

# Romeo and Juliet

## Knowledge Organiser

**Key Characters:**

**Romeo Montague** – A romantic, impulsive young man whose quick decisions lead to tragedy.

**Juliet Capulet** – A passionate, intelligent young woman who defies her family for love.

**Tybalt Capulet** – A hot-tempered and aggressive cousin of Juliet, Tybalt is fiercely loyal to his family and obsessed with honour.

**Friar Laurence**– A well-meaning priest who acts as a father figure to Romeo.

**Context:**

The play was written by William Shakespeare, and was first performed around 1594.

Shakespeare frequently engaged with Italy in his plays – Romeo and Juliet, for example, is set in Verona, Italy.

Patriarchal society – women were considered inferior to men. Women were considered to 'belong' to their fathers.

Term	Definition
Desperation	A strong feeling of hopelessness that makes someone act without thinking.
Tragedy	A type of story where bad things happen, often leading to a sad or dramatic ending.
Feud	A long and bitter argument or fight between two groups or families.
Honour	A sense of pride and respect that makes someone want to do what is right.
Nobility	People from high social status, like lords and ladies, often with power and respect.
Betrayal	When someone breaks trust or goes against a friend, family, or promise.
Revenge	Hurting someone in return for something bad they did to you or someone you care about.
Impulsiveness	Acting quickly without thinking about the consequences.
Consequence	The result of an action, which can be good or bad.
Misfortune	Bad luck or something unfortunate that happens to someone.

Key Theme:  
Violence



Key Theme:  
Fate vs.  
Freewill



Key Theme:  
Death



Term	Definition
Patriarchal	A society where men have the most power and control over important decisions.
Elizabethan	The time when Queen Elizabeth I ruled England, which was also when Shakespeare lived.
Soliloquy	A long speech where a character talks to themselves so the audience knows their thoughts.
Monologue	A long speech by one character to other characters or the audience.
Dramatic Irony	When the audience knows something that the characters do not, making scenes more dramatic.
Aside	A short remark a character says to the audience that other characters do not hear.
Foreshadowing	Hints or clues in a story about what might happen later.
Imagery	Descriptive language that creates pictures in the reader's or audience's mind.
Prologue	An introduction at the start of a play or book that gives background information.
Shakespearean	Related to William Shakespeare, his plays, or the way he wrote.

Key Theme:  
Love



Key Theme:  
Honour



Key Theme:  
Family



Term	Definition
Intonation	The rise and fall of your voice when speaking to show meaning or emotion.
Emphasis	Making certain words or phrases stand out by saying them louder, slower, or with more force.
Gesture	A movement of the hands or body that helps show meaning or emotion.
Projection	Speaking loudly and clearly enough for everyone to hear you.
Articulation	Speaking clearly so each word is easy to understand.
Engagement	How much energy and interest you show in your performance or speech.
Fluency	Speaking smoothly and without long pauses or hesitation.
Confidence	Believing in yourself and showing assurance when speaking or performing.
Expression	Using your face, voice, and body to show emotions and meaning.
Clarity	Making sure your words and ideas are clear and easy to understand.