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In a sonnet,the Chorusreveals to the audience thatRomeoahas fallen out of love withRosalineand is in love withJuliet. It talks about the challenges this new couple will face; however, the lovers, the audience is told, are going to brave it for their love. The prologue reminds the audience of the pivotal events that have already occurred in the play. By doing so, it aims to evoke dramatic suspense in the audience. After the masquerade,Romeofeels he cannot go home. Hence, he crosses over a wall to enter the Capulet's garden. Meanwhile,MercutioandBenvolioenter the stage looking for Romeo. Romeo hides from his friends and does not answer to their calls. Mercutio mocks Romeo about his love forRosalineusing obscene language, and both Mercutio and Benvolio leave. As Romeos love for Juliet grows, he withdraws from his friends. Romeo is seen waiting in the Capulets garden to catch a glimpse of Juliet. As he hears Mercutio and Benvolio approaching, Romeo avoids them by hiding behind a wall. Romeo overhears Mercutio teasing him about Rosaline.He also uses crass, sexual language to tease Romeo, who does not retaliate. The wall here signifies the growing distance between Romeo and the Montagues, as well as between Romeo and his friends. Romeo presently finds himself more drawn to Juliet. As a symbol, the wall also accentuates the contrast between Romeos pure and spiritual love for Juliet and Mercutios seemingly baser conception of love, signified also by the latters use of foul language. In her balcony, unaware ofRomeospresence in the garden,Julietlaunches into a soliloquy, lamenting the fact that Romeo is a Montague. Romeo, who overhears this, is assured by Juliets feelings. He interrupts Juliet, thereby startling her in the process. Romeo and Juliet then confess their love for each other, only to be interrupted bythe Nurse. Juliet disappears momentarily. When she reappears, Juliet asks Romeo to propose marriage to her to prove his love. Romeo is happy to oblige, and Juliet asks him to plan their wedding. She disappears once more, but the lovers meet again and spend the rest of the night together, in what is perhaps the plays most famous scene. The garden, in this scene, is more than a secret meeting place; it symbolizes the garden of Eden, and thus the love that blossoms here between Romeo and Juliet is to be seen as pure and spiritual, a love that transcends hatred. In fact, the language Romeo and Juliet use with one another also suggests as much; it also shows their willingness to conclude the feud. Although initially unsure, they both grow confident of overcoming all odds. Early in the morning, in his chapel garden,Friar Lawrenceis seen collecting herbs and flowers.Romeoenters just as the Friar finds himself contemplating the power of these herbs, which, incidentally, can be used for healing as well as poisoning people. Friar Lawrence only knows about Romeos affection forRosaline, so he is surprised when Romeo confesses his love forJulietand asks him to perform the wedding. Friar Lawrence considers this as an opportunity to put an end to the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets. This scene sheds light on the bond between Romeo and Friar Lawrence. It is indeed telling that Romeo confesses his love for Juliet to the Friar, and not to his friends or family.The scene also hints at the tragedy that will befall these young lovers; it indicates to the audience that the Friars herb concoction will spell trouble for Romeo and Juliet. MercutioandBenvolioare looking forRomeo. They assume he must be preoccupied with thoughts ofJuliet. They discussTybaltsdecision to challenge Romeo to a duel. Mercutio thinks Tybalt and Romeo are incapable of partaking in a duel, and thus does not take Tybalts challenge seriously. When they do find Romeo, Mercutio, unaware of Romeos change of heart, is all too pleased to taunt him again. Mercutio and Benvolio leave, asJuliets nurseandPeter, a servant at the Capulet household, enter. Romeo asks the Nurse if she can inform Juliet to meet him at theFriarscell in the afternoon for their wedding. He also asks her to keep a ladder outside Juliets room, so he can climb up to her room and spend their wedding night together. The first two acts are set up to provide the audience a vision of the disaster that will eventually befall the couple.It