

Romeo and Juliet

Task 1: Use a dictionary (e.g. Diki.pl) and match the words 1-13 with their definitions A-M.

1. Feuding (adj.)	A. A fruit garden
2. A feud = a vendetta	B. To listen secretly to someone's private conversation
3. A friar	C. To become friendly again after a quarrel
4. A duel	D. Wearing something (e.g. a mask) to hide your true appearance
5. A dagger	E. A play with an unhappy ending (e.g. in a theatre)
6. To sneak	F. To injure someone with a knife
7. In disguise	G. A formal fight between 2 people in the past with the use of swords or guns
8. An orchard	H. Quarrelling, fighting and doing hostile activities
9. To reconcile	I. Brother (a priest)
10. A tragedy	J. A short sharp knife that was used as a weapon in the past
11. To stab	K. To get somewhere secretly
12. To eavesdrop	L. An argument existing for a long time between two families/clans/groups, that causes a lot of hostility or violence.
13. Star-crossed	M. Unlucky (about lovers)

Task 2: Read the summary of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Are the following statements true or false?

1. Romeo and Juliet is a tragic love story where two teenagers have a crush on each other and commit suicide.	True/False
2. Their love lasts for a couple of days.	True/False
3. Romeo was eavesdropping Juliet on her balcony.	True/False
4. They decided to get married after knowing each other for only one night.	True/False
5. Romeo must leave Verona because he betrayed his family and spent the night with Julia.	True/False
6. Romeo stabs himself with his dagger.	True/False
7. Julia stabs herself with her dagger.	True/False

Romeo and Juliet

'Romeo and Juliet' is a tragedy written by a famous English playwright William Shakespeare. The play, written in the 16th century, belongs to a tradition of tragic romances. The action is set in Verona, Italy, and spans a period of four to six daysⁱ.

The story is about a couple of young star-crossed lovers that come from two feuding families in that city: the Montagues and the Capulets. The families hate each other so much that they are constantly fighting in duels and on the streets of Verona.

Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet fall in love at a party in Julia's house, where Romeo sneaks into the ball in disguise. When they realise that they come from rival families, they face a moral dilemma: loyalty to family or loyalty to love. To make things worse, Juliet's parents have already arranged her marriage to Count Paris. Straight after the party Romeo sneaks into the Capulet orchard to see Juliet. She is standing on her balcony talking to herself about her love to Romeo, without realising he is listening (the famous balcony scene). He steps out of his hiding and says he loves her, too. The next day they marry in secret with the help of Friar Laurence, who hopes to reconcile the feuding families through their children's union. Unfortunately, before their wedding night Romeo kills Juliet's cousin in a fight and gets banished from Verona. But before he leaves the city, he spends the night with his newly-wed wife. In the early morning he goes to Mantua. He can't return to Verona or he will be put to death.

Juliet's parents decide she must marry Count Paris. Her parents do not know she is already married. She refuses in the beginning, but later agrees because she plans to fake her death and escape to be with Romeo forever. On the night before the wedding with Count Paris, she drinks a sleeping potion that will make her seem like she's dead. When she is laid in the family tomb, Friar Laurence is to write Romeo about the plan so that Romeo will take her away to Mantua after she wakes up. But the message about Juliet's fake death doesn't reach Romeo and he is sure she has really died. He decides to kill himself in line next to Juliet. He opens her tomb, kisses Julia, drinks his poison and dies lying next to her. When Juliet finally wakes up, she discovers that Romeo is dead and then kills herself with his dagger.

Horrified by their children's deaths, the Montagues and the Capulets are reconciled and agree to end their violent feud.

Task 3: In groups, describe the pictureⁱⁱ.



Task 4: You're going to watch a funny soundtrack to 'Romeo and Juliet' recorded by a popular comedian James Corden for his TV programme called 'Late Late Show'. Together with a British actress, Emily Blunt, they summarise the story of the two star-crossed lovers in a compilation of 14 popular songsⁱⁱⁱ. Guess and match the events from the play with the corresponding song lyrics (fragments). Then watch the soundtrack and check if you guessed right. Which fact about their death was changed in the soundtrack?

