

SUITABLE
FOR
TEACHING
AGES 10-17



CLASSICAL COMICS TEACHING RESOURCE PACK

Classical
COMICS

Making Shakespeare accessible for teachers and students

Written by: Ian McNeilly



Romeo & Juliet

TEACHING RESOURCE SAMPLE PAGES
(WEBSITE DOWNLOAD)

CLASSICAL COMICS TEACHING RESOURCE PACK

Romeo & Juliet Sample Pages

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ROMEO

Unlike Juliet, Romeo's age is not given; but one would imagine him to be a young, idealistic, romantic man aged between 16 and 19 – still a teenager, in other words. He begins the play "in love" with Rosaline but immediately forgets her when he sees someone more attractive, thus indicating his immaturity.

He is incredibly passionate, as can be seen in his whirlwind courtship of Juliet. He is not a naturally violent or argumentative person, judging from his reaction to the riot which opens the play and his initial refusal to fight Tybalt.

However, he is also very loyal; and when his best friend, Mercutio, is killed (partly due to him stepping in between them), his tender thoughts for Juliet are discarded and his only thought is revenge, which he takes swiftly.

He is devastated at the news that he is to be exiled from Verona, reflecting the raw emotion of the young lover. This is writ large when he discovers Juliet is "dead". One can argue Romeo is immature and naive, but one can never argue that he isn't passionate or serious about Juliet – as his suicide shows.

Important quotes by Romeo

"Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night."
(Act 1 Scene 5)

"But, soft! what light through yonder window
breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!"
(Act 2 Scene 2)

"O, I am fortune's fool!"
(Act 3 Scene 1)

"There is no world without Verona walls;"
(Act 3 Scene 3)

"Is it e'en so? then I defy you, stars!"
(Act 5 Scene 1)

"Here's to my love! O true apothecary!
Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die."
(Act 5 Scene 3)



TASK:

In the play, Romeo spends a day on his own in Mantua. Imagine he decides to compose a letter to Juliet, in which he includes an explanation of what happened in the fight, his feelings for her, and his future hopes and plans for them both. Write the letter.

CHARACTERS AND ADJECTIVES

If you are going to describe someone in detail, you need to use lots of adjectives.

TASK:

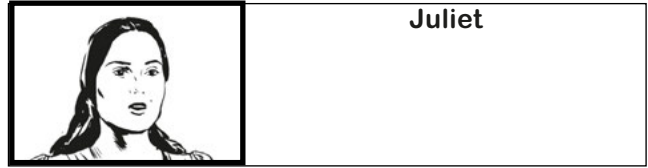
Below is a box that contains a wide variety of adjectives.

Which adjectives would you use to describe each character? You can use each adjective more than once, and you don't have to use them all.

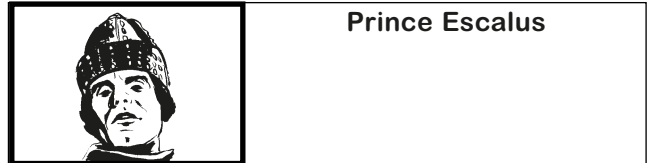
headstrong	nasty
good-humoured	loving
demanding	intimidating
charming	honourable
forgiving	cold
witty	threatening
kind	loyal
clever	foolish
helpful	naive
understanding	optimistic
weak	practical
temperamental	romantic
talkative	spirited
vicious	respectful
resilient	scary
strong	lively



Romeo



Juliet



Prince Escalus



Nurse



Lord Capulet



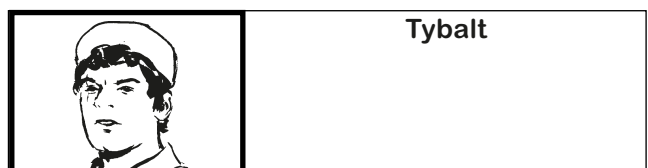
Lady Capulet



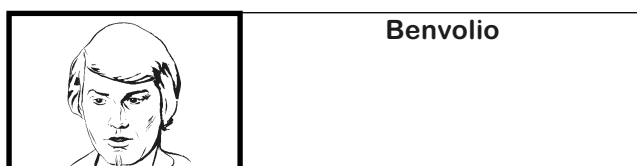
Mercutio



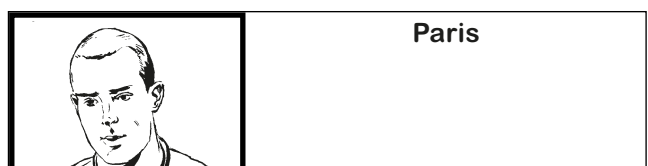
Friar Laurence



Tybalt



Benvolio



Paris

EXTENSION TASK:

Choose any character and support your choice of adjectives with excerpts from the play. It doesn't necessarily have to be something the character says.

