

ROMEO & JULIET

By William Shakespeare



This lesson has been inspired by the Macmillan Readers adaption of William Shakespeare's original playscript. The language has been adapted and graded to make it suitable for readers at Intermediate level. It also features extracts of key speeches from the original text along with explanatory notes, plus glossaries and exercises designed to reinforce understanding.

The book is available in print and as an eBook.

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TEACHER'S NOTES

LESSON OVERVIEW

Level: Intermediate

Length: Approximately 40 minutes

Language focus: Language for suggesting and giving advice

- he/she should/could//has to
- If I were him/her, I'd....
- What I would do is....
- He/she could try..
- I think the best option is to....

Learning objectives: In this lesson the students are introduced to the story of *Romeo and Juliet* and some of the problems the main characters have to face in the play.

Students will have the opportunity to:

1. Learn more about Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.
2. Practise giving advice using a variety of expressions.
3. Consolidate new language and build their writing and speaking skills in a personalised writing and speaking task.

CONTENTS

- Reading Task 1
- Reading Task 2
- Writing Task
- Additional Activities

OVERVIEW OF THE PLAY

Key themes: Love, fate, violence

Key characters:

- House of Escalus: Prince Escalus (Prince of Verona), Mercutio (Romeo's friend)
- House of Capulet: Lord Capulet, Lady Capulet, Nurse, Juliet, Tybalt (Juliet's cousin),
- House of Montague: Lord Montague, Lady Montague, Benvolio (Romeo's cousin), Friar John, Balthasar (Romeo's servant)
- Friar Lawrence
- Paris



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SYNOPSIS

Romeo and Juliet is set in Verona, home to two families at war, the Montagues and the Capulets. Romeo Montague and his friends disguise themselves and go into a masked ball at Capulet's house. At the ball Romeo sees Juliet, Capulet's daughter for the first time. Romeo goes into the garden and confesses his love for Juliet, who stands above on her balcony. The two young lovers, with the help of Friar Lawrence, make plans to be married in secret. Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, later discovers that Romeo was at the ball, and he decides to teach Romeo a lesson. Romeo is challenged by Tybalt, but tries to avoid a fight between them as he is now married to Juliet.

Mercutio, Romeo's best friend, takes up Tybalt's challenge and is killed in the fight. In anger, Romeo kills Tybalt. Romeo is banished from Verona for his actions. The Capulets, meanwhile, want Juliet to marry Paris, a cousin to the Prince. Juliet thinks of a desperate plan to avoid her parent's wishes. She obtains a drug that will make her seem dead for forty-two hours; while she is in this state, Friar Lawrence will send word to Romeo of the situation so that he can rescue her from her tomb.

Unfortunately, the letter from Friar Lawrence arrives late Romeo instead hears news that Juliet has died. Romeo gets some poison and goes to Juliet to die at her side.

At the tomb, Romeo meets Paris, who mourns for Juliet. Romeo kills Paris, then enters the tomb and drinks his poison. Juliet wakes up only to find Romeo laying dead beside her. Heartbroken, Juliet takes the knife from Romeo's belt and kills herself.

The Montagues and Capulets finally realise what terrible things have happened and promise stop fighting each other.

1 READING TASK 1

Write 'Romeo and Juliet' on the board and elicit from your students what they already know about the play before handing out the worksheet.

Hand out the worksheet and direct students to Reading Task 1. Explain that the answers to the quiz are in the synopsis but encourage your students to work in pairs and predict answers to the questions before reading it.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Verona
2. Montague
3. At a party
4. Friar Lawrence
5. Juliet cousin
6. Mercutio
7. He kills Tybalt
8. She takes a drug so she will sleep for forty-two hours
9. Juliet is dead
10. Paris
11. Drinks his poison
12. She stabs a knife into her heart



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2 READING TASK 2

What's the problem?

Ask students to read the *Romeo and Juliet* 'problem pages' and then work in pairs or small groups to consider and discuss what advice they would give to each character.

3 WRITING TASK

Ask your students to write their own problems. The problems can be real or fictional. When they have finished ask them to share their problems and give advice to each other in small groups.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

1 SPEAK SHAKESPEARE!

The speech below is an extract of a key speech from the Graded Reader version of *Romeo and Juliet*. It shows the original version and the adapted version. Ask your students to read both versions and then discuss its meaning as a class.

For fun, ask students to recite it to each other in pairs, with as much emotion and meaning as they can to convey the feelings of the character.

As an extra challenge, you could ask them to re-write the speech into a text message or tweet, e.g. "Romeo – where are you!? Please tell me you're not a Montague! If not, I'll leave my family!"

ORIGINAL:

*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.*

Wherefore = why
art = are
though = you
deny = (in this case) to say you do not know someone
Thy = your
refuse = to say no to
Wilt = will
But = just
Sworn = promised

ADAPTATION:

"Oh Romeo, Romeo, why does your name have to be Romeo? Tell me that Montague is not your father, and that that is not your name. Or, if you won't do that, just promise to be my love, and I shall no longer be a Capulet."



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2 VOCABULARY-BUILDING

Romeo and Juliet is all about love and relationships. Here are just some of the idioms and expressions that Shakespeare invented that relate to love and relationships. Ask students to complete the quiz and then compare answers. Ask them if they know any more expressions or idioms about love and relationships.

Can you match the expression with its correct definition?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The course of true love never did run smooth | A. in one's innermost feelings |
| 2. Star-crossed lovers | B. to be a very kind person |
| 3. Heart of gold | C. to make your feelings clear to others |
| 4. Wear your heart on your sleeve | D. jealousy |
| 5. Green-eyed monster | E. there will always be problems in any relationship |
| 6. Heart of hearts | F. two people who care for each other but their circumstances don't allow them to be together |

Answers: 1E, 2F, 3B, 4C, 5D, 6A

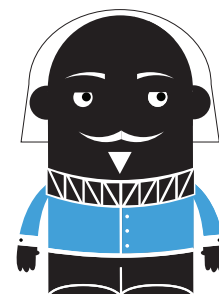
3 WORD STORM

Split the class into small groups and ask them to brainstorm all the words they know relating to love and relationships. Look up any expressions or words you don't know but would like to use using the Macmillan Dictionary website www.macmillandictionary.com.

Ask groups to create a poster featuring their words and decorate with love hearts as desired!

We'd love to share your students' work on the Macmillan Readers website, so please send your photos to us at: social.media@macmillan.com

Send us your posters and we'll display them on our website!



RELATED RESOURCES

- Shakespeare for Life Video: *Romeo and Juliet*
- Shakespeare on Love Infographic
- *Romeo and Juliet* Character Infographic



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