

'Romeo and Juliet': Traditional Homework tasks

Here are some options for homework tasks for each of the lessons in this unit of work.

You do not need to use all of these tasks and you do not need to set homework every lesson.

Please refer to your school and department homework policy when setting and marking homework tasks.

1	Research: Italy wasn't one unified country, but a number of small independent city-states. Find out more about Italian city states and when they unified. Writing: Choose a contemporary tragedy and identify five things that make it a tragedy.
2	Research: Find three other prologues. Do they all follow the same pattern that Shakespeare used in 'Romeo and Juliet'? Writing: Write another paragraph answering the question "What makes 'Romeo and Juliet' a tragedy?" Prologues are similar to trailers for movies. What makes a successful trailer? Explain your reasons. Write your own version of a prologue for Romeo and Juliet but set it in your local area. Who would the feud be between?
3	Memorising: memorise the prologue of 'Romeo and Juliet' - be ready for a choral reading in the next lesson. Writing: write your own Sonnet, following the form and structure we have seen in the Prologue. Research: A Prologue is an introduction to a book, film, or play. It comes from Greek, <i>prologos</i> (meaning: <i>pro</i> – before; <i>logos</i> – word). It is spoken by a Chorus (<i>kor</i> – us). Explore why some English words we use are based on Greek words. Find 5 other commonly used Greek words in the English language.
4	Spellings: We have covered a lot of new vocabulary. Find the definitions of the following words and learn to spell them for a test: tragedy, tragic, Elizabethan, genre, Verona, city-state, Prologue, Chorus, feud, Montague, Capulet. Research: find out about feuds in recent news. Explain why they have occurred and who they are between. Research: Stage fighting is a skilled craft. Research how actors would fight on the Elizabethan stage. Drama: Act out the verbal exchange between the Montagues and Capulets, using freeze frames for the fighting.

5	<p>Writing: re-read your class notes. Write a paragraph that explains how the events and characters of 'Romeo and Juliet' fit the conventions of a Shakespearean tragedy.</p> <p>Reading: read the end of Act 1 Scene 1 following Prince Escalus' monologue admonishing the Montagues and Capulets (l.98 ff.). What do we learn about the brawl from Benvolio's perspective? Who is to blame? What do we learn about Romeo from Lord Montague and Benvolio before he appears on stage (l.149)?</p>
6	<p>Research: Lady Capulet says to Juliet:</p> <p><i>Well, think of marriage now; younger than you, Here in Verona, ladies of esteem, Are made already mothers. (1.3.9-11)</i></p> <p>Research the marriage customs in Verona during the Renaissance/1600s.</p> <p>Re-drafting: redraft your response to the question you answered in class: "How does Shakespeare present Juliet in Act 1, Scene 3?"</p> <p>Writing: 'The tragic hero acts: they try to do things. They don't just let things happen to them' (A C Bradley). Is Juliet an 'active' heroine in Act 1 Scene 3? Write an essay answering this question.</p>
7	<p>Research: What is a masquerade ball? Find out more about them and make your own mask for the Capulet Ball.</p> <p>Reading: Romeo and Benvolio find out about the Capulet Ball from a servant who cannot read. Look at Act 1 Scene 2 and read lines 38 to the end. Why does Romeo agree to go to the ball? What do we learn about his lovesickness?</p> <p>Re-drafting: redraft your paragraphs answering: "How does Shakespeare use juxtaposition to describe Juliet's beauty when Romeo sees her at Capulet's ball?" Remember to 1) provide relevant quotation(s) from the passage 2) analyse how the quotation(s) demonstrate Juliet's beauty.</p>
8	<p>Reading & writing: Read Act 1 Scene 4. Focus on Mercutio's famous "Queen Mab" monologue (l.53-95). Queen Mab was a fairy creation of Shakespeare's imagination. Answer the question: What view of love does Mercutio present?</p> <p>Research & writing: 'If love be rough with you, be rough with love...' (l.27) What different views of love and romance have been presented in 'Romeo and Juliet' so far? Was love a prerequisite of marriage in the Renaissance?</p> <p>Writing: A student has written this: "Romeo uses a religious metaphor to describe Juliet when he says that she is a 'holy shrine'. By comparing Juliet to a 'holy shrine' Shakespeare shows how much Romeo respects and admires Juliet." Finish their paragraph presenting two views and using evidence to support your views.</p>