SIMILES

A “simile” is an expression in which you compare one thing to another, using “as” or “like”, e.g. “as quiet as a mouse” or “like a knife through butter”.

A simile is an example of figurative language. Figurative language can be called “imagery”; and the easiest way to think of this is something that puts a picture in your mind.

Adjectives are all well and good, but often a simile can be even more effective in getting a description across to a reader – especially if it is an unusual one that makes people think.

Shakespeare was very fond of them – did you notice any of these as you read the play?

On the left you will see a list of similes that appear in *Romeo and Juliet*. Can you come up with similes of your own?



Shakespeare’s similes	Your similes
a bump as big as a young cockerel’s stone	a bump as big as...
scaring the ladies like a crow-keeper	scaring the ladies like...
it pricks like thorn	it pricks like...
she hangs upon the cheek of night as a rich jewel in an Ethiop’s ear	she hangs upon the cheek of night as...
the brightness of her cheek would shame those stars, as daylight doth a lamp	the brightness of her cheek would shame those stars, as...
love goes toward love, as schoolboys from their books	love goes toward love, as...
she looks as pale as any clout (dishrag) in the versal world (universe)	she looks as pale as...
as swift in motion as a ball	as swift in motion as...
unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as lead	unwieldy, slow, heavy and pale as...
as gentle as a lamb	as gentle as...
in their triumph die: like fire and powder	in their triumph they die like...
thy head is as full of quarrels as an egg is full of meat	thy head is as full of quarrels as...
to’t they go like lightning	to’t they go like...
so tedious is this day, as is the night before some festival to an impatient child that hath new robes, and may not wear them	so tedious is this day as is...
pale as ashes	pale as...
like a misbehav’d and sullen wench, that pout’st upon thy fortune	like a... that pouts upon thy fortune
shrieks like mandrakes’ torn out of the earth	shrieks like...
Death lies on her, like an untimely frost upon the sweetest flower of all the field	Death lies on her like...

MISSING WORDS

To complete the sentence below, underline the correct word in the box, then write it in the gap.

Be careful – there are a few traps!

1. Juliet is _____ years old in the play.
2. The town Romeo goes to when he is exiled is _____.
3. Mercutio is the Prince's _____.
4. _____ has a reputation of being a peace maker.
5. "That which we call a _____,
By any other word would smell as sweet;"
6. Romeo and Juliet met on a _____ and were married on the _____.
7. "O, I am fortune's _____".
8. _____ dies of grief at the end of the play.
9. The person who informs Romeo of Juliet's death is _____.
10. "For never was a story of more _____,
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."

fool	Paris	cousin
Tuesday	flower	
fifteen	woe	Monday
plaything	sadness	
Wednesday	Verona	
rose	Lady Montague	
Friar Laurence	kinsman	
fourteen	puppet	
Benvolio	Lady Capulet	
Balthasar		
Prince Escalus	Mantua	
tragedy	thirteen	
Sunday		



MAGAZINE INTERVIEW WITH A CHARACTER OF YOUR CHOICE

Lots of magazines have interviews with famous people – it is often interesting to read about the lives of those in the public eye. There are several different types of interview, but the easiest to both read and write are “Questions and Answers” (Q and A).

As you might guess this type of interview simply states the question and then gives the interviewee’s answer.

TASK:

Write a Q and A interview with one of the following – Lord Capulet, Lord Montague or Prince Escalus. Imagine that it is a couple of years after the end of *Romeo and Juliet*.

If you wish, you can use the example below (which chooses Lord Capulet) as a beginning, or start your own from scratch. Don’t forget to ask them about past events and their attitude and behaviour when Romeo and Juliet were still alive.

