

'Romeo and Juliet' Knowledge Organiser

1. Verona	14 th century Medieval Italy was Christian and Catholic.	Act 1: forbidden	Brawl; ban on fighting; Romeo meets Juliet.
2. London	16 th century Elizabethan England was Christian and Protestant.	Act 2: secret	Balcony scene; Romeo and Juliet marry in secret.
3. Plague	In 1592, 10,000 Londoners died of the plague and theatres closed.	Act 3: banishment	Tybalt kills Mercutio, Romeo kills Tybalt, Prince banishes Romeo.
4. Hierarchy	Noble, wealthy families dominated politics and royal society.	Act 4: potion	Juliet threatens Friar with suicide; Juliet takes potion to fake her death.
5. Fights	Riots, brawls and bloodshed were common, and strictly punished.	Act 5: suicides	Romeo hears Juliet is dead and goes to her tomb; he poisons himself. Juliet stabs herself. Friar explains; families reconcile.
6. Marriage	Arranged by parents not for love but for family wealth and status.	D: Themes	
7. Patriarchy	Women had a duty to obey men, especially elders.	1. Love	Idealised, macho, young, family.
8. Gender	Women were not allowed to own property or act in theatres.	2. Conflict	Family feud, disobedience.
9. 1558-1603	Reign of Queen Elizabeth I	3. Death	Mercutio, Tybalt, Romeo and Juliet die.
10. 1562	Arthur Brooke's source poem published.	4. Fate	Inevitability: tragic suicides are fated from the prologue onwards.
11. 1595	'Romeo and Juliet' first performed.		
Characters			
1. Romeo Montague	In love with Juliet, daughter of family's enemy, commits suicide in her tomb when thinking she is dead.		
2. Juliet Capulet	In love with Romeo, son of her family's enemy, fakes her death when Romeo is exiled, wakes tragically late.	E: Stagecraft and techniques	
3. Lord Montague	Enemy of Capulet, Romeo's father	1. Tragedy	A play ending in death and sadness.
4. Lady Montague	Romeo's Mother, commits suicide on his exile.	2. Foreshadowing	A pre-echo of what is to come.
5. Mercutio	Romeo's friend, thinks romantic love is delusion, fights Tybalt and is killed by him.	3. Soliloquy	One actor speaking alone on stage to an audience.
6. Benvolio	Romeo's friend, who tries but fails to prevent street fights.	4. Stage directions	Instructions for actors.
7. Friar Lawrence	Verona Friar who marries the lovers and whose plan fails.	5. Oxymorons	Using opposite terms to describe each other.
8. Lord Capulet	Juliet's father who arranges her marriage and disowns her for her disobedience.	6. Props	Objects for actors (e.g. swords, potion, poison, dagger).
9. Lady Capulet	Juliet's mother, who has no sympathy for her in the conflict.	7. Imagery	Visual description (religious, spiritual, celestial, death).
10. Tybalt Capulet	Capulet who fights and kills Mercutio and is killed by Romeo.	1. Curse	Invokes a supernatural power for harm ('a plague on both your houses!').
11. Prince	Embodies law and order; bans fights, banishes Romeo.		
12. Paris	Betrothed to Juliet, killed by Romeo.		