

"DID MY HEART  
LOVE  
TILL NOW?"

#CSFRomeoJuliet

CHILDREN'S  
SHAKESPEARE  
FESTIVALS



AT  
HOME



HOME LEARNING RESOURCE PACK

Hello everyone,

We're sorry you are not able to do class drama work at the moment, but here are some ideas to keep enjoying Romeo and Juliet whilst you are at home. If your grown ups say it is OK, you could tweet us (we're on Twitter as [@nwdrama](#)) to show us what you have been doing. We'd really like to see what you've been up to!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

*The North West Drama team*

PS - We're sending lots of love to our theatre partners too! They may have some special resources you can use to do even more drama at home! Check their websites for more information!



“For never was a story of more woe  
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo”

### DID YOU KNOW?

The play's full title is *The Most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*.

Which title do you prefer?



[northwestdramaservices.co.uk](http://northwestdramaservices.co.uk)



## WATCH

Here are some links to different version of the story, for you to enjoy, or even share with others... (you can click on the links in blue!)

Remember to always ask a parent/carer before you use YouTube!

Video Spark Notes Romeo and Juliet Summary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRrvQ1vZxcg>

Romeo and Juliet Animated Summary (The Book Tutor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-coBcEJljl>

Shakespeare in Shorts: Romeo and Juliet (BBC Teach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1zHhOHTdm8>

## RESEARCH

If you want to know a little more about the story, characters, language and the setting take a look at the Royal Shakespeare Company's Learning Zone:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/romeo-and-juliet>

This resource has three levels: *New to the Play*; *More Detailed Information* and *In-Depth Study and Analysis* so there is something for everyone, including a great video of the balcony scene!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Romeo and Juliet is believed to be one of Shakespeare's longest plays, with 3093 lines (Hamlet is the longest with 4042 lines!)



“ A plague on both your houses! ”

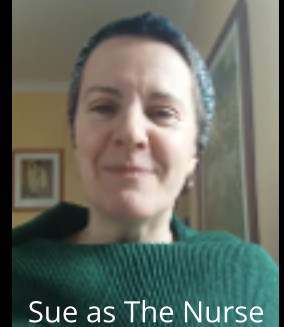


# “Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?”

## ACT

Create a monologue (speech for one person) using the 7 steps below:

- Choose one character from the play e.g. Romeo, Juliet, Tybalt, Nurse, Prince Escalus or Friar Laurence
- Find an item of clothing or an object in your house that represents the character (we call this a *role signifier*)
- Put on the item of clothing or pick up the object and go ‘into role’ as that character – how does he/she stand or sit? What face expression does he/she have?
- Tell the story from his/her point of view
- Explain how you feel about the other characters or about what happens in the story
- Change your voice to speak how you think your character would speak (we call this a *character voice*)
- Perform this to other family members or make a short video of yourself in role and watch it back.



Sue as The Nurse



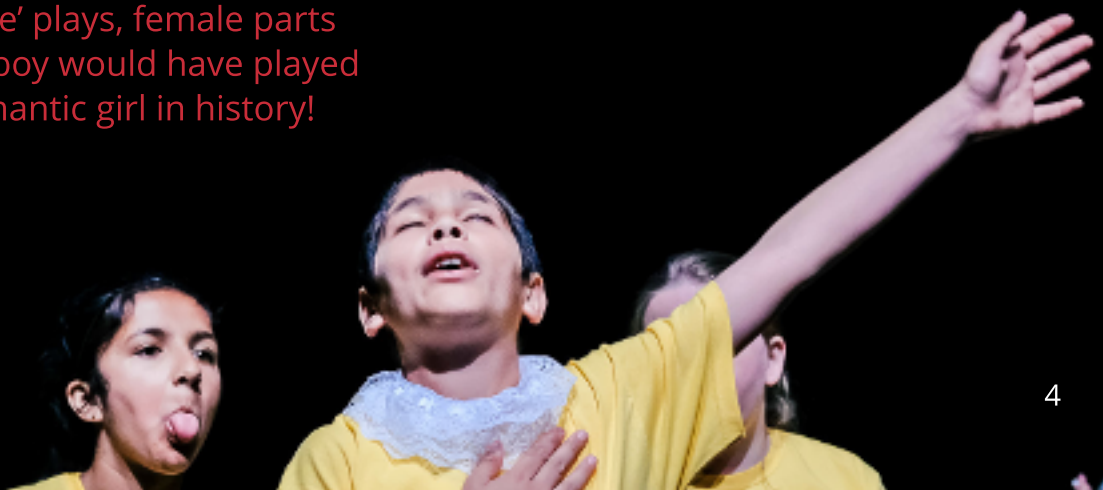
Peter as The Apothecary



The North West Drama team have been getting creative too! Click on the images to see see their character monologues on our 'home learning' page where we'll upload your' videos too if you'd like to share! Email: [matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk](mailto:matt@northwestdramaservices.co.uk)

## DID YOU KNOW?

As in all of Shakespeare' plays, female parts were played by boys. A boy would have played the most famous romantic girl in history!



