

## William Shakespeare – Author Notes Textbook *Romeo and Juliet*

1. most famous writer in world
2. born (christened) April 23, 1564 in Stratford upon Avon – 3<sup>rd</sup> of 8 children
3. father – John Shakespeare (man of importance in town) – his official titles include:  
justice of peace and mayor (bailiff)
4. Wm attended grammar school – studied Latin and literature and rhetoric (use of language)
5. at age 18 he married Anne Hathaway (she was 26 years old)  
they had 3 children (1 set of twins) – one of twins (son) died at age 8 or so
6. Soon after the birth of his children – Wm moved to London and left his family in Stratford  
- he would visit home about one month per year when the playhouses closed down for a break or the plague
7. by 1592 – Shakespeare was already an actor and playwright in London
8. 1594 – he was a charter member of a theatrical company called Lord Chamberlain’s Men  
- the company later changed its name to the King’s Men (King James was their patron)  
- a full acting company had 15 members
9. R&J probably written between 1594-1596
10. 1612 he returned to Stratford to retire as a wealthy gentleman
11. He wrote 37 plays – some of which include:

Julius Caesar	Othello	King Lear	Macbeth
Hamlet	Twelfth Night	Taming of the Shrew	Richard III
The Tempest	Merchant of Venice	Midsummer Night’s Dream	Much
- Ado About Nothing
12. He also wrote approx. 155 sonnets
13. He died April 23, 1616 – at 52 years old (\*Note - similarity of birth and death dates)  
- he is buried under the stone floor of Holy Trinity Church in Stratford  
- he cursed anyone who would dare to move his body

### Globe Theater Notes

1. The Wooden “O”
  - James Burbage (actor/manager) built 1<sup>st</sup> permanent theater
  - 1576 - built it outside of city walls of London – called it “The Theater”
  - 1599 – “The Theater” was torn down and lumber from it was used to build the “Globe Theater”
  - most of Shakespeare’s play were written here
  - Globe – was called a “wooden O” because:
    1. it was round (polygonal) in shape
    2. it was 3 stories high
    3. had a large stage that projected into open air yard
    4. the back wall of stage curtained off the inner stage
    5. on either side of stage were 2 doors for entrances and exits
    6. above inner stage was a balcony (used a Juliet’s balcony, castle walls, bridge of ship)
    7. trapdoors located on floor of main stage for exit of ghosts or descents into hell
  - performances occurred in afternoon –
    - no illumination
    - very few seats
    - the language used on stage set the scene
    - the costumes were elaborate
    - groundling- stood on ground (paid 1 penny for admittance)
    - all women’s parts were played by young males
    - today’s theater uses a proscenium – no outer stage (only inner stage w/ large curtain to separate it from audience)
  - the theater is a medium of **words** as opposed to the movies which is a medium of **action**
2. Most of Shakespeare’s plays are based on stories known to the audience
  - he never wrote about contemporary subjects
  - Arthur Brooke wrote a long narrative poem in 1562 about R&J based on an older Italian story

- “star-crossed lovers” term which means doomed to disaster by fate
- most people of that time believed in astrology (placement of moon & stars when a person is born can determine his fate)
- Prologue – tells us (audience) that R&J are **not** victims of fate, but make decisions that lead to disaster

### FAMILY TREE of characters

#### MONTAGUES

Lord (Mr.)  
 Lady (Mrs.)  
 Romeo (son – young man)  
     Benvolio (nephew to Lord Montague)  
             (cousin & friend to Romeo)

Servants: Balthasar (serves Romeo)  
             Abraham (serves Lord Montague)

#### CAPULETS

Lord (Mr.)  
 Lady (Mrs.)  
     Juliet (daughter – 13 yr old)  
     Tybalt (nephew to Lady Capulet)  
             (cousin & “big bro” to Juliet)

Servants: Nurse (serves Juliet)  
             Peter (servant to Nurse)  
             Sampson & Gregory (serve Capulets)

Prince Escalus – ruler of city (Verona)  
 Mercutio – best friend of Romeo & related to prince

Friar Laurence – priest (married R&J w/o permission or knowledge of either family)  
 Friar John – another priest (minor character – but unwittingly plays a crucial role)

Count Paris – young gentleman, related to Prince, wants to marry Juliet

Apothecary – druggist

Setting – Verona (mostly) and Mantua (city northern Italy)

#### Name Origins

**BEN** volio “bene” = **good**

**CAP** ul **ET** cap = head et = little • **dumb**

**MONT AGUE** mont = **rising** ague = **sickness**

• **Barf/Vomit**

**Tybalt** – prince of cats (old story)

**ROME** O = }2 great cities  
**PARIS** = }

#### **STEREOTYPIC OPPOSITES**

##### **Juliet = MALE QUALITIES**

- Strong emotionally, makes decisions
- “Ay me” – references to male
- suicide method – stabs herself [violent] (male)

