

illustrated
READERS

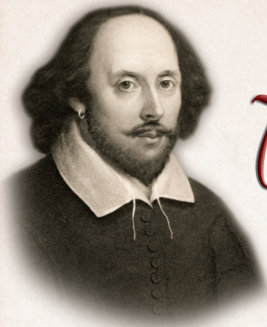
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Romeo & Juliet

retold by Virginia Evans & Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing



William Shakespeare

Around the world, William Shakespeare is known as England's most famous playwright. He was born in 1564, the third of eight children, and grew up in a small town called Stratford-upon-Avon. When Shakespeare was 18 he married Anne Hathaway on November 28th, 1582. They had three children, Susanna born in 1583 and twins, Hamnet and Judith, born in 1585.

Little is known about Shakespeare between 1585 and 1592 but at some time in 1588 he moved to London where he got involved in the theatre. By 1592 he had

become a well-known actor and playwright. When King James came to the throne in 1603, he chose Shakespeare's group of actors to become 'The King's Men'. Around this time, Shakespeare wrote some of his most famous tragedies including 'Hamlet', 'Macbeth' and 'King Lear'. However, Shakespeare also wrote many comedies including 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'As You Like It'. Most of these plays were performed at the famous Globe Theatre, built in 1599.

In the last few years of his life, Shakespeare moved back to Stratford where he died on 23 April 1616

Now read about Shakespeare again and answer the following questions:

- 1 Where and when was Shakespeare born?
.....
- 2 How many brothers and sisters did he have?
.....
- 3 When did he get married?
.....
- 4 When was the Globe Theatre built?
.....
- 5 When and where did Shakespeare die?
.....



Romeo and Juliet

“Romeo and Juliet” was probably first performed in 1596 and first published a year later. It is based on a poem called “The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet” written by Arthur Brooke in 1562. Although it is about young love, Shakespeare also tried to show that fighting and hating people for no reason is wrong.

The play has been performed all over the world and filmed many times. The plot has been used in other stories and films. In 1956, the story was turned into a modern musical, “West Side Story”, where the Montagues and the Capulets were shown as two gangs fighting in the streets of New York in America. In 1996, there was a similar modern version without music starring Leonardo Di Caprio. The story remains one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays.

1. THE MONTAGUES AND THE CAPULETS

The city of Verona, Italy in 1596 ...



... two families have hated and fought each other for years – the Montagues ...



... and the Capulets.

No one knows how the fighting started but it happened every day ...



... even the family servants hated each other ...

Do you want to fight?

Yes – I'll kill you!



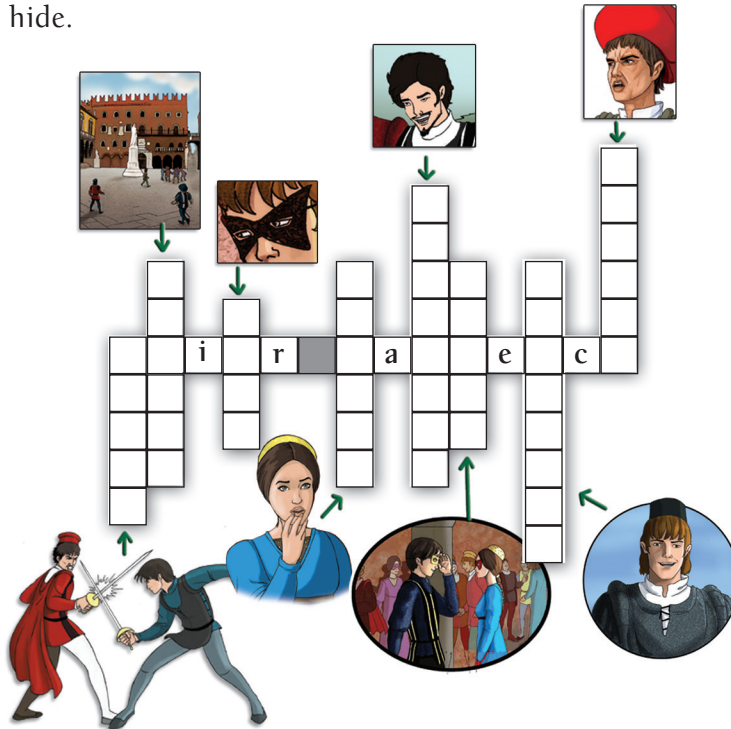
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activities



Before Reading

- 1 Complete the crossword to find out who has given Romeo somewhere to hide.



While Reading

- 2 Who said what? Read or listen to the episode again and match the character with the line.

Prince

Lady Capulet

Benvolio

Lord Capulet

Juliet

Nurse

“He’s dead!”

“I’m sure Romeo and ten of his friends killed Tybalt!”

“Sir – you must punish the Montagues for this!”

“Oh, I’m so happy and so much in love!”

“That’s not true!”

“If he comes back here, it will be his last hour.”



After Reading

- 3 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 4 What do you think will happen in the next episode?



Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures, then read the questions and circle the correct answer.
 - i Where are the people in picture 3?
 - a) at the Montague house
 - b) at the Capulet house
 - c) at Friar Laurence's house
 - ii Who is the man in picture 5?
 - a) Lord Capulet
 - b) Lord Montague
 - c) Count Paris
 - iii Where are the people in picture 6?
 - a) the Montague house
 - b) the Prince of Verona's palace
 - c) at the Capulet house
 - iv What is the man holding in picture 9?
 - a) a lamp
 - b) a bottle
 - c) a book



While Reading

- 2 Read or listen to the episode and match the sentences below to one of the speech bubbles that mean the same.

e.g. No! I'm not going to do that! = (Picture 4) No! I can't and I won't!

 - a) I have to leave – farewell! =
 - b) It's dangerous here – you must leave =
 - c) The situation has changed =
 - d) I have thought of something that might help =



After Reading

- 3 Read and listen, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 4 Look at the list of words below and decide which one(s) describe: Romeo, Juliet, the Nurse, Lord Capulet, and Friar Laurence. Explain your choices.

• kind • strict • loyal • stubborn • sad • frightened • helpful

Romeo & Juliet

It was love at first sight for Romeo and Juliet, but their two families have fought each other for years. Can Romeo and Juliet survive the hatred and find happiness together?

Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

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