# “Two households, both alike in dignity”

## ACT

Use the Story Whoosh (below) and persuade other members of your family to join in and tell the story, taking turns to be the other characters. The story is divided into 16 episodes, each of which is followed by a stage-clearing **WHOOSH!** Within each episode the characters that are needed on stage are written in **red** the first time they are introduced within that episode. Where actors could become objects rather than characters, these are indicated in **blue**...

Welcome to fair Verona, an ancient Italian city. A city on a **low hill** surrounded by a **mighty wall**. A city of **churches**, a city of **grand houses** and **lowly homes**, a city of **tombs**. A **prince's** city with a prince's **palace**. And at the heart of the city a noble, empty people's square.

### WHOOSH!

The prince, **Prince Escalus** would have Verona at peace but the city is dominated by two warring families: the **Montagues** and the **Capulets**. Two families, alike in power, but sworn enemies - bringing violence to the city streets. Rapiers (a kind of sword) on their belts, quickly drawn in anger. Brawling, duelling, spilling blood. Prince Escalus demands peace: "The next to draw their swords and fight will die! This city will have peace!"

### WHOOSH!

**Lord Capulet** has a daughter, a most precious girl called **Juliet** who is attended by her loyal **Nurse**. The time has come for her to wed (even though she is only 13) and **Paris**, a young nobleman, wishes to take her hand in marriage. A ball shall be held tonight at which Paris might woo the lovely Juliet. Tonight at the Capulet's mansion home.

### WHOOSH!

The **wealthy of the city**, in fancy dress, attend the ball. Music pounds and dancing flows. In attendance are **Lord and Lady Capulet**, their nephew the hot-headed **Tybalt**, **Paris** (who hopes to woo Juliet) and the lovely **Juliet** herself. But who is this sneaking in uninvited? With masks to hide their faces - it is the gate-crashing boys of Montague, enemies of all here. **Mercutio**, **Benvolio** and the young pride of the Montague family, **Romeo**.

### WHOOSH!

**Romeo** sees **Juliet** across the **crowded room**, his heart flies out. Juliet sees Romeo. Her heart flies out. They instantly fall in love. She is his forever. He is hers forever. But...**Tybalt** recognises the Montague boys and would draw his sword to fight. **Lord Capulet** demands peace. The ball comes to an end.

### WHOOSH!

But **Romeo** will not leave. He jumps the garden wall looking for his beloved **Juliet** who is in her chamber with her **Nurse**. Through trees and bushes, Romeo risks his life. Juliet comes to her balcony sighing for her Romeo, calling "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" The Nurse tries to persuade her to come back in. Romeo and Juliet speak and promise to meet the next day to be married...in secret (ssssh!)

### WHOOSH!

The next morning, **Friar Laurence**, a Franciscan monk, is busy in his humble cell when **Romeo** arrives and requests a wedding. Friar Laurence thinks that by uniting the two families, the Montagues and the Capulets, peace might come to Verona **Juliet** arrives and they are married...in secret (ssssh!)

### WHOOSH!

Back on the streets of Verona, **Tybalt** wants to fight with **Romeo** for gatecrashing the Capulet's ball. When Tybalt meets Romeo, Romeo does not want to fight. However **Mercutio** draws his sword and he fights with Tybalt. Romeo tries to stop them and comes between the two but Mercutio is killed by Tybalt. Romeo, angered by the death of his best friend, fights and kills Tybalt. The two bodies lie in the street as **Prince Escalus** and soldiers arrive to survey the carnage. **Lord and Lady Capulet** arrive as does **Lord and Lady Montague**. Surely Romeo will be sentenced to death as the Prince previously declared, but instead Romeo is banished. He must leave the city and escapes to Mantua.

### WHOOSH!

At the Capulets' mansion, **Juliet** is awaiting the **Nurse** who will bring her a rope ladder to enable **Romeo** to climb up via the balcony for their wedding night. However, the Nurse brings news of Tybalt's death (Juliet's cousin) and then the news that Romeo killed him and then the news that Romeo has been banished! Juliet gives the Nurse a ring to give to Romeo and she leaves to find him.

