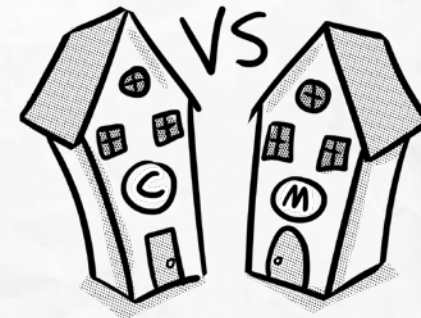
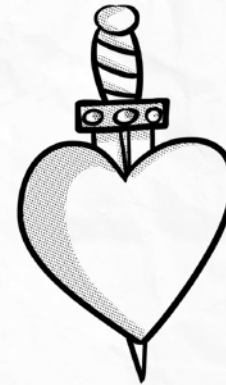
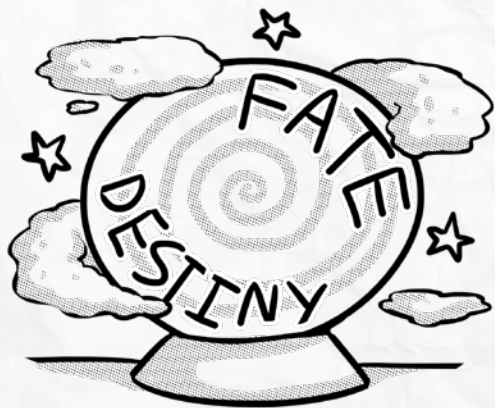


GCSE **Romeo and Juliet**

William Shakespeare



Characters

Use three adjectives to describe each of the following characters and justify your choices:

- Romeo
- Juliet
- Tybalt
- Lady Capulet
- The Nurse

How do the presentations of the two central characters, Romeo and Juliet, change throughout the course of the play?

Who is 'in control' during the balcony scene? How do you know this? Consider who leads the conversation and what this suggests?

How does Romeo respond to news of Juliet's 'death'?

Themes and Genre

How does 'Romeo and Juliet' 'fit' the genre of a **tragedy**?

How does Shakespeare use **dramatic irony** throughout the play? What effect does this have on the audience?

What are the central features?

What are the main themes addressed in the Prologue?

Identify three references that are made in the Prologue in relation to the theme of **fate**.

How is the concept of **destiny** explored in the play?

How is conflict presented in the play? Consider this in relation to both physical and emotional conflict.

How are the motifs of order and disorder used within the play? How do they relate to the play's major themes?

Can you identify where the play shifts from a romance to a tragedy? Provide evidence to support this.

How is **gender** presented in the play? Particularly in relation to **masculinity**?

The use of **time** is very significant to the play – why does Shakespeare have everything take place within a couple of days?

How does this affect the plot? Audience?

Love and Loss

What are the different **types of love** presented in the play? How do they differ?

Romeo quickly moves his affections from Rosaline to Juliet- what does this suggest about him? About his attitudes to love?

What leads Romeo and Juliet to fall in love with one another?

The two lovers are described as '*star-cross'd*' - what does this suggest?

Romeo uses lots of **oxymorons** when discussing love- what is the effect of this?

'brawling love'/'heavy lightness'/'Feather of lead'

What risks do Romeo and Juliet take by being together?

What underpins Lady Capulet's wishes for Juliet to marry Paris? What does this suggest about her character?

Why can Juliet not marry Paris?

Juliet refuses to marry Paris - how does her father respond to this?

What impact do Rosaline and Paris have on the events of the play?

How does the Friar help Romeo? Juliet?

Why and how do the Friar's plan go wrong?

'The death of Romeo and Juliet' could have been avoided' - To what extent do you agree? Why?

How is the **conflict** between **love and hate** presented in the play?

The Feud - Capulets vs Montagues

What does Prince Escalus warn?

Why do the Montagues go to the Capulet Ball? What is the outcome of this?

How do the characters of Benvolio and Tybalt contrast each other?

What happens as a result of the **family feud**? Before Tybalt's death? After Tybalt's death?

Why does Romeo refuse to fight Tybalt?

'Tybalt is the villain of the play' – provide evidence to support this statement.

How does Romeo respond to Mercutio's death? Why is this?

What is Romeo's punishment for killing Tybalt? Do you think he deserves this? – Justify.

How do the two families respond to Romeo and Juliet's deaths?

What do the Quotes Tell Us About...?

- Mercutio - '*A plague a'both your houses!*'
- Nurse - '*Never was seen so black a day as this*'
- Juliet - '*I'll no longer be a Capulet.*'
- Benvolio - '*I do but keep the peace.*'
- Romeo - '*It is my lady, O it is my love!*'

Family and Loyalty

How does Juliet respond when she learns Romeo is a Montague?

How is the Nurse presented as a more **motherly figure** than Lady Capulet?

'Friar Lawrence is like a father to Romeo' – how?

'Juliet's parents only have the best intentions for her' – to what extent do you agree?

How and why does Mercutio's **loyalty** to his family change?