Verona Today LATE MORNING EDITION

Interview with Lord Capulet

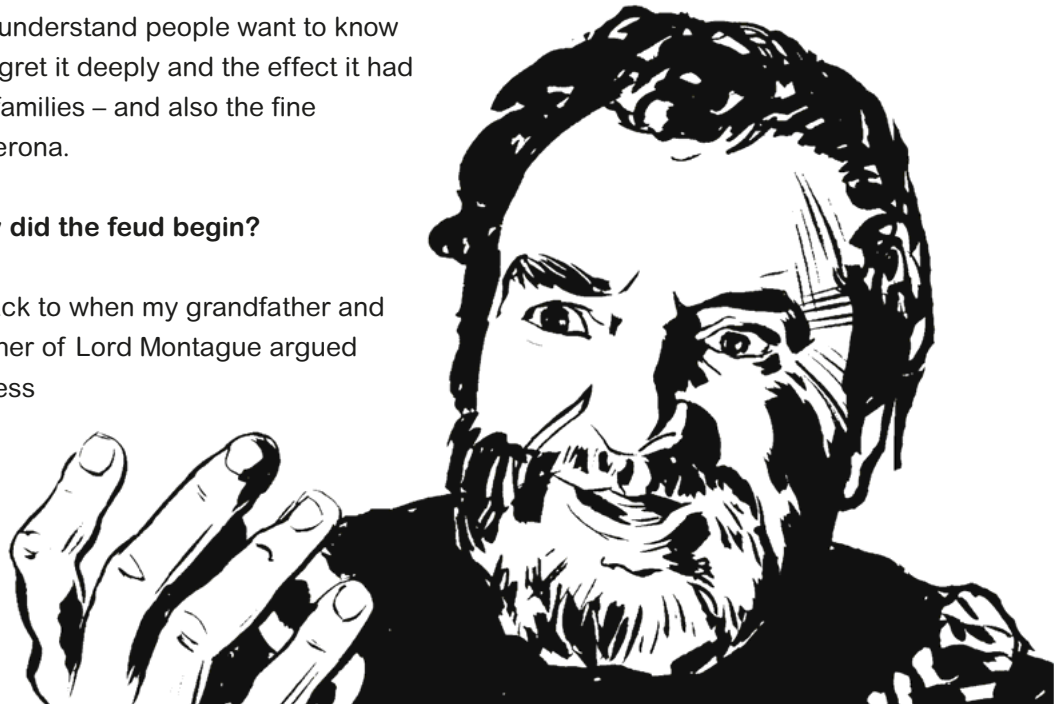
In this issue of *Verona Today* we interview prominent citizen and head of one of the city’s most famous families, Lord Capulet.

Q: Lord Capulet, I know you might find it difficult to talk about this, but I want to ask you about the days of your feud with the Montague family.

A: That’s fine, I understand people want to know about it. I regret it deeply and the effect it had on both our families – and also the fine citizens of Verona.

Q: How exactly did the feud begin?

A: It all goes back to when my grandfather and the grandfather of Lord Montague argued over a business deal...



ROMEO AND JULIET WORD SEARCH

The following words are hidden in the grid below. Can you find them?