**WHOOSH!** (Continued on next page!)

# ACT

## “For never was a story of more woe”

Romeo is hiding at Friar Laurence's cell when the Nurse arrives. She gives him the ring; Friar Laurence advises Romeo to go to Juliet but warns him that he needs to have left by the break of day and flee to Mantua where Friar Laurence will contact him with further news.

### WHOOSH!

Daybreak at the Capulet's mansion. The Nurse warns Juliet that dawn has broken. Romeo says his last goodbye to Juliet and leaves. Lord and Lady Capulet enter and insist that Juliet must marry Paris and that it must be this Thursday! Juliet refuses: "I will not marry yet". Lord Capulet calls her "baggage" and "wretch" and threatens to drag her to the church. Lady Capulet disowns Juliet: "I have done with thee". Lord and Lady Capulet leave. Juliet turns to the Nurse for comfort and advice but she tells her that she should do as her parents say and marry Paris! Juliet declares that she will go to Friar Laurence for absolution (to be forgiven) but really she is going to ask him for a remedy.

### WHOOSH!

In Friar Laurence's cell, Paris is talking to Friar Laurence about his forthcoming wedding when Juliet arrives. Paris leaves to allow Juliet to make her confession but Juliet tells Friar Laurence that marrying Paris is the last thing she wants to do. Friar Laurence comes up with a cunning plan:

- On Wednesday night, Juliet will drink a vial of liquor
- On Thursday morning Juliet will appear dead
- Juliet will be buried in the Capulet tomb
- Friar Laurence will write to Romeo (in Mantua) to tell him the plan
- Romeo will return under cover from Mantua to Verona
- Juliet will wake up
- Romeo and Juliet will flee to Mantua together

What could possible go wrong?

### WHOOSH!

What could possibly go wrong?

Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, who was killed by Romeo, lies in the tomb of the Capulets.

Juliet, who drank the vial of liquor, also lies in the tomb AS IF dead.

Paris sits in the tomb, head in hands, distraught at having lost the woman he had hoped to marry the very day she 'died'.

### WHOOSH!

Romeo is waiting in Mantua for a letter from Friar Laurence when Balthasar (Romeo's servant) arrives from Verona. No letter has arrived from the Friar but Balthasar tells Romeo that he saw Juliet being buried in the Capulets' tomb. Romeo believes Juliet is dead. Romeo quickly leaves Mantua and heads for Verona, stopping only to buy some deadly poison from an apothecary.

### WHOOSH!

Romeo arrives in Verona and heads for the Capulets tomb but meets Paris in the churchyard where they fight. Romeo kills Paris. Before he dies, Paris requests that his body is laid in the tomb near Juliet's. Romeo regrets what he has done and takes Paris's body into the tomb and lays it by the bodies of Tybalt and Juliet. On seeing the 'dead' Juliet (remember he never got the letter telling him about the trick) Romeo is devastated, he cannot live without Juliet and drinks the deadly poison he bought from the apothecary and dies.

### WHOOSH!

Now Tybalt, Paris, Romeo and Juliet are all lying in the tomb. Friar Laurence learns that his letter was never received by Romeo and rushes to the tomb only to discover he is too late. Juliet wakes up and Friar Laurence advises Juliet to flee but she sees the body of Romeo. Juliet cannot live without Romeo and so she takes Romeo's dagger and kills herself. The watchmen arrive, find the bodies and raise the alarm. The Friar is arrested. Prince Escalus arrives followed by Lord and Lady Capulet. Lord Montague also arrives and reveals his wife has died tonight. Other family members and citizens arrive to witness the tragic outcome of the family feud. Prince Escalus says "See what a scourge is laid upon your hate!" Lord Capulet offers his hand to Lord Montague; they shake hands and agree to build a statue to both Juliet and to Romeo.

WHOOSH! - You could now learn the story and retell it in your own words!

# WRITE

“A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life”

1 Write a new song to the tune of Rose! You can listen to the original here:

<https://soundcloud.com/northwest-drama-services/rose-two-verse-version>

2 Imagine you are one of the citizens of Verona. Write a letter to the Prince, complaining about the violence in the city.

- Begin by telling him exactly what's been going on (you could mention the 'bite your thumb' brawl but also make up some other fights)
- Describe how this fighting makes you feel: maybe it affects your family as well, or your business, or stops you moving about the city at certain times of the day
- Explain how it is spoiling the city: its atmosphere, its reputation
- Give the Prince some ideas about how to stop the violence

3 Write a short story (about 500 words) that tells the story about how the argument between the Capulets and the Montagues began...

