

Intro to R&J

4/1/15

- LO: Do I understand the historical context of Shakespeare?

Welcome Work:

- Label your piece of paper with the title, date, and LO.
- Complete a brainstorm of all the words you think of when you hear “Shakespeare.”



Shakespeare



An Introduction to
Romeo and Juliet

Including fascinating information about

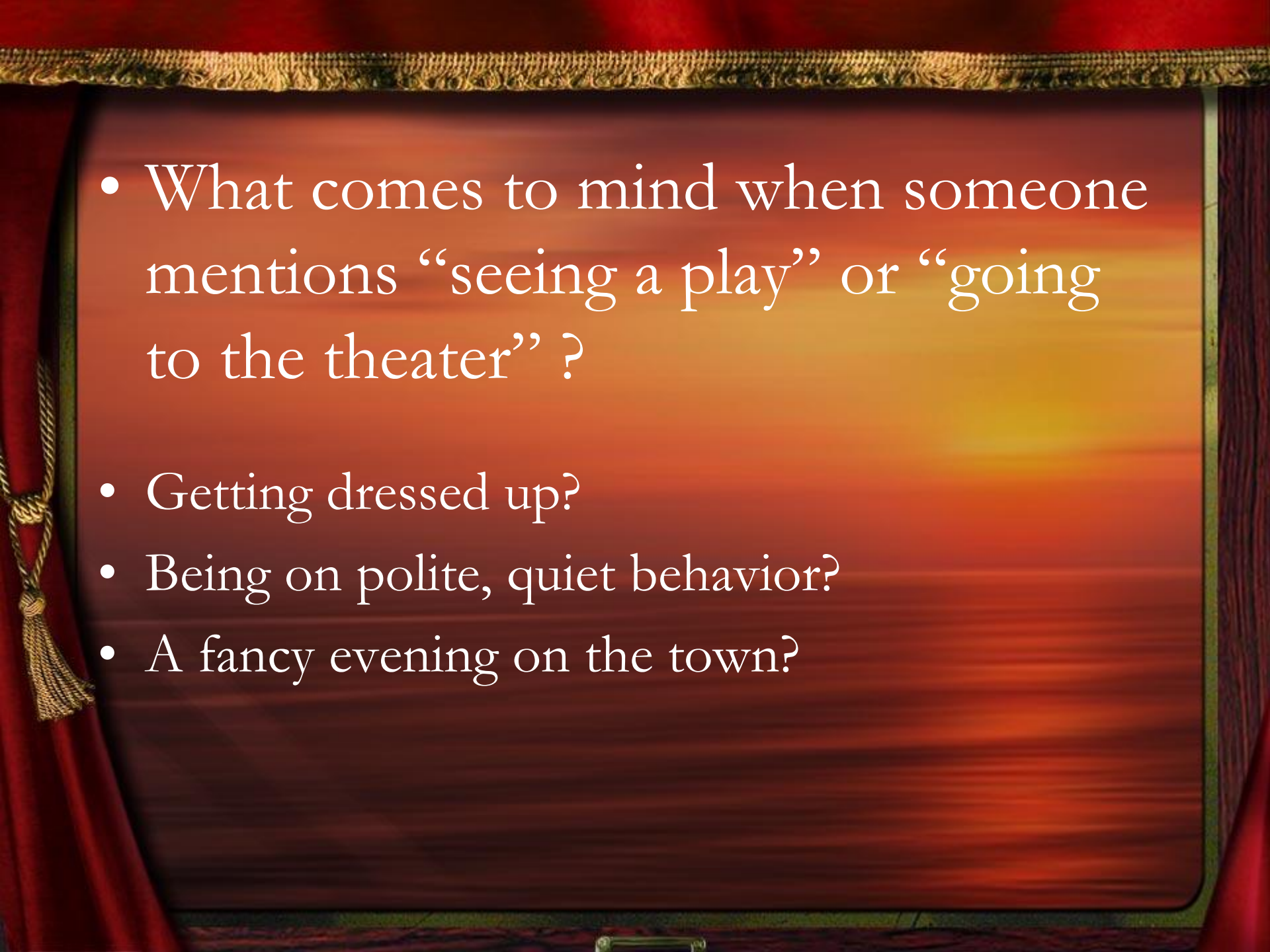
Elizabethan Theater

and

William Shakespeare

This worksheet is NOT word for word.