##### **Romeo – FEMALE QUALITIES**

- weak emotionally, overly-dramatic
- can’t make a decision, engages in rash actions
- “O” – reference to female
- suicide method – poison [not violent] (female)

## ***Romeo and Juliet* Vocabulary Word List**

1. 'a = he
2. a' = on
3. an' – and = if
4. Anon = Soon! Right Away! Coming!
5. but = if, or only
6. Good-den ; goden; Godden = Good Evening (late afternoon)
7. hap; happy = lucky or luck
8. humor = mood or moisture
9. Jack = common fellow, ordinary guy
10. maid = unmarried girl
11. mark = listen
12. Marry! = mild oath, shortened from “By the Virgin Mary”
13. nice = trivial, foolish
14. owes = owns
15. shrift (shriven) = confession
16. Soft! = Quiet! Hush! Wait Up!
17. Stay! = Wait!
18. withal – with that; with
19. wot = know

## **Poetry Terms to Know**

1. blank verse – unrhymed iambic pentameter
2. iambic meter – each unstressed syllable is followed by a stressed syllable
3. iambic pentameter – 5 iambic units in each line of poetry
4. couplets – 2 consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme
  - often punctuates a character’s exit or signal end of scene
5. end-stopped rhyme – has punctuation at the end of the line
6. run-on-line – no punctuation at end of the line
7. aside – words that are spoken by a character to the audience (or to another character) but are **NOT** supposed to be overheard by the others onstage
8. foil – character who is used as a contrast to another character
9. soliloquy – an unusually long speech in which character on stage alone expressed his inner most thoughts
10. rhyme scheme – letters of the alphabet are assigned to words at end of line of poetry that rhyme
11. sonnet – 14 line lyric poem that is usually written in iambic pentameter and that has one of several rhyme schemes.
  - **Petrarchan sonnet** – Italian – 2 stanzas
    - 8 line stanza (octet) poses a question/problem about love
    - 6 line stanza (sestet) is a response to the 1<sup>st</sup> stanza
    - rhyme scheme = abba abba; cde cde
  - **Shakespearean sonnet** (British) - has 3 four line stanzas (quatrains) & 2 two line stanzas (couplet)
    - rhyme scheme = abab cdcd efef gg
12. pun – a play on multiple meanings of a word or two words that sound alike but have different meanings

## Romeo and Juliet Word List

1. 'a = he
2. a' = on
3. against = for; in preparation for
4. alack = alas (an exclamation of sorrow)
5. an' – and = if
6. Anon = Soon! Right away! Coming!
7. Aye = yes
8. but = if, or only; except
9. e'en = even
10. e'er = ever
11. Good-den - goden - God-den = Good Evening (late afternoon)
12. Hap; happy = luck or lucky; fortunate
13. Haply = perhaps
14. Hence = away; from here
15. Hie = hurry
16. Hither = here
17. humor = mood or moisture
18. Jack = common fellow, ordinary guy
19. maid = unmarried girl
20. mark = listen
21. Marry! = indeed, a mild oath (shortened from “By the Virgin Mary”)
22. nice = trivial, foolish
23. owes = owns
24. shrift = confession (shriven)
25. Soft ! = Quiet! Hush! Slow up!
26. Stay! = Wait !
27. withal = with that; with
28. whence = where
29. wherefore = why
30. wilt = will
31. withal = in addition; notwithstanding
32. wot = know
33. would = wish

## Romeo and Juliet – Poetic and Drama Terms

1. **comic relief** = release tension in drama; give an emotional break
2. **aside** = words that are spoken by a character in a play to the audience or to another character but are NOT supposed to be heard by others on stage
3. **bawdy** = low humor; humor that has 2 meanings (sexual reference)
4. **innuendo** = 2 meanings (sexual reference)
5. **simile** = the simplest form of figurative language – a clearly stated comparison between two different things, using words such as *like* or *as* or *than* in stating its comparison
6. **metaphor** = omits such words as *like* or *as* and *than* and directly equate two different things.
7. **personification** = a special kind of metaphor; in which something that is not a person is spoken as if it were human
8. **pun** = a play on multiple meanings of a word ;or two words that sound alike but have different meanings (often add a humorous effect)
9. **pine/pining** = sadness for a lost love
10. **oxymoron** = a contradiction
11. **foil** = character who is used as a contrast to another character  
examples: Romeo is naïve, whereas Mercutio (his best friend) is cynical  
(purpose is to set off or intensify the qualities of another character)
12. **tragedy** = play, novel, or other narrative that depicts serious and important events in which the main character comes to an unhappy end.
  - Main character is usually dignified and courageous
  - Character flaw will usually cause his downfall
13. **end-stopped line** = has punctuation at the end of the line
14. **run-on line** = has no punctuation at the end of the line
15. **couplet** = 2 consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme – indicates end of scene in Shakespeare
16. **iamb** – unit of measure where there is an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable
17. **iambic pentameter** = a line of poetry that contains 5 iambs
  - used by characters to indicate feelings weren't honest/real (not from the heart)
  - example: “**u**” indicates unstressed syllables ‘ indicates stressed syllables
  - u’ u’ u’ u’ u’
18. **blank verse** = poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter
  - used by characters to indicate true emotions
19. **Shakespearean Sonnet**
  - 14 line poem in iambic pentameter
  - 3 stanzas of 4 lines each (quatrain)
  - 1 stanza of 2 lines (couplet)
  - rhyme scheme is: *abab cdcd efef gg*
20. **rhyme scheme** = pattern of rhymes in a poem indicated by using different letters of the alphabet for each new rhyme
21. **Petrarchan Sonnet** (Italian)
  - 2 stanzas
    - octave stanza = 1<sup>st</sup> one is 8 lines long and states the theme or asks a question
    - sestet = 2<sup>nd</sup> is 6 lines long and comments or answers the question
  - rhyme scheme is *abababab* and *cdecde*