**Once upon a time there was a city of Verona, a happy city, where everyone lived in peace and harmony...**

Say what kind things people did and lots of nice things that went on.

**But then one hot summer evening, everything changed...**

Describe what happened. Here are some suggestions:

- Many years ago, somebody broke somebody else's belongings by accident but was too frightened to tell them. When the other person found out they were really angry. During the argument they both said some really mean things and they never spoken to each other again. Everyone else felt they should take sides
- The Prince decided to build a wall around the city. Some people thought that was a good idea, some didn't. The Capulets were on one side and the Montagues on the other
- Long ago, a young man and a young woman from both families were going to get married, but at the last moment the bride ran away and the wedding had to be cancelled

**Every now and then, someone in the city tried to get the families to become friends again, but...**

But what? What stopped them from making up? Grumpiness?  
Another quarrel? A sudden downpour of rain? Some young person picking another fight?

**As time, passed...** What happened? Did people forget?

Or make up lies and stories? Write books about the quarrel?

Move to other parts of the city?

**And so, now, when you go to Verona, the city is not a happy place but a place where...** Describe

Verona, the city of rapiers, where nothing feels safe. List the quarrels that take place every day between people. List what people shout at each other. List how everyone feels.





## WRITE

4 Imagine what Romeo and Juliet write in their diaries just after they have met at the masked ball.

- What do they both say about each other? You could make up what they looked like and how they behaved. Did they stare? Blush? Smile?
- How do they both feel now? They might be very excited or very worried, or both...
- Why do they both think this person is better than anyone else they have ever met? You could list all the things they like about the other person.
- What do they hope will happen next? Would they like to meet again? Spend some time together? Go for a picnic? For their families to meet? Get married and buy a lovely cottage together?



5 Write a poem from Romeo to Juliet, with each line starting with the word “My love is like...” Try to think of 10 similes.

For example:

My love is like a beating heart,

My love is like a bursting flower,

My love is like the warmth of the sun...

6 Imagine that Tybalt is sitting in his house, furious about the fact that Romeo sneaked uninvited into his uncle’s party. He practices what he is going to say to Romeo, trying to sound as fierce, strong and mean as he can.

Here are some sentence starters to help you:

- *Romeo, you shouldn't have...*
- *Romeo, it really annoyed me that you...*
- *Why did you...?*
- *I'm going to...*
- *This time...*
- *You're going to...*
- *You'd better...*

7 Imagine you are Juliet, after Romeo has been banished. You want to send him a poem to remind him that you still love him and believe in him. Write down the letters of Romeo’s name down the side of a page, and write an acrostic poem (a poem made up of a word or short phrase for each letter):

**R**omance on the balcony

**O**ver the garden wall, you said you loved me

**M**y parents will never understand how I feel

**E**verlasting stars shine over us

**O**nly the Friar knows the truth

8 Describe a dream that the Friar has about his plan with the sleeping potion; maybe the plan goes well, with a happy ending! Put in lots of details about what happens in the dream. Some of the details could be quite strange and surprising – remember that dreams do not always make sense! You could then write a nightmare!



# WRITE "What light through yonder window breaks?"

9 Friar Laurence wrote a letter to Romeo explaining the plan but it was never delivered. What do you think it said? Try to include:

- Details of the potion that Juliet has drunk and its effects on her
- What Romeo should do next
- How the Friar thinks things will turn out in the end

10 Write a poem (that doesn't rhyme) for the end of the play. It will be 8 lines long.

Each line will begin with the words: "From now on..."

Think of 8 things that you think might happen next – after the play is over. They could be happy, or sad, or both.

For example:

From now on, the enemies will shake hands,  
From now on, no one will bite their thumbs,  
From now on, the fountains will weep for Juliet,  
From now on, the families will not fight.

## WANT MORE SHAKESPEARE?

Here you can find some more information about Romeo and Juliet and about Shakespeare himself:

*Click on the blue links below!*



### Shakespeare's Globe Playground

At the moment there are lots of interesting videos about the plays themselves, as well as some videos about how Shakespeare's Globe puts on performances. Soon there will be things you can read and make too!

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/learn/playground/>



### Shakespeare Week - Kids' Zone

This site has lots of things you can make and do, all of which are free to download!

<https://www.shakespeareweek.org.uk/kids-zone/>



### British Council Shakespeare Week - Kids' Zone

Some animated versions of Shakespeare's stories, which are really easy to understand!!

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/romeo-and-juliet>



 @nwdrama #CSFRomeoJuliet

 [northwestdramaservices.co.uk](http://northwestdramaservices.co.uk)