1. There's a masquerade ball.	A. Everybody was Kung-fu fighting, those kicks were fast as lightning. And in fact it was a little bit frightening. They fought with expert timing. ^{iv}
2. Romeo and Juliet have a crush on each other.	B. You know parents are the same, no matter time nor place. They don't understand that us kids are going to make some mistakes. So to you, all the kids all across the land, there's no need to argue, parents just don't understand ^v
3. The balcony scene.	C. I can't live if living is without you. ^{vi}
4. There's another street fight between the two families.	D. I wanna dance with somebody,(...), with somebody who loves me. ^{vii}
5. Juliet's parents will never accept her love to a Montague.	E. With the taste of your lips I'm on a ride, you're toxic, I'm slipping under, with a taste of a poison paradise, I'm addicted to you, don't you know that you're toxic? ^{viii}
6. Juliet doesn't want to obey her parents.	F. When I see your face, there's not a thing that I would change, 'cause girl you're amazing just the way you are. ^{ix}
7. Juliet drinks a sleeping potion.	G. Can I have your daughter for the rest of my life? Say yes, say yes, 'cause I need to know now. Why you gotta be so rude? Don't you know I'm human, too? Why you gotta be so rude? I'm gonna marry her anyway! ^x
8. Juliet wakes up in the tomb.	H. Love hurts, love scars, love wounds and marks, oh, love hurts. ^{xi}
9. Juliet commits suicide.	I. Hello! Is it me you're looking for? I can see it in your eyes, I can see it in your smile... ^{xii}
10. Romeo is in despair when he finds Juliet dead.	J. I get knocked down but I get up again, you're never gonna keep me down. ^{xiii}

Task 5: Discussion or writing topics (on the basis of Romeo and Juliet tragic story)

1. Do hiding things and being too emotional benefit you?

2. When Romeo and Juliet meet, they can think of nothing else. They refuse to obey their parents, ignore the long-lasting feud between the families. They will do anything to be with each other.

Are teens today any different?

Answer key:

Task 1:

1. Feuding (adj.)	H
2. A feud = a vendetta	L
3. A friar	I
4. A duel	G
5. A dagger	J
6. To sneak	K
7. In disguise	D
8. An orchard	A
9. To reconcile	C
10. A tragedy	E
11. To stab	F
12. To eavesdrop	B
13. Star-crossed	M

Task 2:

1. Romeo and Juliet is a tragic love story where two teenagers have a crush for/on each other and commit suicide.	True
2. Their love lasts for a couple of days.	True
3. Romeo eavesdrops Juliet on her balcony.	True
4. They decide to get married after knowing each other for only one night.	True
5. Romeo must leave Verona because he's betrayed his family and spent the night with Julia.	False (he killed Juliet's cousin)
6. Romeo stabs himself with his dagger.	False (drinks poison)
7. Julia stabs herself with her dagger.	False (with Romeo's dagger)

Task 4: Answer key:

1. There's a masquerade ball	D
2. Romeo and Juliet have a crush on each other	F
3. The balcony scene	I
4. There's another street fight between the two families.	A
5. Juliet's parents will never accept her love to a Montague	G
6. Juliet doesn't want to obey her parents.	B
7. Juliet drinks a sleeping potion.	E
8. Juliet wakes up in the tomb.	J
9. Juliet commits suicide.	
10. Romeo is in despair when he finds Juliet dead	H

Which fact about their death was changed in the soundtrack? (In the clip, Juliet drinks poison and Shakespeare's Juliet stabs herself with Romeo's dagger).

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- ⁱ Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romeo_and_Juliet#Themes_and_motifs (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ⁱⁱ Graphics fro Public Domain, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Romeo_and_Juliet_by_Frank_Dicksee_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Romeo_and_Juliet_by_Frank_Dicksee_(cropped).jpg) (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ⁱⁱⁱ Corden James and Blunt Emily, 'Soundtrack to Romeo and Juliet', <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1obijnKoIQ> (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{iv} Douglas Carl , 'Kung Fu Fighting', <https://genius.com/artists/Carl-douglas> (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^v **Parents Just Don't Understand** [DJ Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince](#) (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{vi} "**Without You**" is a song written by [Pete Ham](#) and [Tom Evans](#) (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{vii} Houston Whitney, 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)', <https://genius.com/artists/Whitney-houston> (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{viii} **Toxic** [Britney Spears](#) (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{ix} Mars Bruno, 'Just the Way You Are', <https://genius.com/artists/Bruno-mars> (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^x **Rude** [MAGIC!](#) <https://genius.com/artists/Magic> (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{xi} **Love Hurts** [Nazareth](#) (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{xii} Richie Lionel, 'Hello', <https://genius.com/artists/Lionel-richie> (access date: 16.07.2019)
- ^{xiii} **Tubthumping** [Chumbawamba](#) (access date: 16.07.2019)