- You will have to LISTEN and put in the correct answers!

- 
- What comes to mind when someone mentions “seeing a play” or “going to the theater” ?
 - Getting dressed up?
 - Being on polite, quiet behavior?
 - A fancy evening on the town?

Well, if you had lived in Elizabethan
England, you might think of...

- Dangerous, dirty, and rude audience members

(criminals, servants, prostitutes, and gamblers, oh my!)

- Yelling and throwing food at the actors
- Violence and fighting (on AND off the stage)
- Dirty jokes
- The best entertainment around!
- Slapstick humor

Elizabethan England

- “The Golden Age” of economic prosperity and peace within the country
- Frequent plagues
 - Playhouses → closed
- Religious tension: Protestants vs. Catholics
- Differences between classes



Elizabethan Theater

- Plays were considered so scandalous and immoral that theaters were not allowed in the city of London; they all had to be built across the Thames River in Southwark
- Plays were performed in the afternoon, because there was no stage lighting
- It was against the law for women to act in plays, so female roles were played by adolescent boys*



**A North European tradition; this was not the case in Spain, France, or Italy.*

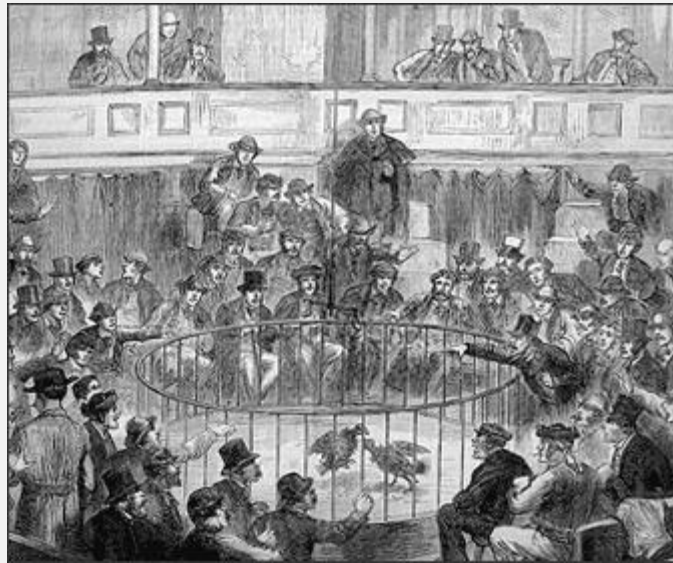
Theater Patrons

- Most theaters held several thousand people, most of whom had to stand on the ground in front of the stage. These people were called “groundlings.”
- Wealthier audience members could pay more money to sit on benches or chairs
- Women could attend the theater, but many upper-class women wore masks to conceal their identities



COMPETITION FOR AUDIENCES

Theatres had to compete for audiences against other London entertainment. These included cock-fighting and bear-baiting which were enjoyed by both the poor and the wealthy.



According to one estimate, at least 70% of men were illiterate and 90% of women couldn't even sign their names.

DID YOU KNOW?

Today, the place where you buy your theatre tickets is called the Box Office.

In Shakespeare's day, as people came into the theatre or climbed the steps to their seats, audiences had to put their money in a box. So the place where audiences pay became known as the box office.

Shakespearean Theater “The Globe”

Romeo,
Romeo... Where
for art thou
Romeo?



The Globe Theater

1598:



Elizabethan Theatre Fun Facts

◆ The Globe

- ◆ Constructed in 1598 out of an old, “moved” theatre
- ◆ Next to the Thames River
- ◆ Southwark (bad reputation) outside of London



- Different levels of seating
- Almost no scenery, props, curtain, act divisions, costumes, etc.
 - Audience would have to imagine the setting and characterization

More About The Globe

- ◆ Burned down in 1613 during a performance
 - ✦ Cannon used in a scene → straw roof caught fire

Globe Theatre Fact 12

According to one of the few surviving documents of the event, no one was hurt when The Globe Theatre burned down – except for a man whose burning trousers were put out with a bottle of beer!

