIO:** But new struck nine.

**ROMEO:** Ay me! sad hours seem long. Was that my father that went hence so fast?

**BENVOLIO:** It was. What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?

**ROMEO:** Not having that, which, having, makes them short.

**BENVOLIO:** In love?

**ROMEO:** Out--

**BENVOLIO:** Of love?

**ROMEO:** Out of her favour, where I am in love.

**BENVOLIO:** Alas, that love, so gentle in his view, Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!

**ROMEO:** Alas, that love, whose view is muffled still,

Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!

Where shall we dine? O me! What fray was here?

Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all.

Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.

Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate!

O any thing, of nothing first create!

O heavy lightness! serious vanity!

Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!

Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire,

sick health!

Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!

This love feel I, that feel no love in this.

Dost thou not laugh?

**BENVOLIO:** No, coz, I rather weep.

### Activities:

1. What is happening in this section of Act 1, Scene 1?
2. What are the audience's first impressions of Romeo? Underline words used by Romeo and Benvolio which may influence an audience's impression.
3. What is the relationship between Romeo and Benvolio like?
4. '*Alas, that love, so gentle in his view, should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!*' – What is Benvolio suggesting about love here?
5. What does the repetition of 'O' suggest about how Romeo feels?
6. Identify the oxymorons in Romeo's speech. What do they reveal about Romeo's mental state?

INCREASING CHALLENGE

## Act 1, Scene 5 – Romeo first sees Juliet

**ROMEO:** O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!  
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night  
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope's\* ear;  
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!  
So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows,  
As yonder lady o'er her fellows shows.  
The measure done, I'll watch her place of stand,  
And, touching hers, make blessed my rude hand.  
Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!  
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

### Activities:

1. What does the simile “Like a rich jewel in an Ethiope’s ear” suggest?
2. What does the repetition of “too” suggest in the quotation ‘*Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!*’
3. What does the juxtaposition show in the line ‘*So shows a snowy dove trooping with crows?*’
4. This is a very poetic monologue. Can you find a metaphor which suggests that Romeo is entranced with Juliet? What is the effect?
5. Can you find any references to light and dark in the speech? What do they suggest? (eg. dove/crow suggests white and black.)
6. Does Shakespeare intend us to be swept along with the pace of events here, making us believe that lives can be transformed in an instant and that love is an powerful emotion?

INCREASING CHALLENGE

## Act 1, Scene 5 – Tybalt spots Romeo at the Capulet ball

### Activities:

**TYBALT:** This, by his voice, should be a Montague. Fetch me my rapier, boy. What dares the slave Come hither, cover'd with an antic face, To fleer and scorn at our solemnity?

Now, by the stock and honour of my kin, To strike him dead, I hold it not a sin.

**CAPULET:** Why, how now, kinsman! wherefore storm you so?

**TYBALT:** Uncle, this is a Montague, our foe, A villain that is hither come in spite, To scorn at our solemnity this night.

**CAPULET:** Young Romeo is it?

**TYBALT:** 'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

**CAPULET:** Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone; He bears him like a portly gentleman; And, to say truth, Verona brags of him, To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth:

I would not for the wealth of all the town, Here in my house do him disparagement:

Therefore be patient, take no note of him: It is my will, the which if thou respect,

Show a fair presence and put off these frowns, And ill-beseeming semblance for a feast.

**TYBALT:** It fits, when such a villain is a guest: I'll not endure him.

**CAPULET:** He shall be endured: What, goodman boy! I say, he shall: go to;

Am I the master here, or you? go to. You'll not endure him! God shall mend my soul!

You'll make a mutiny among my guests! You will set cock-a-hoop! you'll be the man!

**TYBALT:** Why, uncle, 'tis a shame.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

1. How does Tybalt feel about spotting Romeo at the ball? Find a quotation to support your point.
2. What is Capulet's reaction to Tybalt's news about seeing Romeo? Why does he react in this way?
3. '*A villain that is hither come in spite, to scorn at our solemnity this night.*' Why does Tybalt think Romeo is at the party?
4. Look at Capulet's last speech. What does the use of punctuation tell you about Capulet's feelings towards Tybalt?
5. Complete single word analysis on the word 'villain'. Why does Tybalt use this word several times to describe Romeo?
6. How would an audience in Shakespeare's time react to Capulet's decision to leave Romeo alone? See if you can link your ideas to social/historical context.

## Act 2, Scene 2 – The balcony scene

**ROMEO:** He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

*JULIET appears above at a window*

But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief,  
That thou her maid art far more fair than she:  
Be not her maid, since she is envious;  
Her vestal livery is but sick and green  
And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.  
It is my lady, O, it is my love!  
O, that she knew she were!  
She speaks yet she says nothing: what of that?  
Her eye discourses; I will answer it.  
I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks:  
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,  
Having some business, do entreat her eyes  
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.  
What if her eyes were there, they in her head?  
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,  
As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven  
Would through the airy region stream so bright  
That birds would sing and think it were not night.  
See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!  
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,  
That I might touch that cheek!

