

The Fast Romeo

The moment the play begins, you know that these two families hate each other, that their hatred is old and bitter; you know this because people are yelling and screaming [1] and [2]. This is a brawl that is violent and the last straw. The Prince of Verona says [3]

Then we get a glimpse of Romeo and we learn that he's in LOVE (and *not* with Juliet). And we meet "the boys." Benvolio and Mercutio are headed to crash a party at the Capulets. Benvolio advises Romeo to branch out at the party. He says, [4]. And Romeo does. It is at this party that Romeo first sees Juliet. [5]

They dance. They kiss. She says, [6]. It's only at the end of the party that they learn they are enemies.

But they don't feel like enemies. Romeo ditches his buddies, climbs the wall into the Capulets' orchard, and speaks the speech you know, [7]. You know what she says, right? [ALL: O ROMEO, ROMEO, WHEREFORE ART THOU ROMEO?] They talk passionate love, but Juliet's nurse is calling her. She starts to leave. Romeo says, [8]. Juliet says yes and no. Love is love. They enlist the help of the nurse and Friar Lawrence. They marry secretly.

And the feud continues. Tybalt comes looking for Romeo, and Mercutio takes him on. [9] They fight. Mercutio dies. Tybalt flees. Then Romeo kills Tybalt, his wife's cousin. Romeo says, [10]. The

Prince banishes Romeo to Mantua, but before he leaves, he and Juliet spend the night together. In the morning, she says, [11].

That very day, Mr. Capulet tells Juliet that he has set her up to marry the County Paris, and she refuses. Her father says [12]. So, the scheme gets cooked up with Friar Lawrence for her to take a potion that will make her appear to be dead. Juliet takes the potion. [13] And it works. They find Juliet in the morning [14] And in Mantua, Romeo hears this and believes that Juliet is dead.

Many people are headed for Juliet's tomb. Romeo, who stops off to buy some poison, goes to join Juliet in death. Friar Lawrence goes to get Juliet and take her to Mantua. Paris goes to mourn his almost-wife. Paris arrives and is killed by Romeo. Paris says [15]. Then Romeo takes poison himself. [16] Then Friar Lawrence arrives, finds Juliet waking up and as usual, has great advice for her. [17] But Juliet kills herself instead. Romeo and Juliet are found in the tomb by their families—adults who are supposed to know something who finally see that their quarrels have gone too far. They vow to make the peace because [18].

1

**Down with the
Capulets!**

5

**She doth teach the
torches to burn bright!**

2

**Down with the
Montagues!**

6

You kiss by th' book.

3

**If ever you disturb our streets
again, your lives shall pay the
forfeit of the peace.**

7

**But soft, what light through
yonder window breaks?**

4

**Examine other
beauties.**

8

**Wilt thou leave me so
unsatisfied?**

9

**Tybalt, you rat-catcher!
Will you walk?**

13

**Romeo! Here's drink—
I drink to thee!**

10

**Oh,
I am fortune's fool!**

14

**Alack the day, she's dead,
she's dead, she's dead**

11

**Then, window, let day in,
and let life out.**

15

I am slain!

12

**Hang thee young baggage!
Disobedient wretch!**

16

**Here's to my love!...
Thus with a kiss I die.**

17

**I'll dispose of thee among a
sisterhood of holy nuns.**

18

**Never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her
Romeo**