- ◆ Rebuilt 1614 (tile roof)
- ◆ Demolished in 1644 (Puritans)
 - ✦ Going to the theatre=SINFUL!

The Globe Theater



- ◆ Modern version opened 1997
- ◆ 200 yards from original site
- ◆ 1st thatched roof since 1666

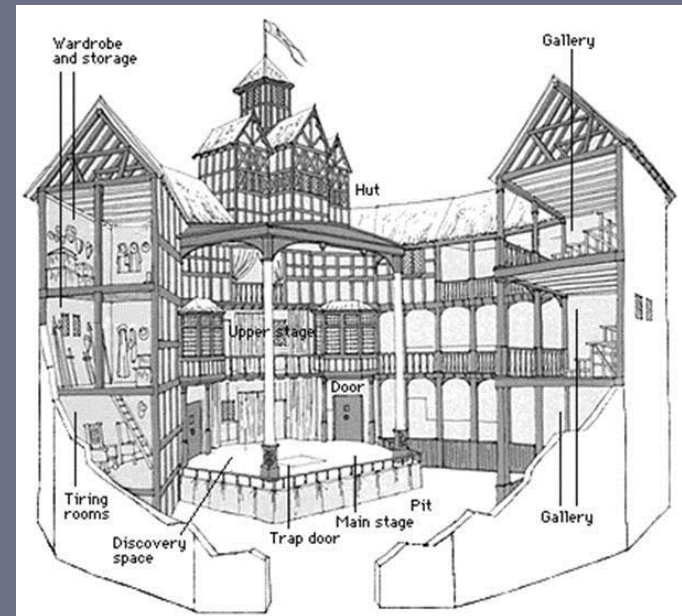


The stage of the globe → afterlife



The stage ceiling was called the "heavens" and was decorated with astrological and celestial designs.

The area below the stage was called the "cellarage," from which "ghosts" appeared from trap doors.