ROMEO
POISON
MERCUTIO
FRIAR
BALCONY

JULIET
BENVOLIO
TYBALT
LAURENCE
PARIS

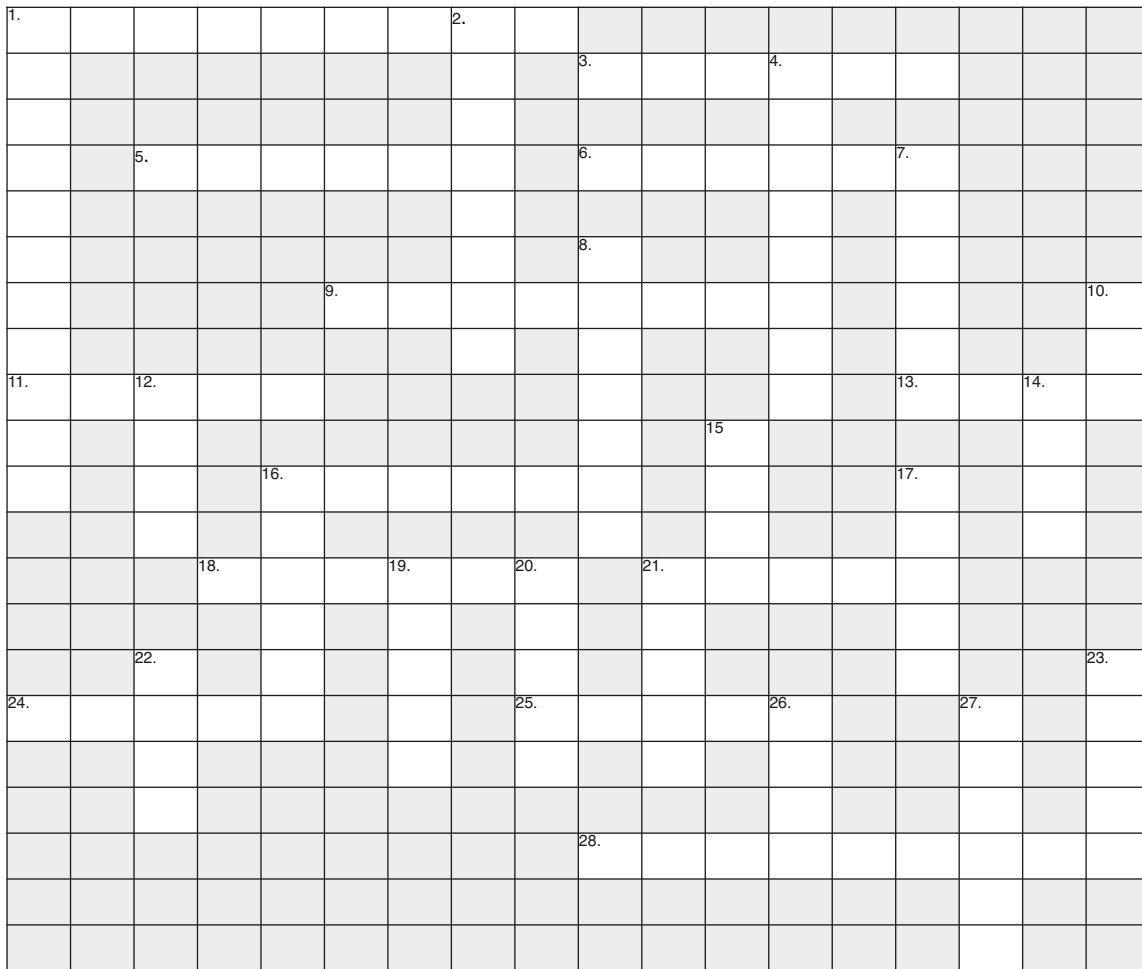
VERONA
CAPULET
NURSE
DAGGER
EXILE

PRINCE
MONTAGUE
POTION
ROSE
MANTUA

B A L C O N Y A D A G G E R P
A J U L W M U N B R P S X R A
L U V S O T C I V E F R I A R
A L P T N U S P Y W E I L O U
M I E A U R O I T U C R E M T
N E M R I A C I B D L K N E O
I T L A B Y T I L P A R I S Y
M O O N S R O M E O N U R S E
O M K O S U M C X T V T E R C
N W L R M B N C L I O N E L N
T A D E U I A S C O H G E H E
A Z E V R G M B E N A C I B R
G Q S P O I S O N S S R P B U
U B O T C A P U L E T R O S A
E C R X E M N L A S C B T I L

ROMEO AND JULIET CROSSWORD

Try and complete this without using a copy of the play or any book to help you!



Romeo and Juliet crossword – The Clues

Across

- 1 The town where the playwright (“The Bard”) was born (9)
- 3 The town Romeo goes to after his banishment (6)
- 5 “There is no world without _____ walls” (6)
- 6 The only girl that speaks in the play (6)
- 9 Romeo’s surname (8)
- 11 Lord Capulet is this, when Juliet tells him that she won't marry Paris (5)
- 13 Juliet is laid in the Capulet _____ (4)
- 16 This man says how “all are punish’d”(6)
- 18 What Juliet uses to finally kill herself (6)
- 21 The name of Nurse’s servant (5)
- 24 The famous theatre, associated with “The Bard” (5)

- 25 Prince: “And for that offence/Immediately we do _____ him hence” (5)
- 28 This man breaks the news of Juliet's death to Romeo (9)

Down

- 1 The surname of the playwright, often called “The Bard” (11)
- 2 The name of Romeo’s ex-girlfriend (8)
- 4 Juliet’s age (8)
- 7 The Prince of Cats (6)
- 8 Juliet’s surname (7)
- 10 The fairies’ midwife is Queen _____ (3)
- 12 The material from which statues will be made at the end of the story (4)
- 14 Romeo offers to swear his love by this, but Juliet says it is inconstant (4)

