

“Easy Reading Old World Literature”

# Romeo & Juliet

**LEVEL 2**

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## About the Author

William Shakespeare was born in 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, a city in England. His mother's name was Mary Arden. His father, John, was a wealthy businessman. There is very little known about William Shakespeare's early life. It is believed that he attended a local grammar school where the students learned Latin, public speaking, and religion. Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in 1582. They had three children, Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith. In 1584, Shakespeare left Stratford and went to London.

By 1592, Shakespeare was a well-known actor and playwright. In 1599, Shakespeare, along with others, opened up the Globe Theatre. In the early 1600's, Shakespeare's company worked under King James I and became known as the King's Men. In 1608, the King's Men acquired the Blackfriars Theatre, which became their winter home. In 1613, the Globe was destroyed in a fire and was rebuilt a year later. However, by that time, Shakespeare had retired from writing. Shakespeare died in his hometown of Stratford on April 23, 1616.

## Interdisciplinary Teaching Suggestions

### *Language Arts:*

**Be a Critic:** Create a classroom critic's corner. Break students up into ten groups. Allow each group to read a chapter before the class and prepare a critique just like the movies!

**Create a Diary based on Shakespeare's Characters:** Students must choose a character from the story. After reading each chapter, students should write a diary entry on their character's feelings based on the events in the story.

### *Math:*

**Create a Bar Graph:** What professions were available in Shakespeare's time? What were the average salaries paid? Create a bar graph.

**Create a Pie Chart:** Research the population of London and the distribution of wealth during Shakespeare's time. Create a pie chart.

### *Science:*

**Health Issues during Shakespeare's Time:** Create a newspaper for Shakespeare's London. Report on the average lifespan of men and women. In 1592 the Plague killed 15,000 people in London. Report on the cause and effect of the Plague. Report on other health concerns for the people of the time.

### *Social Studies:*

**Compare Queens and Kings:** Shakespeare wrote and performed plays for Queen Elizabeth I and then King James I. How were the monarchies of the Queen and King different?

### *General:*

**Create an Interdisciplinary Classroom Museum of Artifacts from Shakespeare's Story:** Research, create, and detail the purpose and significance of each student's artifact in relation to the story.

**Create a Classroom Bulletin Board:** Break up students into small groups. Make each group responsible for an area of the bulletin board that pertains to the story. Create a story cluster describing literary elements from the story, for example setting, characters, and plot.

## WORDS USED

**Story 11**                      **Story 12**                      **Story 13**                      **Story 14**                      **Story 15**

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### KEY WORDS

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between	beautiful	answer	change	both
break	early	dance	evening	end
city	lady	still	older	happen
family	sad	thought	second	own
fight	trouble	tomorrow	sure	proud
might	wait	tonight	young	should

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### NECESSARY WORDS

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against	cousin	east	act	apart
beat	daughter	enemy	church	blood
death	dream	music	easily	chance
law	fourteen	sorrow	friar	grows
peace	marry	sweet	heart	harm
prince	mask	wall	heaven	honor
ruled	sick	wherefore	holy	rascal
servant	sighs	yonder		
sword				

---

**Story 16**                      **Story 17**                      **Story 18**                      **Story 19**                      **Story 20**

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### KEY WORDS

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ahead	done	fair	asleep	drops
knock	start	hope	gold	enough
ring	terrible	myself	late	outside
sent	until	past	only	part
soft	while	returns	poor	points
stand	wife	strong	whistle	set

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### NECESSARY WORDS

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born	lark	blessing	forever	breath
dead	marriage	knife	iron	cost
gentle	match	lie	medicine	faithful
gentleman	mind	pray	poison	figure
husband	pain	shakes	prisoner	kiss
news	weak	sight	shadows	known
shame	worried	tomb	torch	lips
stars		wake		statue
though				

# Verona and fighting

## *PREPARATION*

### *Key Words*

<b>between</b>	(bi twēn´)	in the space or time separating two points, things, or places <i>It is not good to eat <u>between</u> meals.</i>
<b>break</b>	(brāk)	to make something go to pieces <i>An egg will <u>break</u> if you drop it.</i>
<b>city</b>	(sit´ē)	a large, important town where many people live <i>More people live in the <u>city</u> than in the country.</i>
<b>family</b>	(fam´ē)	mothers and fathers and their children <i>Our <u>family</u> will visit Grandmother this Christmas.</i>
<b>fight</b>	(fīt)	to hurt others because you don't like them or to win something from them <i>If you must <u>fight</u>, <u>fight</u> to win.</i>
<b>might</b>	(mīt)	may <i>It <u>might</u> rain today. We <u>might</u> miss the bus. Joe <u>might</u> meet me at the game.</i>

# Verona and Fighting

## Necessary Words

<b>against</b>	(ə genstʻ)	to not go along with what is wanted or believed; to be opposed to something <i>Swimming alone is <u>against</u> my father's wishes.</i> <i>It is <u>against</u> the rules to run in the hall.</i> <i>Speeding is <u>against</u> the law.</i>
<b>beat</b>	(bēt)	to hit again and again <i>The robber <u>beat</u> the man and took his money.</i>
<b>death</b>	(deth)	the end of life <i>The saddest <u>death</u> is the <u>death</u> of a loved one.</i>
<b>law</b>	(lô)	words (rules) that tell people what they may or may not do <i>The <u>law</u> says I must cross the street at the corner.</i>
<b>peace</b>	(pēs)	free from war or fighting <i>After ten years of fighting, the two countries made <u>peace</u>.</i>
<b>prince</b>	(prins)	the son of a king <i>Someday, the <u>prince</u> will be king.</i>
<b>ruled</b>	(ruld)	took charge of or said how people must live <i>The king <u>ruled</u> the country for 30 years.</i>
<b>servant</b>	(sér'v ənt)	a person who waits on or takes care of others <i>The <u>servant</u> served us tea at noon.</i>
<b>sword</b>	(sôrd)	a weapon that has a long, sharp blade <i>When he drew his <u>sword</u>, I knew I was in trouble.</i>

# Verona and fighting



*In Verona, fights would start over silly things.*

**Preview:**

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Verona is a city in

- a. Spain.
- b. Italy.
- c. Germany.
- d. Ireland.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out how hard it is to keep the peace in Verona.



