

Year 10 – Romeo and Juliet – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

- Romeo and Juliet is the first full GCSE text we introduce to Year 9s. The characters, themes and context are crucial to understanding the wider knowledge of the play and all need to be retained over Y10 and Y11. In Year 9 we focus on the plot and making the language accessible. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the greatest love story ever told!

Key Vocabulary taught:

- Patriarchy
- Society
- Tragedy
- Fate
- Prologue
- Dishonour

Key terminology taught:

- Analytical paragraph
- Sonnet
- Soliloquy
- Dramatic Irony
- Iambic pentameter
- Religious imagery
- Juxtaposition
- Stage direction
- Symbolism
- Foreshadowing
- Foil
- Iambic pentameter
- Verse
- Prose

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Re-read the play with your child. The version they have been given at school has a 'modern translation' section which is useful!
- Re-read key scenes from the play, you could practise these together taking on roles.
- Watch one of the many film adaptations, live performances or recorded performance of this play. The Globe YouTube channel sometimes runs these.
- There is a breadth of knowledge online about the Elizabethan age - research the context and how it influenced the play.
- Shakespeare is a world famous poet and playwright - research his work, his craft and his style. Find out what inspired him to write about the ideas and themes in Romeo and Juliet.
- Storyboard the events of each act to learn the order of events, what happens and which characters appear in each act so you can trace their development.
- Create a fact file for each character including key scenes, key quotations and their involvement in the play. Who is responsible for the tragic outcome?
- Use the revision booklets given to you for your homework.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- Why might passionate love make people impulsive and even reckless?
- At what point in the play do things start to go wrong for Romeo and Juliet?
- Who or what do you think Shakespeare was trying to criticise through the themes of this play?

Challenging activities to complete:

- Compare and contrast the characters of Tybalt and Mercutio - why does Shakespeare kill them both in Act Three?
- Research reactions to the play at the time and the challenges Shakespeare faced producing his plays on stage.
- How does Juliet compare to other famous Shakespearean women?

Suggested further reading:

Each of these books below are wonderful resources on the play; enjoy the challenge!

1. **Noughts and Crosses - Malorie Blackman**
Inspired by Romeo and Juliet, amongst a society of prejudice and mistrust, an unlikely young romance blossoms which leads to terrible danger.
2. **A Midsummer Night's Dream - William Shakespeare** - a comedic take on young love, passion and marriage.
3. **The Fault in Our Stars - John Green**
A raw look at how love can spring up when least expected. The book follows teenager Hazel who has been diagnosed with cancer but finds hope and love in the face of adversity.