

PLOT		CHARACTERS		KEY QUOTES		RO M E O A N D J U L I E T- W I L L I A M S H A K E S P E A R
Act 1	In Italy two noble families, the Montagues and Capulets, have much bad blood between them. Romeo, son of old Montague, is in love with Rosaline, who disdains his love. As a result, Romeo is depressed. To cure him of his love, his friend Benvolio induces him to attend a masked ball at the Capulets, where he could encounter other beauties and forget Rosaline. At the ball, Romeo is attracted by a girl who he learns is Juliet, daughter of the Capulets. They seal their love with a kiss.	<b>Romeo Montague</b>	Intense, intelligent, quick witted, and loved by his friends.	Prologue	“Two households, both alike in dignity, In fair Verona, where we lay our scene, From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean. From forth the fatal loins of these two foes, A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life”	
Act 2	Romeo lingers in Capulet’s garden, standing in the orchard beneath Juliet’s balcony. He sees Juliet leaning over the railing, hears her calling out his name, and wishes that he were not a Montague. He reveals his presence, and they resolve, after an ardent love scene, to be married secretly.	<b>Juliet Capulet</b>	Naïve and sheltered at the beginning, develops into a woman with strength. Grounded.	Romeo and Mercutio	A1 “Romeo: I dream'd a dream to-night. Mercutio: And so did I. Romeo: Well, what was yours? Mercutio: That dreamers often lie.”	
		<b>Mercutio</b>	Romeo’s close friend. Wild, playful and sarcastic			
Act 3	Tybalt encounters Romeo returning from Friar Lawrence’s cell. Romeo, softened by his newfound love and his marriage to Juliet, refuses to be drawn into a quarrel with Tybalt, now his kinsman by marriage. Mercutio grapples with Tybalt and is killed. Aroused to fury by the death of his friend, Romeo fights with Tybalt and kills him and takes shelter in the Friar’s cell.	<b>Tybalt</b>	Juliet’s cousin. A hothead consumed by issues of family honour. Hates the Montagues.	Juliet	A1 “My only love sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known too late!”	
		<b>Benvolio</b>	Romeo’s cousin, less quick witted than Romeo and Mercutio, tries to keep the peace.	Romeo	A2 “But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!”	
		<b>Friar Laurence</b>	A Franciscan monk and a friend to both Romeo and Juliet.	Juliet	A2 “O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name; or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love, And I'll no longer be a Capulet.”	
Act 4	In despair, Juliet seeks Friar Lawrence’s advice. He gives her a sleeping potion, which for a time will cause her to appear dead. Thus, on the day of her supposed marriage to Paris, she will be carried to the family vault. By the time she awakens, Romeo will be summoned to the vault and take her away to Mantua.	<b>Nurse</b>	Juliet's best friend and confidante, and in many ways is more her mother than Lady Capulet is.	Tybalt	A3 “Romeo, the hate I bear thee can afford No better term than this: thou art a villain.”	
Act 5	The Friar’s letter fails to reach Romeo. When he hears of Juliet’s death Romeo procures a deadly poison from an apothecary and secretly returns to Verona to say his last farewell to his deceased wife and die by her side. At Juliet’s side, Romeo drinks the poison and dies. When Juliet awakens from her deep sleep, she realises Romeo’s error and kills herself with his dagger.The Capulets and Montague decide to reconcile as a result of the deaths of their children.	<b>Prince Escalus</b>	Leader of Verona, concerned with keeping order between the warring families.			
		<b>THEMES AND CONTEXT</b>		Romeo and Mercutio	A3 “Romeo: Courage, man; the hurt cannot be much. Mercutio: No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church-door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve: ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man.”	
<b>SYMBOLS</b>		<b>Love-</b> The love Romeo and Juliet share <i>is</i> beautiful and passionate. It is pure, exhilarating, and transformative, and they are willing to give everything to it. But it is also chaotic and destructive, bringing death to friends, family, and to themselves.		Juliet	A4 “Or bid me go into a new-made grave, And hide me with a dead man in his shroud”	
<b>Light/dark and day/night</b>	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> is filled with imagery of light and dark. But while light is traditionally connected with "good" and dark with "evil," in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> the relationship is more complex. Romeo and Juliet constantly see each other as forms of light. In the balcony scene, Romeo describes Juliet as the sun, while Juliet describes Romeo as stars. But the relationship between light and dark is complicated by the lover's need for the privacy of darkness in order to be together.	<b>Fate-</b> No matter what the lovers do, what plans they make, or how much they love each other, their struggles against fate only help fulfill it. But defeating or escaping fate is not the point. No one escapes fate. It is Romeo and Juliet's determination to struggle against fate in order to be together, whether in life or death, that shows the fiery passion of their love, and which makes that love eternal.		Juliet	A5 “Yea, noise, then I'll be brief; O, happy dagger! This is thy sheath; there rest, and let me die. “	
		<b>Individuals v society-</b> Because of their forbidden love, Romeo and Juliet are forced into conflict with the social world around them: family, friends, political authority, and even religion.		Romeo	A5 “O true apothecary! Thy drugs are quick. — Thus with a kiss I die.”	
		<b>Language and word play-</b> Romeo and Juliet constantly play with language. They pun, rhyme, and speak in double entendres. All these word games may seem like mere fun, and they are fun. The characters that pun and play with language have fun doing it. But word play in <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> has a deeper purpose: rebellion. Romeo and Juliet play with language to escape the world.				