- 15 On his wedding night, Romeo uses a ladder made of this to climb up to Juliet's bedroom (4)
- 16 Mercutio curses both families with his last words: “A _____ o’ both your houses!” (6)
- 17 The name of the person who raised Juliet (5)
- 19 Juliet thinks she sees the _____ of Tybalt on her balcony before she takes the potion (5)
- 20 The Montagues’ only child (5)
- 21 The man who asks Lord Capulet for his daughter’s hand in marriage (5)
- 22 “A _____ by any other word would smell as sweet” (4)
- 23 Laurence and John are both one of these (5)
- 26 “It is the _____ and Juliet is the sun” (4)
- 27 The apothecary sells this to Romeo (6)

MISSING WORDS

TEACHERS' VERSION

ANSWER: (PAGES 55)

The answers are below in **bold**.

1. Juliet is **thirteen** years old in the play.
2. The town Romeo goes to when he is exiled is **Mantua**.
3. Mercutio is the Prince's **kinsman**.
4. **Benvolio** has a reputation of being a peace maker.
5. "That which we call a **rose**,
By any other word would smell as sweet;"
6. Romeo and Juliet met on a **Sunday** and were married on the **Monday**.
7. "O, I am fortune's **fool**".
8. **Lady Montague** dies of grief at the end of the play.
9. The person who informs Romeo of Juliet's death is **Balthasar**.
10. "For never was a story of more **woe**,
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."



ROMEO AND JULIET WORD SEARCH

TEACHERS' VERSION

SOLUTION: (PAGE 77)



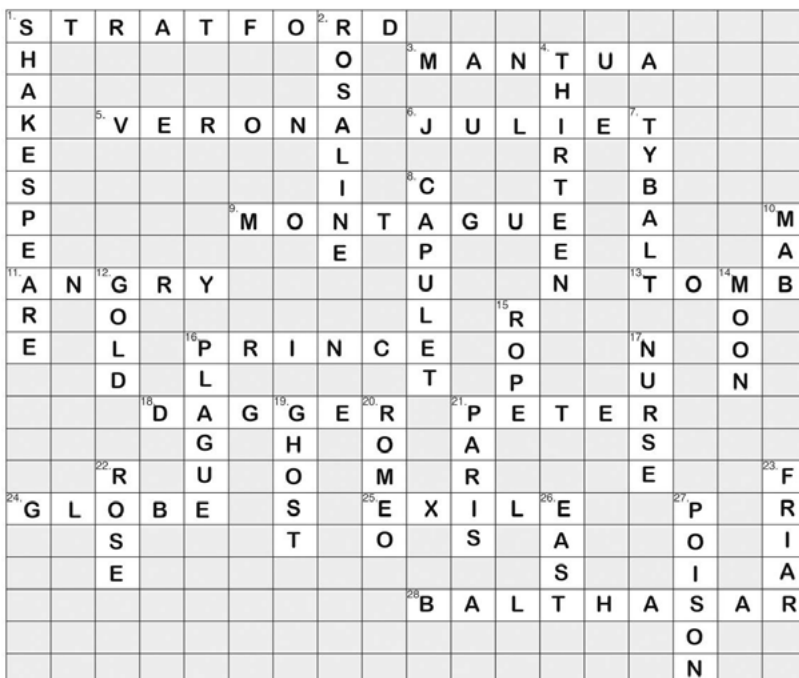
ROMEO
VERONA
POISON
CAPULET
MERCUTIO
NURSE
FRIAR
DAGGER
BALCONY
EXILE

JULIET
PRINCE
BENVOLIO
MONTAGUE
TYBALT
POTION
LAURENCE
ROSE
PARIS
MANTUA

ROMEO AND JULIET CROSSWORD

TEACHERS' VERSION

SOLUTION: (PAGE 78)



Across

- 1 STRATFORD
- 3 MANTUA
- 5 VERONA
- 6 JULIET
- 9 MONTAGUE
- 11 ANGRY
- 13 TOMB
- 16 PRINCE
- 18 DAGGER
- 21 PETER
- 24 GLOBE
- 25 EXILE
- 28 BALTHASAR

Down

- 1 SHAKESPEARE
- 2 ROSALINE
- 4 THIRTEEN
- 7 TYBALT
- 8 CAPULET
- 10 MAB
- 12 GOLD
- 14 MOON
- 15 ROPE
- 16 PLAGUE
- 17 NURSE
- 19 GHOST
- 20 ROMEO
- 21 PARIS
- 22 ROSE
- 23 FRIAR
- 26 EAST
- 27 POISON