is worth noting that although Mercutio dismisses the possibility of a duel, ironically enough, he will be killed by Tybalt in a duel. Tybalt, in turn, will be killed by Romeo. The scene also sheds light on Romeos myopic romanticism: though he is hellbent on marrying Juliet for love, he does not plan for their future together. Julietawaitsthe Nursesreturn, who comes bearing news aboutRomeo. The Nurse is three hours late, and she teases Juliet by saying she is too tired to give her any news of Romeo. The Nurse relents, but only after getting a back rub from Juliet. After much deliberation, she informs Juliet about the wedding atFriar Lawrence'schapel. She then leaves to collect a ladder from Romeos servant, so Romeo can climb up to Juliets chamber at night to consummate their marriage. Though this is a short scene, it is pivotal in advancing the plot. Friar LawrenceandRomeoare at the cell, awaitingJuliet. Romeo is ecstatic to get married to Juliet, and in his euphoric state, he says he does not partion early care about any misfortunes that might befall him and Juliet. The much-experienced Friar Lawrence urges Romeo to love moderately. Juliet enters, and Friar Lawrence escorts the young couple to the chapel to get them married. This scene focuses on the couples euphoric state. Nonetheless,it also foreshadows the couples tragic fate. In particular, the Friars remarkthese violent delights have violent endsserves as a profound premonition. His words also reinforce the power of fate. We're getting everything ready for you. The page is loading, and you'll be on your way in just a few moments. Thanks for your patience! Act 1, Prologue The play begins in Verona, a city that has had its peace shattered by the feud between two prominent families, the house of Montague and the house of Capulet. The Chorus tells us that amidst this ancient grudge, a "pair of star-cross'd lovers" will take their lives and that their deaths will extinguish their parents' rage. Act 1, Scene 1 On a street in Verona, two servants from the house of Capulet, Sampson and Gregory, deliberately initiate a fight with two servants from the Montague house, Abram and Balthasar. Benvolio, a close friend to Romeo and nephew of Lord Montague, arrives and tries to stop the fight: "Part fools! / Put up your swords; you know not what you do." (1.1.56-7). But as he attempts to keep the peace, Tybalt, nephew to Lord Capulet, comes upon the scene and demands to duel with the passive young Benvolio. Reluctantly, Benvolio draws his sword and they fight. The fiery citizens of Verona become involved and a vicious brawl ensues. Capulet and Montague arrive, and immediately join in the clash, while their wives look on in fear. Prince Escalus happens upon the scene and he is shocked and outraged at such behaviour from his subjects. His guards break up the fight and he chastises all those involved, exclaiming "You men, you beasts!" (1.1.74-5). He declares that any further public disorder will result in the execution of the participants. The crowd disperses along with Lord Capulet and his family, leaving behind Montague, Lady Montague, and Benvolio. Their attention turns to their son Romeo, who has been depressed of late. Benvolio asks Lord Montague if he knows what is troubling his son, but he has no answer. All he knows is that Romeo has been seen walking the streets in the early mornings, "With tears augmenting the fresh morning's dew/Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs" (1.1.124-5). Benvolio sees Romeo coming and requests that Montague and his Lady step aside so he can talk to Romeo alone and uncover the reason for his melancholy. After asking many questions Benvolio finally learns that Romeo is sad because he is in love with a woman, Rosaline, who has taken a vow of chastity and refuses to return his affection. Benvolio suggests to Romeo that he should forget Rosaline and look for romance elsewhere. Romeo insists that no woman could ever compare to Rosaline, for she is a ravishing beauty. He insists that to forget Rosaline would be impossible, "Thou canst not teach me to forget" (1.1.229), as the scene comes to a close. Act 1, Scene 2 Scene 2 opens with Paris, a noble young kinsmen of the Prince, asking Capulet for his daughter's hand in marriage. Capulet tells Paris that Juliet has "not seen the change of fourteen years" (1.2.10) and is probably too young