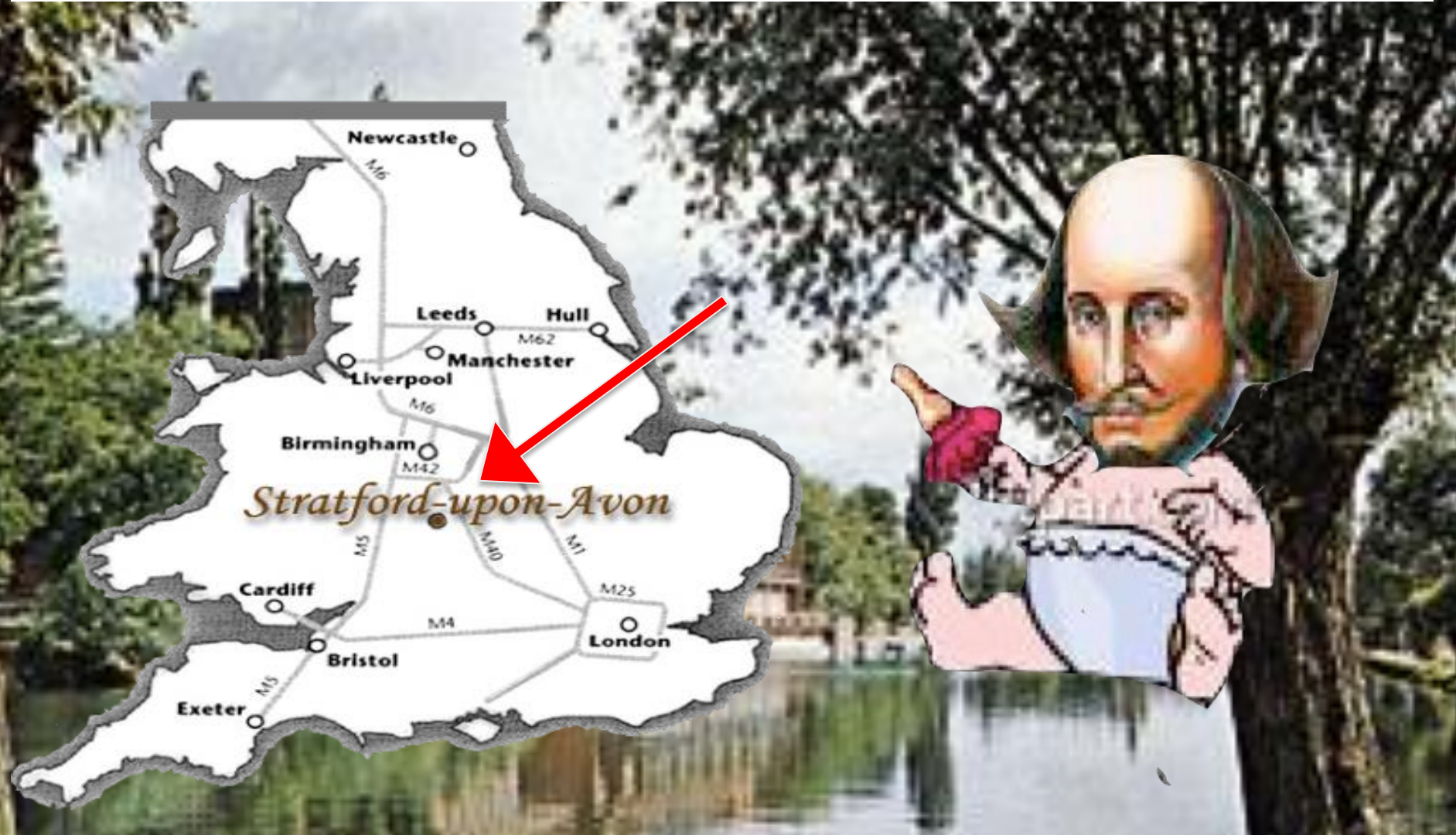




The life of The Bard himself (Shakespeare):



April 23, 1564: William Shakespeare was born in England in Stratford-upon-Avon to John and Mary Shakespeare. There is a baptismal registration for Shakespeare, but few other written records exist. He was the 3rd of 8 children.





Shakespeare's upbringing

- ◆ Born into a relatively respectable family
- ◆ Father was a bailiff (nearly the town mayor)
- ◆ Shakespeare was relatively well-educated.
 - ◆ He went to school until he was 15, but not university



1582: According to church records, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway.

At the time of their marriage, William was eighteen and Anne was twenty-six.

When did Shakespeare marry?

In late 1582, we don't know the exact date, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway – a local farmer's daughter. William was only 18 years old. Most men at this time married in their mid- to late-20s. So why did William marry so young? The answer came six months later, when William's daughter, Susanna, was baptised.



Much of Shakespeare's younger years remain a mystery, but there are rumors about what jobs he may have worked.

Schoolmaster



Lawyer



Lawyer

Butcher Apprentice



William and Anne have three children together (Susanna, Hamnet, and Judith).

Shakespeare left his family in 1591 to pursue writing in London.

August 1596: young Hamnet died at the age of eleven. The cause of his death is unknown.



Susanna



Judith

Hamnet

In 1592, Shakespeare began developing a reputation as an actor and playwright.

As theatres were beginning to grow in popularity, it is probable that Shakespeare began earning a living writing plays (adapting old ones and working with others on new ones).

He was an actor, playwright, investor, and theatre owner.



1594: William became involved with a company of actors named “The Lord Chamberlain’s Men.” This group later (1603) changed their name to “The King’s Men”.



In 1598, Shakespeare, in collaboration with other actors, designed and built *The Globe*.

This circular theatre was the first of its kind, breaking away from the traditional rectangular theatres.



