

A **FREE** RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS!



ROMEO & JULIET

Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2.

SYNOPSIS

The tragic story of Romeo and Juliet takes place over a few days in Verona in Italy, nearly 500 years ago.

Act One: The action starts with a fight between Capulets and Montagues – the two families always fight when they meet because they hate each other. We then meet Romeo, a Montague, who is unhappily in love with a girl called Rosaline. Meanwhile the Capulets are having a ball, and everyone is invited except the Montagues. Romeo and his friends decide to go anyway, wearing masks to disguise themselves. Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, recognises Romeo at the party and is angry. Romeo and Juliet see each other and fall in love. They speak, kiss and part.

Act Two: Romeo sees Juliet on her balcony and climbs up. The lovers express their feelings for each other. The next day they meet at Friar Laurence's church and they marry.

Act Three: In another street fight, Tybalt kills Romeo's friend Mercutio. Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge, and he runs away. Prince Escalus arrives and says Romeo must leave the city forever. After Romeo and Juliet secretly spend their wedding night together, Romeo leaves for Mantua. Juliet's father believes Juliet is crying for Tybalt. He plans her wedding to a nobleman, Lord Paris, to cheer her up. When Juliet refuses to marry Paris, he is very angry.

Act Four: Juliet goes to Friar Laurence, who makes a plan. He will give her a sleeping potion and she will sleep for two days, appearing dead. Her family will put her in the family tomb. When she wakes, Romeo will be waiting and will take her to Mantua. The Friar writes to Romeo with instructions.

Act Five: The Friar's letter never reaches Romeo. Instead Romeo hears of Juliet's death and rides back to Verona. He finds her 'body' in the tomb. He drinks poison and dies. Juliet wakes, finds him dead and kills herself. The Prince and the Capulet and Montague parents arrive. An unhappy Friar Laurence tells them the story. All are horrified and they promise to live in peace from now on, so that Romeo and Juliet have not died for nothing.

THE BACK STORY

Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet*, his most famous love story, in 1594–5. It has been filmed many times for cinema and television. The photos in this Scholastic Reader come from the 2013 film *Romeo & Juliet*, starring Douglas Booth and Hailee Steinfeld. The script was adapted by Julian Fellowes, the writer of the popular TV series *Downton Abbey*.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: *Romeo & Juliet* starring Douglas Booth and Hailee Steinfeld is available on DVD.

CD: A recording of this simplified version of *Romeo & Juliet* is available to accompany the Richmond Reader.

Internet: Find extensive educational resources for schools on William Shakespeare and his plays on the website of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Go to the 'Explore' and 'Education' sections at www.rsc.org.uk. Also find out more about the Globe Theatre at www.shakespearesglobe.com.

HOW TO USE YOUR RICHMOND MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Do your students know the story of Romeo and Juliet? Have they seen the film? Explain that this is a story about love, murder, revenge and passion.

Organising

Read the notes about using the playscript in class on page 6, and decide if you want students to read alone, read aloud or act out the play in the classroom. Select exercises from the Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each part of the play. All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

Using the CD

Students can listen to the CD and follow in their books. They can listen and then act it themselves. They can act it themselves and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading skills.

Using the DVD

The film is nearly 2 hours long. Select key scenes to show in parallel with the class acting schedule (for scene ideas, see the

list on page 4 of this resource sheet). Select the English language option on the DVD, and turn on the English subtitles if students find the dialogue difficult to follow.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or ask students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words.

Fact File

Set this as self-study or use for whole class work. It includes a biography of William Shakespeare as well as information about films of *Romeo and Juliet*. Use the internet sites listed above to extend students' study.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Romeo & Juliet*. Compare opinions. Would they like to go and see the play, either in English or their own language? Did you enjoy using it in class? Let us know at readers@link2english.com.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES



ROMEO & JULIET

People and places

Answer the questions.