to marry. However, if Paris can woo her and win her heart, Capulet will grant him consent to wed Juliet. Capulet is preparing for a grand party at his house that evening, and he gives a servant a guest list and instructs him to go forth into the streets to invite them all. The servant meets Romeo and Benvolio on the road and he begs Romeo to help him, for he is illiterate and cannot complete the task given to him by his master. Romeo obligingly reads aloud the names on the invitation list, and to his delight, comes upon the name Rosaline. Benvolio challenges Romeo to sneak into the party with hopes that Romeo will see many other women to distract his attention away from Rosaline. Romeo agrees that going to the party is a splendid idea, for he longs to catch a glimpse of his darling Rosaline. Act 1, Scene 3 Back at Capulet's house, Lady Capulet visits her daughter's chamber to tell her about Paris. Juliet's nurse is in the room and she begins to ramble, recounting Juliet as a young child: For then she could stand high-alone; nay, by the rood, She could have run and waddled all about; For even the day before, she broke her brow.... (1.3.35-8) Lady Capulet asks Juliet how she feels about marriage and Juliet politely and honestly responds, "It is an honour that I dream not of" (l.iii.46). Lady Capulet tells Juliet that it is time she start thinking of becoming a bride and a mother, for there are girls in Verona even younger than Juliet who have children of their own. She adds that a suitable mate has already been found for Juliet: "The valiant Paris seeks you for his love!" (1.3.54). Juliet has little choice but to respectfully agree to consider Paris as a husband. She tells her mother, "I'll look to like" (1.3.76). Their conversation ends abruptly when a servant calls Lady Capulet, announcing that supper is ready and the guests have arrived for the party. Act 1, Scene 4 The festivities are about to commence at the house of Capulet and, concealed amidst the Masquers, Romeo and Benvolio arrive with their close friend, Mercutio. Stilled by "love's heavy burden", Romeo refuses to dance with his friends. He reveals that he has had an ominous dream, but will not be any more specific. Mercutio tries to lighten Romeo's mood, and muses that Romeo must have been visited in sleep by Queen Mab, the "fairies midwife"... "In shape no bigger than an agate stone/On the fore-finger of an alderman" (1.4.52-4). She races over peoples noses as they slumber, riding in a chariot steered by a gray-coated gnat and made from an empty hazelnut. Romeo is not as amused as Mercutio himself is by his inventive tale, and Romeo implores him to be silent. He cannot shake the feeling that Some consequence yet hanging in the stars Shall bitterly begin this fearful date With this night's revels, and expire the term Of a despised life clos'd in my breast By some vile forfeit of untimely death. (1.4.104-8) Act 1, Scene 5 In the hallway of Capulet's house four servingmen clear away the dinner dishes. Lord Capulet comes out to greet his guests, asking them to dance and make merry. He admits that his "dancing days" have long since past, but he loves to watch others enjoy themselves. Romeo, seeking Rosaline through the crowd, sees Juliet instead. He is awe-struck by her grace and beauty, and he completely forgets Rosaline. Romeo's heart is racing as he exclaims, "O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!/It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night/As a rich jewel in an Ethiope's ear" (1.5.46-9). Tybalt, a cousin to Capulet, recognizes Romeo's voice and shouts for his sword. Tybalt is prepared to slay Romeo in front of the guests, but Lord Capulet stops him, knowing that any fighting will ruin the festivities. It appears that Lord Capulet is not as hostile towards his perceived enemy as is his violent and head-strong kinsman, Tybalt, as we can see in the following passage: Content thee, gentle coz, let him alone. 