Shakespeare:

- ◆ Wrote his first play when he was 25.
- ◆ He wrote plays for Queen Elizabeth and King James
- ◆ “Shakespeare was a wonderful teller of stories so long as someone else had told them first.” –George Bernard Shaw

1612: Shakespeare moved back to Stratford where he retired both rich and famous.



1616: William Shakespeare dies on his birthday.



At the time of his death, Shakespeare is said to have written around 37 plays and 154 sonnets. He is also known to have contributed over two thousand words to the English language.



Sniffledorfen

Many people wonder if all of these could have been written by only one man.

GOOD FRENDE FOR IESVS SAKE FORBEARE,
TO DIGG THE DVST ENCLOSED HEARE.
BLESTE BE Y MAN Y SPARES THESE STONES,
AND CURST BE HE Y MOVES MY BONES.

“Good frend for Jesus sake forbear
To digg the dust enclosed heare
Bleste be ye man [that] spares thes stones
And curst be he that moves my bones.”

THE GRAVE
OF THE POET
WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE
1564-1616

Which do you prefer?



Or.....



Shakespeare's 5 Part Storytelling Pattern:

Act III: Crisis/Turning Point

A series of complications

Act II: Rising Action

A series of
complications

Act IV: Falling Action

Results of the turning
point; characters locked
into deeper disaster

Act I: Exposition

Establishes setting,
characters, conflict, and
background

Act V:

Climax/Resolution/Denouement

Death of the main characters and then
the loose parts of the plot are tied up

About Romeo and Juliet

- Setting: Verona, Italy during the Renaissance (13th or 14th century)
- Genre: Tragic Drama (with lots of humor thrown in!)



Characters

- Romeo Montague
(about 16 years old)
- Juliet Capulet (13 years old)
- Their feuding families and friends





MONTAGUE vs. CAPULET

- ◆ Romeo
- ◆ Lord Montague (his dad)
- ◆ Lady Montague (his mom)
- ◆ Mercutio (friend)
- ◆ Benvolio (cousin)



- ◆ Juliet
- ◆ Lord Capulet (her father)
- ◆ Lady Capulet (her mother)
- ◆ Tybalt (cousin)
- ◆ Nurse



Major Motifs

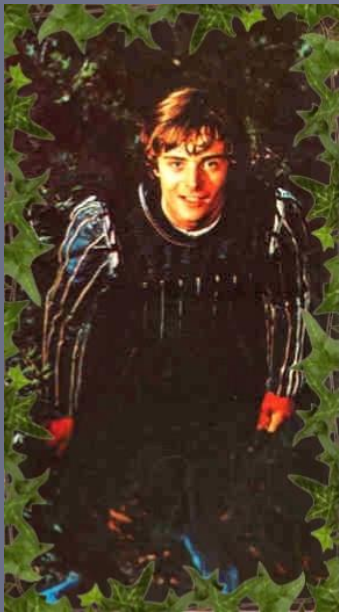
- Paired opposites (ex. love and violence)
- The Inevitability of Fate and/or destiny
- The intensity of adolescent love
- Light and dark imagery
- Violence from passion
- The individual vs. society
- The play has a highly moral tone: disobedience, as well as fate, leads to the deaths of two lovers.



A Pair of Star Crossed Lovers ...

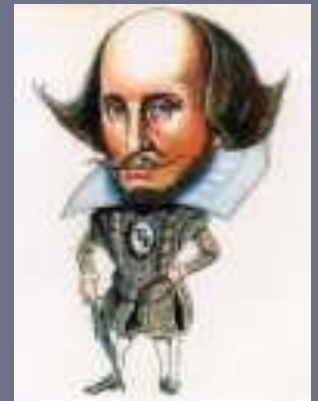
“My only love sprung from my only hate! Too early seen
unknown , and known too late!”