### Activities:

1. Name two things that Romeo compares Juliet to in this speech.
2. Identify and discuss Shakespeare's use of light and dark imagery in this speech. What is he suggesting about love?
3. What is the effect of the repetition of 'O'? How would Romeo be saying this? Why?
4. Romeo is not speaking to Juliet here? Why not? What is the effect of this separation?
5. 'Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon.' What is the effect of the repetition in this line?
6. Romeo delivers his speech in iambic pentameter. Why does he do this? How does iambic pentameter help Romeo express his love for Juliet?

INCREASING CHALLENGE

## Act 2, Scene 2 – The balcony scene

**JULIET:** 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!

**ROMEO:** O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

**JULIET:** What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?

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

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

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

**JULIET:** 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.  
I hear some noise within; dear love, adieu!

### Activities:

1. What does Romeo ask Juliet in this extract?
2. Why is she hesitant?
3. Why are there so many rhetorical questions in this extract? What does this tell us about the relationship between the two characters?
4. Count how many times Juliet says goodbye to Romeo in this speech. Why does Juliet do this? What does it tell us about how she is feeling?
5. What are Romeo and Juliet's different perspectives of love? See if you can use the following words in your answer:  
*Permanent, Impulsive, Consistent/Inconsistent*
6. How would an audience respond to the pace of Romeo's and Juliet's relationship? Consider the differences between a Shakespearean and a modern audience.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

## Act 3, Scene 1 – Mercutio and Tybalt’s death

**TYBALT:** Well, peace be with you, sir: here comes my man.

**MERCUTIO:** But I'll be hanged, sir, if he wear your livery: Marry, go before to field, he'll be your follower; Your worship in that sense may call him 'man.'

**TYBALT:** Romeo, the hate I bear thee can afford No better term than this,--thou art a villain.

**ROMEO:** Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee Doth much excuse the appertaining rage To such a greeting: villain am I none; Therefore farewell; I see thou know'st me not.

**TYBALT:** Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries, That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw.

**ROMEO:** I do protest, I never injured thee, But love thee better than thou canst devise, Till thou shalt know the reason of my love: And so, good Capulet,--which name I tender As dearly as my own,--be satisfied.

**MERCUTIO:** O calm, dishonourable, vile submission! Alla stoccata carries it away.

### *Draws*

Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

**TYBALT:** What wouldst thou have with me?

**MERCUTIO:** Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives; that I mean to make bold withal, and as you shall use me hereafter, drybeat the rest of the eight. Will you pluck your sword out of his pitcher by the ears? make haste, lest mine be about your ears ere it be out.

**TYBALT:** I am for you.

### *Drawing*

**ROMEO:** Gentle Mercutio, put thy rapier up.

**MERCUTIO:** Come, sir, your passado.

### *They fight*

### Activities:

1. What is happening in this scene?
2. Why is Tybalt seeking revenge on Romeo? Why does he refer to him as a villain? (Consider what happens during the Capulet ball).
3. Why does Mercutio interfere with Romeo and Tybalt’s feud?
4. How is dramatic irony used in this scene? What is the effect? Consider the line, ‘*And so, good Capulet, --which name I tender as dearly as my own.*’
5. Why do you think Romeo’s reluctance to fight would infuriate Tybalt further?
6. Highlight the words Mercutio uses to describe Tybalt. Complete single word analysis on these adjectives.

INCREASING CHALLENGE

## Act 3, Scene 1 – Mercutio and Tybalt’s death

*TYBALT under ROMEO's arm stabs MERCUTIO, and flies with his followers*

### **MERCUTIO**

I am hurt.

A plague o' both your houses! I am sped.

Is he gone, and hath nothing?

### **BENVOLIO**

What, art thou hurt?

### **MERCUTIO**

Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch; marry, 'tis enough.

Where is my page? Go, villain, fetch a surgeon.

*Exit Page*

### **ROMEO**

Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much.

### **MERCUTIO**

No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church-door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve: ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am peppered, I warrant, for this world. A plague o' both your houses! 'Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death! a braggart, a rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetic! Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

### Activities:

1. What is happening in this extract?
2. Why is 'scratch' such a strange word to describe what has happened to Mercutio?
3. Considering Tybalt is such an aggressive character, why do you think he runs away after he kills Mercutio?
4. Highlight an example of foreshadowing in the extract. What is the effect?
5. What is the ambiguity of 'ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man'?
6. What is Mercutio saying in his last speech? Discuss with a clear focus on the language he uses.

INCREASING CHALLENGE



### Act 3, Scene 5 – Capulet’s anger

**CAPULET:** How now, wife! Have you deliver'd to her our decree?

**LADY CAPULET:** Ay, sir; but she will none, she gives you thanks. I would the fool were married to her grave!

**CAPULET:** Soft! take me with you, take me with you, wife.  
How! will she none? doth she not give us thanks?

Is she not proud? doth she not count her blest,  
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought  
So worthy a gentleman to be her bridegroom?