'A bears him like a portly gentleman; And, to say truth, Verona brags of him To be a virtuous and well-govern'd youth. I would not for the wealth of all this town Here in my house do him disparagement... (1.v.68-72) Tybalt is disgusted by Capulet's weakness, and leaves the party in a rage. Romeo decides he should leave as well, but first he stops to speak at least a word to Juliet. Dressed as a pilgrim to the Holy Land, Romeo addresses Juliet in character, pretending that he has just come upon a most holy shrine. They exchange pleasantries and Juliet, equally smitten with the handsome Romeo, grants him a kiss. Juliet is promptly called away by her mother, and Romeo learns from the Nurse that she is the daughter of his father's enemy, Capulet. Deeply troubled by this knowledge, Romeo exits the hall with Benvolio and Capulet's other guests. When everyone has left, Juliet probes the Nurse for information about the stranger with whom she has fallen madly in love. The Nurse tells her that his name is Romeo and he is a Montague. Like Romeo, Juliet is grieved to hear such news and she cries "My only love sprung from my only hate!/Too early seen unknown, and known too late!" (1.5.140-1) as the first act draws to a close. Act 2, Prologue The Chorus opens Act II by announcing that Romeo is madly in love with the bewitching Juliet. But he warns that Romeo will not be able to court his Juliet in the proper manner befitting a fair lady because she is his father's enemy. And he adds that Juliet will not be able to meet Romeo as she pleases, but will be forced to see her darling only in secret. Despite the obstacles the lovers must overcome, the Chorus reassures us that their "passion lends them power", and that they will find a way to be together. Act 2, Scene 1 Romeo leaves the house of Capulet and wanders into a lane behind their family orchard. Longing to be with Juliet, he sorrowfully asks "Can I go forward when my heart is here?" He realizes that he cannot go any further from Juliet and he leaps over the orchard wall onto Capulet's grounds. Mercutio and Benvolio, who have been looking for Romeo, see him disappear behind the wall and they laugh at his silly behaviour, still thinking that he is chasing after Rosaline. They decide not to follow him on his quest for love and they both go home to bed. Act 2, Scene 2 Romeo is hidden amongst the shadows outside Capulet's house, content simply to be close to Juliet. Looking up, Romeo catches sight of a figure emerging from an overhead window. He rejoices when he realizes who has come out upon the balcony: "It is my Lady! O it is my love!" (2.2.11). Juliet, believing that she is alone, professes her love for Romeo and her profound sorrow that he is a Montague. Romeo reveals himself and, with words as moving as any in literature, the lovers speak to each other, exchanging their vows of absolute and undying devotion. The glorious meeting is interrupted by a cry coming from inside the house. It is Juliet's nurse, who has been searching the house for her mistress. Before they part, the lovers hatch a cunning plan. Romeo will find a way for them to be married and, when he does, he will give the details to the messenger Juliet sends to him. The scene comes to a close as they say their tender farewells for the evening: Juliet: Good-night, good-night! Parting is such sweet sorrow That I shall say good-night till it be morrow. Romeo: Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest! Hence will I to my ghostly father's cell, His help to crave, and my dear hap to tell. (2.2.184-90) Act 2, Scene 3 Romeo travels to the cell of Friar Laurence, who has been out in the fields all morning gathering herbs. He ponders the dual nature of these "baleful weeds and precious juiced flowers" that have the power to kill and the power to heal. Cheerful and excited, Romeo greets the Friar and tells him of his new love and plans for marriage. Friar Laurence, who has been Romeo's friend and confessor for sometime, is confused and concerned about Romeo's sudden change of heart. He exclaims "Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!/Is Rosaline, that thou didst love so dear?