**Romeo** – you are to ask Juliet (a female member of the class) to be your “Juliet” in a creative, Romeo-like way.

- Romeo - it is your responsibility to let Ms. Jax know how Juliet responded to your proposal (show me what she gave your or told you). ASAP

**Juliet** – you will respond in a positive fashion and in kind (a creative manner). If you have already been asked, please respond to your proposal with something like “ I am sorry, but I am spoken for.”

- If you need more time to respond in a creative fashion, let Romeo know you will give him your “answer, anon.”
- Juliet is your responsibility to let Ms. Jax know how Romeo proposed to you (show me what he gave you or how he asked you). ASAP

Romeo’s Lines page 69 (Folger’s edition)

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?  
It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!  
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,  
Who is already sick and pale with grief 5  
That thou her maid art far more fair than she.  
Be not her maid, since she is envious.  
Her vestal livery is but sick and green,  
And none but fools do wear it. Cast it off.  
It is my lady! O, it is my love! 10  
O, that she knew she were!  
She speaks, yet she says nothing. What of that?  
Her eye discourses; I will answer it.  
I am too bold; ‘tis not to me she speaks.  
Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven, 15  
Having some business, do entreat her eyes  
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.  
What if her eyes were there, they in her head?  
The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars 20  
As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven  
Would through the airy region stream so bright  
That birds would sing and think it were not night.  
See how she leans her cheek upon her hand!  
O, that I were a glove upon that hand, 25  
That I might touch that cheek!

Juliet Ay me!

Romeo She speaks  
O, speak again, bright angel, for thou art  
As glorious to this night, being o’er my head, 30  
As is a wing’ed messenger of heaven  
Unto the white-upturn’ed wond’ring eyes  
Of mortals that fall back to gaze on him  
When he bestrides the lazy puffing clouds  
And sails upon the bosom of the air.

Juliet speaks 4 lines: cue to say:

And I'll no longer be a Capulet. (Juliet's lines 36-39)

Romeo (aside);

Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this? 40

Juliet speaks 10 lines: cue to say:

"Take all myself" (Juliet's lines 41 – 52)

Romeo:

I take thee at thy word. 53

Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized.

Henceforth I never will be Romeo. 55

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Juliet’s lines – start on Page 71 (Folger’s edition)

Romeo speaks 24 lines: cue to say:

“That I might touch that cheek!” (Romeo’s lines 2-26)

Juliet: Ay me! 27

Romeo speaks 7 lines: cue to say”

“And sails upon the bosom of the air.”(Romeo’s lines 27 – 35)

Juliet:

O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo? 36

Deny thy father and refuse thy name;

Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,

And I’ll o longer be a Capulet.

Romeo (interrupts with an aside)

“Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?” 40

Juliet:

“Tis but thy name that she is my enemy. 41

Thou art thyself, through not a Montague.

What’s Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,

Nor arm, Nor face, Nor any other part belonging to a man 45

O, be some other name.

What’s in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other word would smell as sweet,

So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,

Retain that dear perfection which he owes

Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name; 50

And for thy name, which is no part of thee,

Take all myself. 52

Romeo speaks 3 lines: cue to say:

“Henceforth I never will be Romeo.” (Romeo’s lines 53-55)

Ms. Jax will summarize what is said

Skip to page 75 - 77

Juliet:

Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek For that which thou hast heard me speak tonight. Fain would I dwell on form; fain, fain deny What I have spoke; but farewell compliment. Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say "Ay" And I will take thy word. Yet if thou swear'st Thou mayst prove false. At lovers' perjuries, They say Jove laughs. O gentle Romeo, If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully. Or if thou think'st I am too quickly won, I'll frown and be perverse and say thee nay, So thou wilt woo; but else, not for the world. In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond, And therefore thou mayst think my havior light; But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true Than those that have more coying to be strange. I should have been more strange, I must confess, But that thou overheard'st, ere I was ware, My truelove passion. Therefore pardon me, And not impute this yielding to light love, Which in the dark night hath so discover'ed.	91    95   100   105   110 111
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