# Verona and Fighting

Romeo and Juliet lived a long time ago. They lived in a city in Italy called Verona. Romeo belonged to the family called Montague. Juliet to the family called Capulet. Romeo was a young man. Juliet was a young girl. But they never grew old. Why? Let's find out.

We have to know about Verona to know why. A good prince ruled in Verona. He kept the peace. His people had good houses to live in. They had good food to eat. They had good clothes to wear. They could work and take care of their families. It was so because the Prince kept the peace.

But these were mean times. People loved only their families and friends. With others, they would fight over silly things. Fighting might start over a bad look. One man might give another man a bad look. They might fight with swords. Sometimes someone was killed.

In Verona, fighting was against the law. Most people came to love the law. When there was no fighting, there was peace. When there was peace, they could live well. But the law was not enough. Some people just had to fight. They were used to fighting. So, the Prince made some men "watchers." They watched for fighting and told the Prince about it. No one wanted to be caught fighting. A man caught fighting could be put out of the city - out of fair Verona and away from family and friends. Or, the Prince might put

the man to death.

Two families in Verona did not like each other. They were the Montagues and the Capulets. Their money bought friends and servants; they were strong. Sometimes fighting broke out between them. Then there was no peace in Verona. No wonder the Prince became angry when he heard the Montagues and the Capulets were at it again.

Samson and Gregory, two servants of the house of Capulet, walk in the street in Verona. They wear swords.

"Just let the Montagues give us trouble and they will feel our swords," Samson says.

Into the street, as Samson talks, come two Montague servants.

"Do you look to fight?" Gregory says to them.

"Fight? No, but we will not turn from one!" the Montague servants shout.

Without another word, both sides take out their swords and begin fighting.

Benvolio, a Montague, comes into the street and sees the fighting. "Stop, stop," he cries, and takes out his own sword to get between them. "You break the law."

Tybalt, a Capulet, is not far behind. "What, you draw your sword on servants?" he shouts at Benvolio. He takes out his sword, and now they are all fighting.

The Prince's watchers come.

"Stop them! Beat them down!" they cry. "Down with the

Capulets, down with the Montagues. They break the peace!"

Old Capulet, the family head, comes. "What is this? Give me my sword!"

"What you need is a chair and you call for a sword," his wife says.

Old Montague comes. His sword is out. "Capulet, again!" he shouts. His wife holds him back.

Now the Prince comes. "Mean, old men. Three times you have broken the peace in Verona. One more time and you will pay with your lives. Now leave here!"

# Verona and Fighting

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. Romeo belonged to the  
 a. Montana family.  
 b. Monty family.  
 c. Montague family.  
 d. Manilla family.
2. Juliet was from the family called  
 a. Capone.  
 b. Caputo.  
 c. Coronet.  
 d. Capulet.
3. The Prince of Verona  
 a. took good care of his people.  
 b. made everyone feel afraid.  
 c. was hard on his servants.  
 d. did not like Romeo.
4. "Watchers"  
 a. were men who looked at young women.  
 b. were women who liked to shop.  
 c. looked out for fighting and told the Prince about it.  
 d. were Juliet's servants.
5. Someone caught fighting  
 a. could be put to death.  
 b. would be fined.  
 c. would be sent away by their family.  
 d. would lose his house.

*Preview Answer:*

b. Italy.

6. The Montagues and Capulets were  
 a. servants.  
 b. rich people.  
 c. poor people.  
 d. nothing but trouble.
7. Samson and Gregory were  
 a. servants of the house of Montague.  
 b. servants of the house of Capulet.  
 c. the Prince's finest "watchers."  
 d. sword makers.
8. Tybalt was  
 a. a Capulet.  
 b. a "watcher."  
 c. Romeo's best friend.  
 d. a servant of the Prince.
9. Another name for this story could be  
 a. "A Place in Italy."  
 b. "The Law Breakers."  
 c. "No Peace in Verona."  
 d. "Never Grow Old."
10. This story is mainly about  
 a. a good Prince who was well liked.  
 b. the law breakers of Italy.  
 c. a town in Italy where everyone got along.  
 d. two rich families that couldn't get along.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.

# Verona and Fighting

## VOCABULARY CHECK

between	break	city	family	fight	might
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### I. Sentences to Finish

Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.

1. If we don't hurry we \_\_\_\_\_ miss our train.
2. Our \_\_\_\_\_ has dinner around six o'clock.
3. We went to the \_\_\_\_\_ to see the parade.
4. Jeff was in a \_\_\_\_\_ last night. Now he has a black eye.
5. At the table, I sit \_\_\_\_\_ my sister and brother.
6. "Don't throw the ball at the window," cried Joe. "It might \_\_\_\_\_."

### II. Word Search

All the words above are hidden in the puzzle below. They may be written from left to right, right to left, up and down, or on an angle. As you find each word, put a circle around it. One word, that is not a key word, has been done for you.

M	U	M	B	R	E	S	M
I	F	I	G	H	T	C	N
G	A	G	M	I	G	E	F
H	M	H	B	R	E	B	I
C	I	T	Y	W	Z	E	G
F	L	E	T	P	Q	T	C
A	Y	E	F	M	A	W	I
M	B	R	E	A	K	E	T

Check your answers with the key on page 69.