~ Juliet; Act I, Scene V

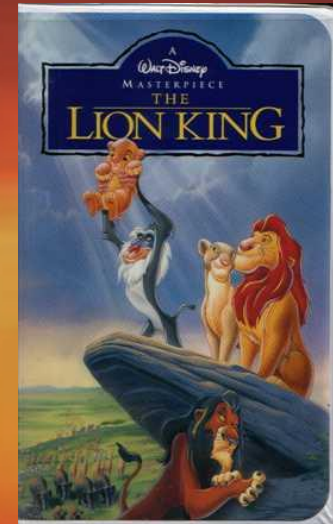
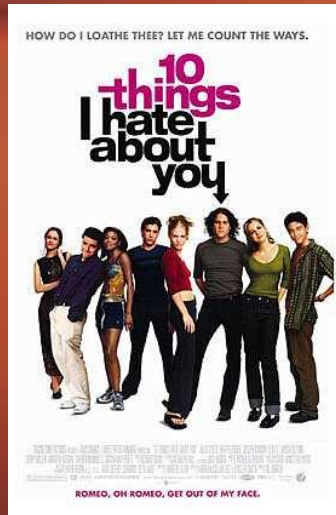


Tips for Understanding Romeo and Juliet

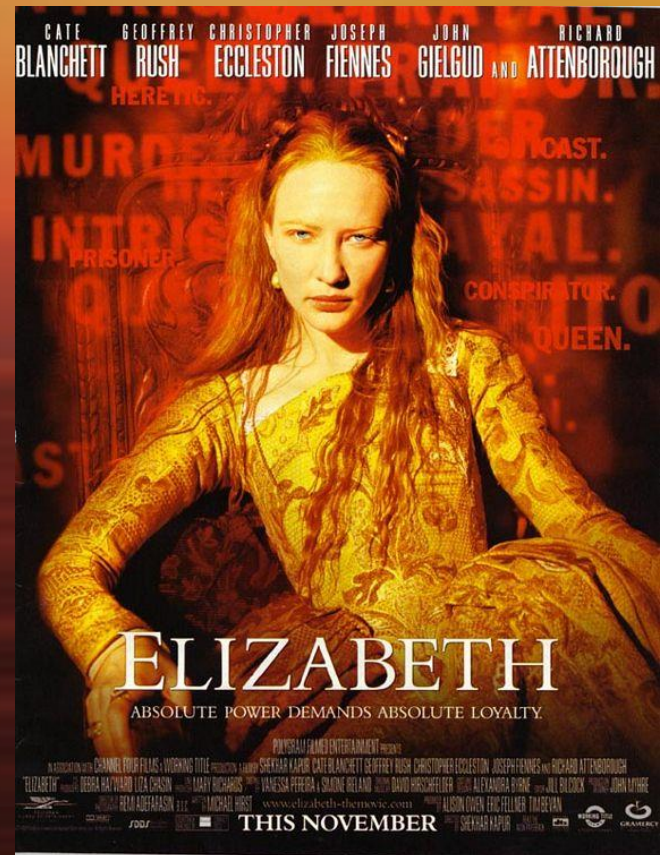
- ✦ The story of “Romeo and Juliet” is NOT original; it was based on a previous work.
- ✦ “Romeo and Juliet” is based on Arthur Brooke’s long narrative poem the “Tragicall Historye of Romeus and Juliet” (1562).
- ✦ Shakespeare’s version is great because:
 - ✦ Skillful characterization
 - ✦ Intense progression of action; it takes place in 5 days.
 - ✦ Emphasis on timeless themes
 - ✦ Extraordinary use of language



Inspired by Shakespeare



Consider watching
WITH PARENT PERMISSION



Open up to page 4.

Take a scrip-scrap of paper.

Choose **THREE** characters you'd want to play.

Pre-Reading Activity:

A/N/D discussion

Rules:

- Move desks into a circle.
- When a comment is read, hold up a card.
- Raise your hand if you want to comment.
- Write down ideas as they're discussed

Expectations:

- Everyone participates.
- Respect everyone's ideas. 😊

Reading “Romeo and Juliet”

- Go to “The Prologue” page (page)

Prologue

- Introduced by the chorus
- Written in a sonnet form
- Not only sets the scene, but also tells the audience EXACTLY what will happen
- “star-crossed lovers” → against destiny

HOMework:

- Due Wednesday, April 2
- Prologue paraphrase worksheets