- a) What are the two important families in Verona called? .. Montague and Capulet ..
- b) Two people make medicines. Which two?
- c) Who wants to marry Juliet? ..
- d) Who looks after Juliet? ..

Act One

1 Tick the things that happen in Act One.

- a) Benvolio starts a fight.
- b) Prince Escalus stops the fight.
- c) Romeo tells Benvolio that he is in love with Rosaline.
- d) Lord Capulet tells Lord Paris that Juliet will marry him.
- e) Romeo and his friends go to the Capulet party in masks.
- f) Juliet discovers that Romeo is a Capulet.

2 Make sentences.

- a) Romeo thinks
 - i) to the Capulet party to see Rosaline.
 - ii) Juliet is old enough to marry.
 - iii) upset to learn that Juliet is a Capulet.
 - iv) that Paris is good-looking.
 - v) Rosaline is the only beautiful woman in Verona.
- b) Lord Capulet doesn't think
- c) Romeo goes
- d) Nurse thinks
- e) Romeo is

3 Work with a partner. Imagine you are at the Capulet party. What do you see?

Act Two

1 Put the correct adjectives in the spaces.

happy not afraid sad surprised upset worried

- a) Juliet is worried when Romeo appears on her balcony.

- b) Romeo is of Juliet's family.
- c) Romeo and Juliet are when they have to say goodbye.
- d) Friar Laurence is to learn that Romeo loves Juliet and not Rosaline.
- e) Nurse is when Romeo's friends laugh at her.
- f) Juliet is when she hears Romeo's message.

2 Put these events from Act Two in the order they happen.

- a) Nurse comes to look for Romeo.
- b) Romeo and Juliet Marry.
- c) Romeo climbs onto Juliet's balcony. 1
- d) Benvolio and Mercutio meet Romeo in the street.
- e) Juliet runs to the church.
- f) Romeo goes to see Friar Laurence.

3 Work with a partner. Romeo and Juliet marry the day after they meet. Imagine one of you wants to marry someone you met yesterday. You ask your partner if he/she thinks it's a good idea. Have a conversation.

Act Three

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) Mercutio dies because Romeo steps in front of him and he cannot see Tybalt's sword. T
- b) Romeo runs away because Mercutio is dead.
- c) Lord Montague says Romeo was right to kill Tybalt.
- d) Prince Escalus wants to kill Romeo because he has killed Tybalt.
- e) When Juliet learns that Tybalt is dead and Romeo gone, she goes to her mother and father.

2 Choose the correct words in italics.

- a) Friar Laurence tells Romeo that things are not as bad as / worse than he thinks.
- b) He tells Romeo to *spend his wedding night with Juliet* / leave Verona this minute.
- c) Lord Capulet plans a wedding between Lord Paris and Juliet for *Wednesday* / Thursday.
- d) Juliet's parents think she is crying because of *Romeo* / Tybalt.
- e) Nurse says she must *stay true to Romeo* / forget Romeo and marry Lord Paris.

3 Work with a partner. Choose A or B.

A: One of you is Juliet. The other is Juliet's friend. Juliet doesn't go to Friar Laurence for help, she goes to her friend. Have their conversation.

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

B: One of you is Romeo. The other is Romeo’s friend. Romeo leaves Verona but he doesn’t go to Mantua. He meets his friend outside the city to ask for his help. Have their conversation.

Act Four

1 Answer the questions.

- a) Who does Juliet meet at Friar Laurence’s church? *Lord Paris*
- b) Who is going to drink sleeping medicine?
- c) Who is going to write to Romeo?
- d) Who is taking the letter to Romeo?
- e) Who finds Juliet’s ‘dead body’?

2 Put these verbs in the sentences in the correct form.

ask decide drink escape ~~marry~~

- a) Lord Paris believes he will *marry* Juliet on Thursday.
- b) Juliet says she will do anything to the wedding.
- c) Juliet will sleep for 42 hours after she the sleeping medicine.
- d) Lord Capulet thinks Juliet to marry Lord Paris.
- e) Juliet cannot her mother for help.

