

Year 7 'Romeo & Juliet' Knowledge Organiser

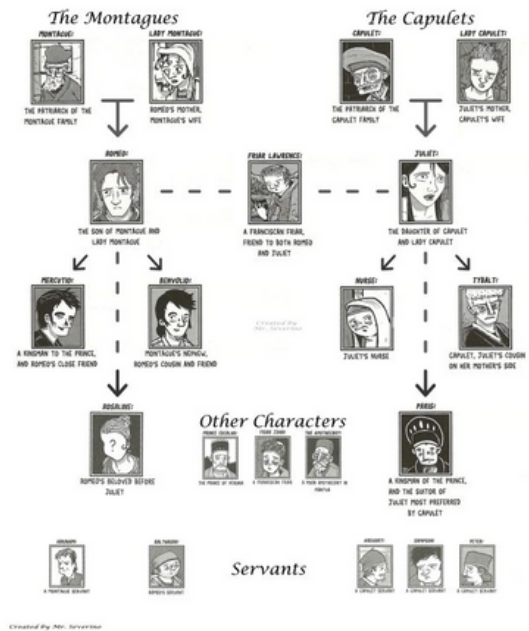
Summary

Shakespeare presents the theme of conflict through two warring families: the Montagues and the Capulets. The two families have been taught to hate each other, and this hatred impacts on the family members and the citizens of Verona

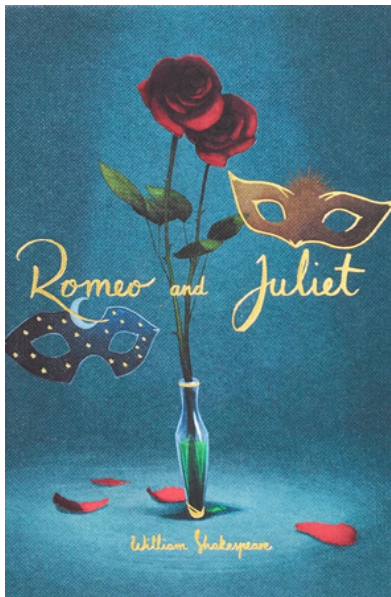
Key terminology

- Oxymoron** – opposites & contradiction recur throughout the play
- Pathetic fallacy** - unnatural events are usually echoed by unnatural weather
- Monologue** - a long speech by a single character
- Dramatic irony** - when the audience knows more than a character or characters do
- Foreshadowing** - is to predict or give a hint of what is to come
- Personification** - To give an object human characteristics
- Symbolism** - Is an idea, feeling, emotion or other concept is used to represent something else
- Metaphor** - Describes something by saying that it 'is' something else

Romeo & Juliet Character Tree



"O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?"



Historical Context

It is generally believed that the play is based on a real Italian love story from the 3rd Century. The 'real families' are the Capeletti and the Montecchi families. Shakespeare wrote his version in 1594 which was based on Arthur Brooke's poem of 1562.

The play is a tragedy which means it reveals how extreme passion can lead to disaster: "violent delights have violent ends." – Friar Lawrence

Many aspects of Shakespeare's plays would have been very familiar to Elizabethan audiences: street fights and brawls; violence and death; masked balls and dances; potions and medicines in apothecaries' shops; strong male friendships. Patriarchal attitudes and authority; the roles and responsibilities of children and attitudes towards family; the Plague, religion and attitudes towards death are all significant throughout the play.