**JULIET:** Not proud, you have; but thankful, that you have:  
Proud can I never be of what I hate;

But thankful even for hate, that is meant love.

**CAPULET:** How now, how now, chop-logic! What is this?  
'Proud,' and 'I thank you,' and 'I thank you not;'

And yet 'not proud,' mistress minion, you,  
Thank me no thankings, nor, proud me no prouds,  
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next,  
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,  
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.

Out, you green-sickness carrion! out, you baggage!  
You tallow-face!

**LADY CAPULET:** Fie, fie! what, are you mad?

**JULIET:** Good father, I beseech you on my knees, Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

**CAPULET:** Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch!

I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,  
Or never after look me in the face:

Speak not, reply not, do not answer me;  
My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest  
That God had lent us but this only child;

But now I see this one is one too much,  
And that we have a curse in having her:  
Out on her, hilding!

#### Activities:

1. How does Lord Capulet behave towards Juliet in this scene?
2. What does the phrase, '*My fingers itch*' suggest?
3. What is the effect of the word 'decree'? What does it suggest about their relationship? How does this link to a patriarchal society?
4. Underline all of Capulet's insults that he uses towards Juliet. How would an audience react? Consider both Shakespearean and modern audiences.
5. What do you think Capulet is really afraid of?
6. How does Capulet's reaction here contrast with his attitude at the beginning of Act 1, Scene 2?

INCREASING CHALLENGE

## Act 5, Scene 3 – Romeo’s final monologue

**ROMEO:** In faith, I will. Let me peruse this face.  
Mercutio's kinsman, noble County Paris!  
What said my man, when my betossed soul  
Did not attend him as we rode? I think  
He told me Paris should have married Juliet:  
Said he not so? or did I dream it so?  
Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet,  
To think it was so? O, give me thy hand,  
One writ with me in sour misfortune's book!  
I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave;  
A grave? O no! a lantern, slaughter'd youth,  
For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes  
This vault a feasting presence full of light.  
Death, lie thou there, by a dead man interr'd.

### *Laying PARIS in the tomb*

How oft when men are at the point of death  
Have they been merry! which their keepers call  
A lightning before death: O, how may I  
Call this a lightning? O my love! my wife!  
Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,  
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:  
Thou art not conquer'd; beauty's ensign yet  
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,  
And death's pale flag is not advanced there.  
Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?  
O, what more favour can I do to thee,  
Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain  
To sunder his that was thine enemy?

And that the lean abhorred monster keeps  
Thee here in dark to be his paramour?  
For fear of that, I still will stay with thee;  
And never from this palace of dim night  
Depart again: here, here will I remain  
With worms that are thy chamber-maids; O, here  
Will I set up my everlasting rest,  
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars  
From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, look your last!  
Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you  
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss  
A dateless bargain to engrossing death!  
Come, bitter conduct, come, unsavoury guide!  
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on  
The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!  
Here's to my love!

### *Drinks*

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

### *Dies*

### Activities:

1. *Why does Romeo resort to suicide?*
2. *Why does Romeo use numerous rhetorical questions at the beginning of his speech? How is he feeling here?*
3. *'Death that has suck'd the honey of thy breath.'* – What does this mean?
4. *Why do you think Romeo dies kissing Juliet?*
5. *Find a metaphor for death and discuss its connotations and effect. What is Romeo saying about Juliet here?*
6. *How does this scene encapsulate the genre of tragedy? Explain with a particular focus on language in Romeo's speech.*

INCREASING CHALLENGE

## Act 5, Scene 3 – Juliet’s death

**JULIET:** O comfortable friar! where is my lord?  
I do remember well where I should be,  
And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

**FRIAR LAURENCE:** I hear some noise. Lady, come from that nest  
Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep:  
A greater power than we can contradict  
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.  
Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;  
And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee  
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns:  
Stay not to question, for the watch is coming;  
Come, go, good Juliet,  
I dare no longer stay.

**JULIET:** Go, get thee hence, for I will not away.

*Exit FRIAR LAURENCE*

What's here? a cup, closed in my true love's hand?  
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:  
O churl! drunk all, and left no friendly drop  
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips;  
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,  
To make die with a restorative.

*Kisses him*

Thy lips are warm. Yea, noise? then I'll be brief. O happy dagger! This is thy sheath;

*Stabs herself*

there rust, and let me die.

*Falls on ROMEO's body, and dies*

### Activities:

1. How is dramatic irony used when Juliet says, 'Where is my Romeo?'
2. How does Shakespeare use language techniques to convey Juliet's confusion?
3. What advice does Friar Laurence give to Juliet?
4. How is juxtaposition used in the quotation, 'O happy dagger!' What is Juliet saying here?
5. How does this scene add to the tension that has already been built with Romeo's final moments?
6. How does this scene encapsulate the genre of tragedy? Explain with a particular focus on language in Juliet's dialogue.

INCREASING CHALLENGE