3 Juliet is about to take the sleeping medicine. She thinks: “What will happen if I take it? What will happen if I don’t take it?” Have a conversation inside her head.

Act Five

1 Choose the best word(s) to complete the sentences.

- a) Balthasar brings Romeo
good news bad news a letter .
- b) Romeo visits the Apothecary and buys
sleeping medicine poison a knife .
- c) When Romeo reaches Juliet’s tomb, he kills
Lord Paris Balthasar Prince Escalus .
- d) When Romeo finds Juliet’s ‘dead body’, he kills
Tybalt Friar Laurence himself .
- e) Outside the Capulet tomb, Prince Escalus interviews
Lord Paris Friar Laurence Lady Capulet .

2 Talk to a partner. Why are these things important in Romeo and Juliet’s story?

- masks • poison • a letter • a knife • a fight

FINAL TASKS

1 Choose one of the photographs in this reader. Write about what has just happened in the picture, what is happening now and what is going to happen next.

2 When Juliet hears that she must marry Paris, she goes to Friar Laurence. He makes a plan to help her. His plan ends badly. Can you think of a better plan? Write a new conversation where they talk about a different plan.

3 Choose one of the characters in the play. Imagine they are on Twitter. Write their tweets in each scene.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Look at the ‘New Words’ at the back of Romeo & Juliet.

1 Choose the correct verb for each sentence and put it in the correct form.

kiss marry insult poison ~~act~~

- 1. Both Douglas Booth and Leonardo DiCaprio have *acted* the part of Romeo in films.
- 2. Lady Capulet Lord Capulet when she was thirteen years old.
- 3. Lady Capulet her daughter, said goodnight and closed the door.
- 4. One person himself in this story because he wants to die.
- 5. When a Montague man meets a Capulet man in Verona, he usually him.

2 Choose the correct word in italics to explain the words in bold.

- 1. You *can* / *can’t* kill someone with a **sword**.
- 2. Nobody can see your *face* / *hair* when you wear a **mask**.
- 3. If you have a **balcony** outside your room, you are *lower* / *higher* than the street.
- 4. It is **cruel** to *hurt* / *love* animals.
- 5. A **tomb** is a small room where there are only *animals* / *dead bodies*.
- 6. Your **enemy** *is* / *isn’t* usually someone you like.
- 7. A **servant** *can* / *can’t* usually do what he or she wants.
- 8. Your **nephew** is a person in your *family* / *business*.

3 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1. **Flowers** appear for a short time in a garden and then die.
- 2. A **rose** is not a flower.
- 3. If your **heart** is not working, you are dead.
- 4. **Peace** comes when people decide to stop fighting.

FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (Pages 60–1)

Pre-reading comprehension

Give students these comprehension questions before they read the Fact File. They answer the questions if they can and then check their answers in the text. Alternatively, they scan for the answers as quickly as possible.

1. How many plays did Shakespeare write?
2. How many children did he and Anne Hathaway have?
3. Why don't we know where Shakespeare was from the ages of 22 to 28?
4. Shakespeare was a writer. What other job did he have in London?
5. What did he buy in Stratford after he started to make lots of money?
6. What burnt down in 1613?
7. In what way is Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* better than Arthur Brooke's *Romeo and Juliet*?
8. Where does the 1996 film of *Romeo+Juliet* take place?
9. How old was Hailee Steinfeld when they chose her to play Juliet?
10. *Romeo and Juliet* takes place in Italy. How many times did Shakespeare visit Italy?

Research

In pairs or individually, students research three facts about Shakespeare on the internet or in a library. Pairs reveal their facts in turn, one at a time. Which pair has the most original facts?

Discussion

Divide the class into five groups. Give each group one of these questions. The group discusses the question and then prepares a summary of their answers. They report to the rest of the class with their answers.

