

Romeo & Juliet : **Plot Breakdown**

Exposition

Act I:I

- Introduction to two crude capulets who are making crude jokes
- Fighting in the streets started by Tybalt
- Prince stops the fight -> 3 times these families have disturbed the peace. They are going to die if it happens again

- Montague [Romeo's Dad] says that he has not seen Romeo today, but that Romeo's mood is terrible
- Benvolio [Romeo's Cousin] says that he often sees him walking out on the edge of the forest and that Romeo is sad
- Benvolio talks to Romeo, Romeo is sad about a girl
 - o He is sad because a girl has rejected his advances
 - o He might be sad because she won't sleep with him or He might be sad because he is a true romantic and it sucks to be rejected [your decision]
 - o Scene ends with Romeo proclaim his love for the mystery woman

Act I:II

- Capulet meets with Paris
 - o They discuss a proposal for Juliet's hand in marriage
 - o Capulet is concerned that it is too early for Juliet to get married, but Capulet invites Paris to a party where he suggests that they discuss the matter further
 - o Capulet sends a servant to invite people to the party that are not of the Montague house
- Benvolio & Romeo are talking in the square
 - o The servant finds them and invites them
- They talk of the girl that Romeo loves -> her name is Rosaline
- Romeo says he is "devout" to her love and Continues to proclaim his love in an extremely poetic way

Act I:III

- Lady Capulet meets with Nurse and Juliet to discuss the proposition that Paris has made
- Juliet is young, but younger women are consistently married
- Nurse pokes fun of Lady Capulet

- Juliet responds “I’ll look to like, if looking liking move, /But no more deep will I endart mine eye / Than your consent gives strength to make it fly” (I:II:100-103)
 - o Juliet says she will be a good girl and do what Mom and Dad tell her to
- The nurse, being the voice of fun says: “Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days” (I:II:109)
 - o This means that she should go and have fun so that she can be happy
 - o Happy nights of course, referring to doing things that you parents wouldn’t want you to.

Act I:IV

A masked [Romeo](#), Mercutio and Benvolio enter the Capulet celebration. Romeo tells of a [dream he had about the consequences for attending the celebration: the dream foretold “untimely death”](#).

- Mercutio is the first person in the play to speak to all the people in the audience
 - o He makes dirty remarks and remarks that the laypeople will laugh at
 - o He also says things that are extremely poetic that only aristocrats will understand
 - o He refers to magic and mystery that any religious person in the audience would find very troubling
- Mercutio Romeo’s friend and is a character that exists outside of the family’s feuds and is, therefore, an important character in play

Act I:V

The boys [Romeo, Benvolio & Mercutio] are at the party

- Capulet introduces the scene at the party
- The boys begin to mingle
- Romeo is spotted at the party by Tybalt and Tybalt is not happy about it
- Tybalt goes to Capulet to get his permission to vanquish the intruders
 - o Tybalt is denied and embarrassed by Capulet
 - o Capulet does not want there to be problems in the middle of the party
- Romeo sees Juliet from across the room
- Romeo approaches Juliet & they begin to talk → INCITING INCIDENT
- Romeo and Juliet kiss and they fall madly in love

Rising Action:

Act II: I

Upon leaving the Capulet grounds with his kinsman, Romeo has run off and hid himself in the trees.

Act II:II

[Romeo sees Juliet on her balcony and overhears her profess her love for him. Romeo responds in kind and they decide to marry the next day.](#) Juliet is called away by her Nurse and Romeo bids her farewell.

Act II:III

Romeo Meets with Friar Laurence about arranging a marriage with Juliet.

Act II:IV

Mercutio informs Benvolio that Tybalt has threatened to kill Mercutio. The Nurse ensures that Romeo is serious about his love for Juliet and warns him of Paris' intentions.

Act II: V

Juliet and the Nurse chat about Romeo's proposition. The Nurse tells Juliet that she will be Married to Romeo in Friar Laurence's cell.

Act II: VI

Juliet and Romeo are married by Friar Laurence in his private room. Although we know they exchange vows, we never see the ceremony performed as it should be. The audience is left wondering whether they are married properly or not, but we know that they haven't yet slept together.

Climax:

Act III: I

Tybalt challenges Romeo, who attempts to pacify the situation. A fight breaks out and Tybalt kills Mercutio – [before dying he wishes "a plague on both your houses."](#) In an act of revenge, Romeo kills Tybalt. The Prince arrives and banishes Romeo.

Act III:II

Juliet is swooning in the knowledge that he and Romeo are now married. She is excited to spend their first evening together when she finds out that Romeo is the person that has

killed her cousin and he is now banished from Verona. She has a moment of crisis and then decides that Romeo must know that she still loves him. She tells the nurse to find him and give him her ring.

Act III:III

Friar Lawrence informs Romeo that he is to be banished. The Nurse enters to pass on Juliet's message. Friar Lawrence encourages Romeo to visit Juliet and fulfill their marriage contract before going to exile. He explains that he will send a message when it is safe for Romeo to return as Juliet's husband.

Act III:IV

Capulet and his wife explain to Paris that Juliet is too upset about Tybalt to consider his marriage proposal. Capulet then decides to arrange for Juliet to marry Paris the following Thursday. Juliet is, understandably, not happy about the arrangement.

Act III: V

Romeo bids Juliet an emotional farewell after spending the night together. Lady Capulet believes that Tybalt's death is the cause of her daughter's misery and threatens to kill Romeo with poison. Juliet is told that she is to marry Paris on Thursday. Juliet refuses much to her father's disdain. The Nurse encourages Juliet to marry Paris but she refuses and decides to go to Friar Lawrence for advice.

Falling Action:

Act IV: I

Juliet and Paris discuss the marriage and Juliet makes her feeling clear. When Paris leaves Juliet threatens to kill herself if the Friar cannot think of a resolution. The Friar offers Juliet a potion in a vial which will make her appear dead. She will be placed in the family vault where she is to wait for Romeo to take her to Mantua.

Act IV: II

Juliet begs her father's forgiveness and they discuss Paris' marriage proposal.

Act IV: III

Juliet asks to spend the night alone and swallows the potion with a dagger by her side in case the plan does not work.

Act IV: IV

The Nurse discovers Juliet's lifeless body and the Capulets and Paris grieve her death. The Friar takes the family and Juliet's seemingly dead body to church. They hold a ceremony for Juliet.

Catastrophe

Act V: I

Romeo receives news from Balthasar about Juliet's death and is determined to die by her side. He buys some poison from an apothecary and makes the return journey to Verona.

Act V: II

The Friar finds out that [his letter explaining the plan about Juliet's faked death was not delivered to Romeo](#).

Act V: III

Paris is in Juliet's chamber grieving her death when Romeo arrives. Romeo is apprehended by Paris and Romeo stabs him. Romeo kisses Juliet's body and takes the poison. The Friar arrives to find Romeo dead. Juliet wakes to find Romeo dead and no poison left for her, she uses the dagger to kill herself in grief.

When the Montagues and Capulets arrive, the Friar explains the events leading to the tragedy. The Prince pleads with the Montagues and Capulets to bury their grievances and acknowledge their losses. [The Montague and Capulet families](#) finally lay their feud to rest.