

'Romeo and Juliet': Knowledge Organiser

Plot breakdown		Characters	Key words
P	The Prologue outlines the main conflict in the play and warns the audience of the tragic fate of Romeo and Juliet.	Romeo (Montague) Young man. Falls in love with Juliet. Kills himself at the end of the play. <i>"Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night"</i> ; <i>"Thus with a kiss I die"</i>	tragic – describes something as being very sad, or as part of a tragedy.
1.1	The Montagues and Capulets fight in the streets of Verona. Prince Escalus swears that any further fighting will be punished by death.	Juliet (Capulet) 13-year old girl. Falls in love with Romeo. Kills herself at the end of the play. <i>"Wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name"</i> ; <i>"O happy dagger, This is thy sheath; there rust, and let me die"</i>	prologue – the introduction to a book, film, or play.
1.2	Paris asks Lord Capulet about marrying his daughter Juliet. Capulet tells Paris to wait as she is too young.		sonnet – a type of love poem. It has 14 lines, a strict rhyme scheme and 10 syllables per line.
1.3	Lady Capulet advises Juliet to agree to marry Paris.		feud – a serious argument and sometimes violent argument between two people or groups that continues for a long time.
1.5	At the Capulet's masked ball, Romeo sees Juliet and falls in love with her. They talk, kiss, and fall in love. As they depart, they learn they are from feuding families.	Lord Capulet (Capulet) Head of the Capulet family. Juliet's father. Orders her to marry his friend, Paris. <i>"She will be ruled In all respects by me"</i>	shrine – a holy place that people go to pray.
2.2	In the balcony scene, Romeo and Juliet fall deeper in love. They agree to get married.	Paris (no family) Nobleman of Verona. Wants to marry Juliet. Killed by Romeo at the end of the play.	status quo – the situation that exists now, without any changes.
2.3	Romeo asks Friar Lawrence to marry him and Juliet. Lawrence agrees, thinking it will unite the warring families.	Friar Lawrence (no family) Religious leader in Verona. Agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet, thinking it will bring peace to the city. <i>"For this alliance may prove To turn your households' rancour to pure love"</i>	obstacle – a problem that must be overcome.
2.6	Friar Lawrence marries Romeo and Juliet.	Mercutio (Montague) Romeo's friend. Killed by Tybalt. <i>"A plague a'both your houses!"</i>	soliloquy – a speech in a play where the character speaks to himself or herself.
3.1	Montagues and Capulets fight in the streets. Tybalt kills Mercutio; Romeo kills Tybalt. Prince Escalus decides to banish Romeo from Verona.	Prince Escalus (no family) Ruler of Verona. Wants to bring peace to the city. <i>"If ever you disturb our streets again, Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace"</i>	hyperbole – exaggeration.
3.4	Lord Capulet tells Paris that he can marry Juliet in three days' time.		tragic flaw - a character has a tragic flaw when what makes them so special also brings about their downfall.
3.5	After their wedding night, Romeo leaves Juliet for the last time. They have a vision of the other's death. After Romeo leaves, Lord Capulet orders Juliet to marry Paris, threatening to disown her if she disobeys.		exile (vb.) – to force them from their home and live in another place.
4.1	Friar Lawrence comes up with a plan: Juliet must pretend to be dead and then escape Verona with Romeo. She agrees to the plan.		foreshadow – to show or warn that something bigger, worse, or more important is coming.
5.3	Romeo does not learn of Friar Lawrence's plan. He sneaks back into Verona and visits Juliet's tomb. He thinks she is dead, and kills himself with poison. Moments later, Juliet wakes up. She finds Romeo's body and kills herself with his dagger. The two families agree to end their feud.		catastrophe – a terrible accident.
		Structure of Shakespearean tragedy (Bradley)	thesis – the main idea that you want to discuss throughout an essay.
		Exposition Introduces the main characters and the obstacles they will overcome in the play.	Features of Shakespearean tragedy (Bradley)
		Rising tension The heroes try to overcome the obstacles they face. They suffer.	The characters are 'high-status' – they are important people.
		Catastrophe The play ends with the deaths of the heroes.	The tragic hero acts : they try to do things . They don't just let things happen to them.
			Whatever they try to do, it always puts them in a worse situation .
			They are exceptional – there is something that makes them special.