/So soon forsaken?" (II.iii.65-8). But Romeo persuades the Friar that this time he has found true love and that he is ready to enter immediately into the serious bond of holy matrimony. Friar Laurence agrees to help Romeo, hoping that their union will finally end the feud between the houses of Montague and Capulet. In one respect I'll thy assistance be/For this alliance may so happy prove/To turn your households' rancour to pure love" (2.3.90-3). Act 2, Scene 4 Mercutio and Benvolio are again wandering about the streets of Verona, wondering what happened to the love-struck Romeo. Their conversation turns to Tybalt, who Mercutio calls "the courageous captain of compliments" (2.4.21). Tybalt has left a note for Romeo at the house of Montague, challenging him to a duel. Mercutio is afraid that the fierce Tybalt will surely kill Romeo, who is too preoccupied to fight his best. Benvolio sees Romeo approach, seemingly in a light-hearted mood. Mercutio, overjoyed to see Romeo back to his happy and carefree self, teases him about his recent foolish behaviour. The two banter as good friends should and Mercutio quips, "Why, is this not better now than groaning for love? Now art thou sociable, now art thou Romeo, now art thou what thou art, by art as well as by nature; for tis drivelling love is like a great natural..." (2.4.90-4). But Benvolio and Romeo are tired of his ramblings and cut him off in mid-sentence. Romeo directs Mercutio to Juliet's nurse who is coming down the road, and Mercutio continues his musings with her as his new audience. It does not take long for Mercutio to lose interest in his own pontificating and he and Benvolio leave for supper at Montague's house. Romeo and the Nurse are left alone and Romeo makes excuses for Mercutio's talkative and saucy behaviour, which has greatly offended her. Romeo asks the Nurse to give Juliet the information about his plan of marriage, and she agrees. The wedding, he tells the Nurse, will be performed that afternoon by Friar Laurence. Juliet is to go to the Friar's cell and Romeo will arrange for a rope ladder to be placed at Juliet's window within the hour to facilitate her escape. The Nurse runs off with the message as the curtain closes. Act 2, Scene 5 Scene 5 opens in Capulet's orchard. Juliet is frantically awaiting the news about Romeo. The Nurse comes in, preoccupied with her own troubles. She wants to discuss her aching bones, but Juliet pleads with her not to withhold Romeo's plan any longer. Slowly, the Nurse begins to speak of Romeo. She says that she doesn't much care for the boy, but she approves of his handsome face and gentle nature. She finally tells Juliet all that Romeo has told her, and Juliet leaves at once for Friar Laurence's cell. Act 2, Scene 6 Friar Laurence and Romeo are anxiously awaiting Juliet's arrival. The Friar gives Romeo some advice before the wedding, cautioning him to 'love moderately'. Juliet appears and Friar Laurence comments on her delicacy. He starts the marriage proceedings at once. "For, by your leaves you shall not stay alone/Till Holy Church incorporate two in one" (2.6.36-7). Continue to Act 3 Summary How to cite this article: Mahillard, Amanda. Romeo and Juliet Plot Summary. Shakespeare Online. 18 Sept. 2008. < > Even more... Daily Life in Shakespeare's London Life in Stratford (structures and guilds) Life in Stratford (trades, laws, furniture, hygiene) Stratford School Days: What Did Shakespeare Read? 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This warning is a preparation for the tragic climax. The love action is suggested. The strangeness of Romeo's new mood is discussed by his parents and Benvolio. When Romeo enters, it is soon discovered that the cause is unrequited love. Benvolio's determination to teach Romeo to forget this lady prepares the way for the change in the hero's feelings in the masquerade scene." Henry Norman Hudson. Read on... Romeo and Juliet: Complete Play with Explanatory Notes Romeo and Juliet Plot Summary (Acts 3, 4 and 5) Mercutio's Mab Speech in Plain English Themes and Motifs in Romeo and Juliet Stage History of Romeo and Juliet Romeo and Juliet: Examination Questions and Answers Romeo, Rosaline, and Juliet The Importance of Romeo and Rosaline Romeo and Juliet and the Rules of Dramatic Tragedy Romeo and Juliet: Teacher's Notes and Classroom Discussion Stage History of Romeo and Juliet What Is Accomplished in Act I? Thoughts on Mercutio... "Mercutio is the very antithesis to Romeo. "The brooding nature of Romeo," says Dowden, "which cherishes emotion, and lives in it, is made salient by contrast with Mercutio, who is all wit, and intellect, and vivacity, an uncontrollable play of gleaming and glancing life. Upon the morning after the betrothal with Juliet, a meeting happens between Romeo and Mercutio. Previously, while a lover of Rosaline, Romeo had cultivated a lover-like melancholy. But now, partly because his blood runs gladly, partly because the union of soul with Juliet has made the whole world more real and substantial, and things have grown too solid and lasting to be disturbed by a laugh, Romeo can contend in jest with Mercutio himself, and stretch his wit of cheveril 'from an inch narrow to an ell broad.'" K. Deighton. Read on... The Purpose of Romeo's witticisms in 2.1. 