9	<p>Writing: In the prologue Romeo and Juliet are referred to as 'star crossed lovers' who are fated to die. Imagine that you are responsible for writing horoscopes for <i>The Verona Chronicle</i> newspaper on the day of the Capulet Ball for either Romeo or Juliet. Write their horoscope.</p> <p>Spellings: Find the definitions of the following words and learn how to spell them for a test- status quo, exposition, rising tension, catastrophe, tragedy, tragic, structure, hero, plot, obedient, submissive, metaphor, juxtaposition, soliloquy, hyperbole.</p>
10	<p>Writing: 'What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.' Juliet thinks that Romeo's name should not matter. Who he is and how she feels about him are most important. Do you think this is true? Can love overcome family feuds? Write a paragraph showing both sides of the argument.</p> <p>Writing: Does Romeo have a realistic attitude to Juliet and his relationship with her? Write 2 paragraphs in response, using your class notes on his soliloquy (2.2.15-26)</p>
11	<p>Writing: write a paragraph answering the following question: <i>How has Romeo changed since the start of the play?</i></p> <p>Research: what were the Renaissance conventions of proposal? Has Juliet acted in accordance with the norms? Explain in two paragraphs.</p>
12	<p>Research: Friar Lawrence states, 'For this alliance may so happy prove /To turn your households' rancour to pure love'. Many critics blame the Friar for his actions. What reasons do they have?</p> <p>Research: The chapel would be a sacred and holy place in the city. Conduct research on the different religious places in Verona during the 16th century.</p>
13	<p>Writing: Mercutio's dying words are, 'A plague o' both your houses!' Using your knowledge of the play's tragic structure, how are his words fulfilled? Write one paragraph.</p> <p>Research: Why does Romeo need to avenge Mercutio's death? Research the honour code during the Renaissance.</p>
14	<p>Writing: Redraft your paragraph answering, "How does Shakespeare present Lord Capulet in 'Romeo and Juliet'?" Remember to discuss the historical context of the time.</p> <p>Writing: In both comedies and tragedies, tension rises as daughters go in search of love, adventure and independence. Answer the following essay question: <i>How does Juliet compare to other Shakespearean heroines? Consider Hermia, Desdemona and Kate as counterparts.</i></p> <p>Research: Elizabeth I was the 'Virgin Queen'. Conduct research on her role as a woman and a queen – why did she decide to not marry? How did she change attitudes to women during and after her reign?</p>

15	<p>Writing: choose three metaphors from Act 3 Scene 5 and annotate them with the ground, tenor and vehicle.</p> <p>Writing: Find three examples of foreshadowing from the Prologue to Romeo and Juliet. Write one paragraph on this question: <i>How does Shakespeare use foreshadowing in the Prologue?</i></p> <p>Research: RSC Director Neil Bartlett wrote about foreshadowing in the Prologue in this essay. Read his essay and then write a paragraph on this question: <i>Why does Shakespeare foreshadow the deaths of Romeo and Juliet in the Prologue?</i></p>
16	<p>Writing: Write a diary entry from Juliet's perspective. How does she feel towards Romeo, her father, her mother, and about her own situation? What should she do in the dilemma?</p> <p>Writing: How has Juliet's character changed since the start of the play? Provide evidence to support your answer. Write two paragraphs.</p>
17	<p>Writing: 'Desperate times call for desperate measures'. In what ways do the characters of 'Romeo and Juliet' exhibit desperation?</p> <p>Writing: Imagine you are Friar Lawrence. Write his letter to Romeo explaining his 'solution' to the problem.</p>
18	<p>Reading: Read Act 5, Scene 1. Explain how this scene adds to the tragedy of the play.</p> <p>Writing: A student has begun their paragraph with this view: "Romeo is an immature fool. His immaturity led to his death; he does not deserve pity. He warns an audience against loving too intensely." Finish their paragraph presenting two views and using evidence to support your views.</p>
19	<p>Revision: Make sure that your tragedy resource is fully completed. Begin revising the key components of tragedy for your assessment.</p> <p>Writing: Shakespeare made Romeo and Juliet kiss each other on their first and last meeting. How is this an example of tragic foreshadowing? Refer to their dialogue in Act 1.</p>
20	<p>Writing: Return to the prologue of 'Romeo and Juliet'. How has the prophesy of 'two star-cross'd lovers take their life' come to pass? Was it just fate that led to their deaths or the poor choices they made? Discuss with evidence from the play. Write two paragraphs.</p> <p>Writing: The play closes with these words from Prince Escalus: 'For never was a story of more woe / Than this of Juliet and her Romeo' (5.3.309-10). List the ways 'Romeo and Juliet' is a story of "woe".</p>

<p>21</p>	<p>Assessment preparation</p> <p>What to revise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The characters in the play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Who they are ✓ Which family they are a member of ✓ How they change throughout the play ✓ The plot of the play: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The main events ✓ The sequence of events in the play ✓ What makes 'Romeo and Juliet' a tragedy ✓ The key words we have studied this term ✓ Important quotations from throughout the play
<p>22</p>	<p>Research: Explore Renaissance views of dreams and how they impacted daily life.</p> <p>Writing: Write your own modern-day Queen Mab speech. Add relevant detail so that it can be performed as a monologue.</p>