1. William Shakespeare died 400 years ago. Why is he still popular today?
2. Shakespeare's language is difficult to understand. Why do theatres still produce his plays in their original language?
3. Many people believe Shakespeare is the greatest writer in the English language. Do you agree?
4. Like many of Shakespeare's plays, *Romeo and Juliet* takes place in Italy. As far as we know, Shakespeare never left England. Does that matter?

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

DVD: Choosing scenes

The film of *Romeo & Juliet* is nearly two hours long, and the story is slightly different from Shakespeare's original. (For example, we see the wedding of Romeo and Juliet, which takes place off stage in Shakespeare's play. Later, Friar John stops on his way to Mantua to treat a sick child – he is not held for 24 hours because he goes into a plague house.) Write a list of key scenes (that take place in both the film and the adaptation) on the board. Students vote for the scenes they would most like to watch. Examples:

- the opening fight scene
- when Romeo and Juliet meet
- the balcony scene
- the fight between Tybalt and Mercutio
- Juliet asking for help from Friar Laurence
- the final scene in the tomb

CD: Comparing

The class acts out a scene from the play. Find the same section on the CD and play it to them. Discuss any differences between the emotions the actors and students show – which version do they prefer? Compare the stress they put on different parts of a sentence – which do they think gives the right meaning? Students can act out their new, improved version of the scene.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 60–3)

- 1 a) medicine b) poison c) mask d) sword e) heart f) peace g) kiss h) insult i) cruel
- 2 a) iii b) iv c) ii d) i
- 3 a) The Montagues and Capulets b) Prince Escalus c) Romeo d) Lord Paris e) He falls in love with her. f) Because he is a Montague, and her family hates his family.
- 4 Open answers.
- 5 a) roses b) wedding c) marries d) balcony
- 6 a) It is dangerous for him because he is a Montague. b) The next day. c) Because yesterday he was in love with Rosaline. d) Because he thinks Romeo has gone soft with love. e) She says she is tired; perhaps she is laughing at Juliet too! f) Because she is very young.
- 7 Open answers.
- 8 a) law b) tomb
- 9 The correct order is: a, f, b, g, h, c, d, e.
- 10 a) Lady Capulet b) Prince Escalus c) Nurse d) Friar Laurence e) Lord Capulet f) Tybalt g) Because Romeo has gone to Mantua h) Lord Capulet i) Friar Laurence
- 11–12 Open answers.
- 13 a) F. She isn't pleased to see him. b) T c) F. He takes a letter. d) F. She says she will marry him e) T f) T
- 14–15 Open answers.
- 16 b, d, e, g and i happen.
- 17 Open answers.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- b) Friar Laurence and the Apothecary c) Lord Paris
d) Nurse

Act One

- 1 b, c and e happen.
2 b) ii c) i d) iv e) iii
3 Open answers.

Act Two

- 1 b) not afraid c) sad d) surprised e) upset f) happy
2 The correct order is: c, f, d, a, e, b.
3 Open answers.

Act Three

- 1 b) F. He runs away because he has killed Tybalt. c) T d) F. He wants to send him out of the city. e) F. She stays in her room.
2 b) spend his wedding night with Juliet c) Thursday d) Tybalt e) forget Romeo and marry Lord Paris
3 Open answers.

Act Four

- 1 b) Juliet c) Friar Laurence d) Friar John e) Nurse
2 b) escape c) drinks d) has decided e) ask
3 Open answers.

Act Five

- 1 b) poison c) Lord Paris d) himself e) Friar Laurence
2 Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 2. married 3. kissed 4. poisons 5. insults
2 2. face 3. higher 4. hurt 5. dead bodies 6. isn't 7. can't 8. family
3 2. F. It is a flower. 3. T 4. T

Fact File

1. 37 2. 3 3. Because there are no letters or information for those years. 4. An actor 5. The second biggest house
6. The Globe theatre 7. It's more exciting.
8. Verona Beach, California 9. 14 10. None – he didn't go abroad.