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Although we have no record of Shakespeare attending the school, due to the official position held by John Shakespeare it seems likely that he would have decided to educate young William at the school which was under the care of Stratford's governing body. Read on... Shakespeare acquired substantial wealth thanks to his acting and writing abilities, and his shares in London theatres. The going rate was &raq12;10 per play at the turn of the sixteenth century. So how much money did Shakespeare make? Read on... Shakespeare was familiar with seven foreign languages and often quoted them directly in his plays. His vocabulary was the largest of any writer, at over twenty-four thousand words. Read on... Known to the Elizabethans as ague, Malaria was a common malady spread by the mosquitoes in the marshy Thames. The swampy theatre district of Southwark was always at risk. King James I had it; so too did Shakespeare&raq12;s friend, Michael Drayton. Read on... Introduction to The Montagues and the Capulets Famous Quotations from Romeo and Juliet Why Shakespeare is so Important Shakespeare's Language Shakespeare's Boss: The Master of Revels What is Tragic Irony? Seneca's Tragedies and the Elizabethan Drama Characteristics of Elizabethan Drama (A single actor (referred to as a chorus) comes to the front of the stage to deliver this introductory prologue to the second act.) Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie, And young affection gapes to be his heir; That fair for which love groaned for and would die, With tender Juliet matched is now not fair. Now Romeo is beloved and loves again, Alike bewitch'd by the charm of looks; But to his foe supposed he must complain, And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful hooks. Being held a foe, he may not have access To breathe such vows as lovers use to swear; And she as much in love, her means much less To meet her new beloved anywhere. But passion lends them power, time means to meet, Tempering extremities with extreme sweet. Enter Chorus:The Chorus tells us that Romeo and Juliet are suffering because they can't meet, but that passion gives them power to find a way to see each other. Enter Chorus:The first quatrain of this sonnet is almost sarcastic:Now old desire doth in his death-bed lie,And young affection gapes to be his heir;That fair for which love groan'd for and would die,With tender Juliet match'd, is now not fair.(2.Prologue.1-4)People scorned heirs who "gaped" (waited with open mouths, like baby birds) for the deaths of their parents. Perhaps some of this scorn is contained in the image of Romeo's love for Juliet eagerly awaiting the death of his love for Rosaline. The Chorus also points out that Romeo was willing to die for a beauty (Rosaline's) which is now not beautiful, since it has been compared to Juliet's beauty. These comments may make Romeo appear immature and shallow, but the play is, after all, a story of young love, and the next line points out an important difference between Romeo's new love and his former love. In "Now Romeo is beloved and loves again" (2.Prologue.5), the"again" does not mean "for the second time"; it means "in return." Romeo's love for Rosaline was a one-way street, but Romeo and Juliet have a mutual love. The rest of the sonnet is about the lovers' mutual problem. They are "Alike betwitch'd by the charm of looks, / But to his foe supposed he must complain [of the sweet pain of being in love], / And she steal love's sweet bait from fearful hooks" (2.Prologue.8). Because they are foes (or supposed to be), he can't vow his love to her, and she can't meet him anywhere. "But passion lends them power, time [lends them] means, to meet / Tempering extremities with extreme sweet" (2.Prologue.14). "Extremities" means "extreme hardships," and "tempering" means "diminishing," but the lines suggest that their meeting will do much more than diminish the pain of their hardships; it seems that the hardships are part of the reason why they will taste "extreme sweet."

Romeo and juliet samenvatting. Romeo and juliet act 2 prologue.