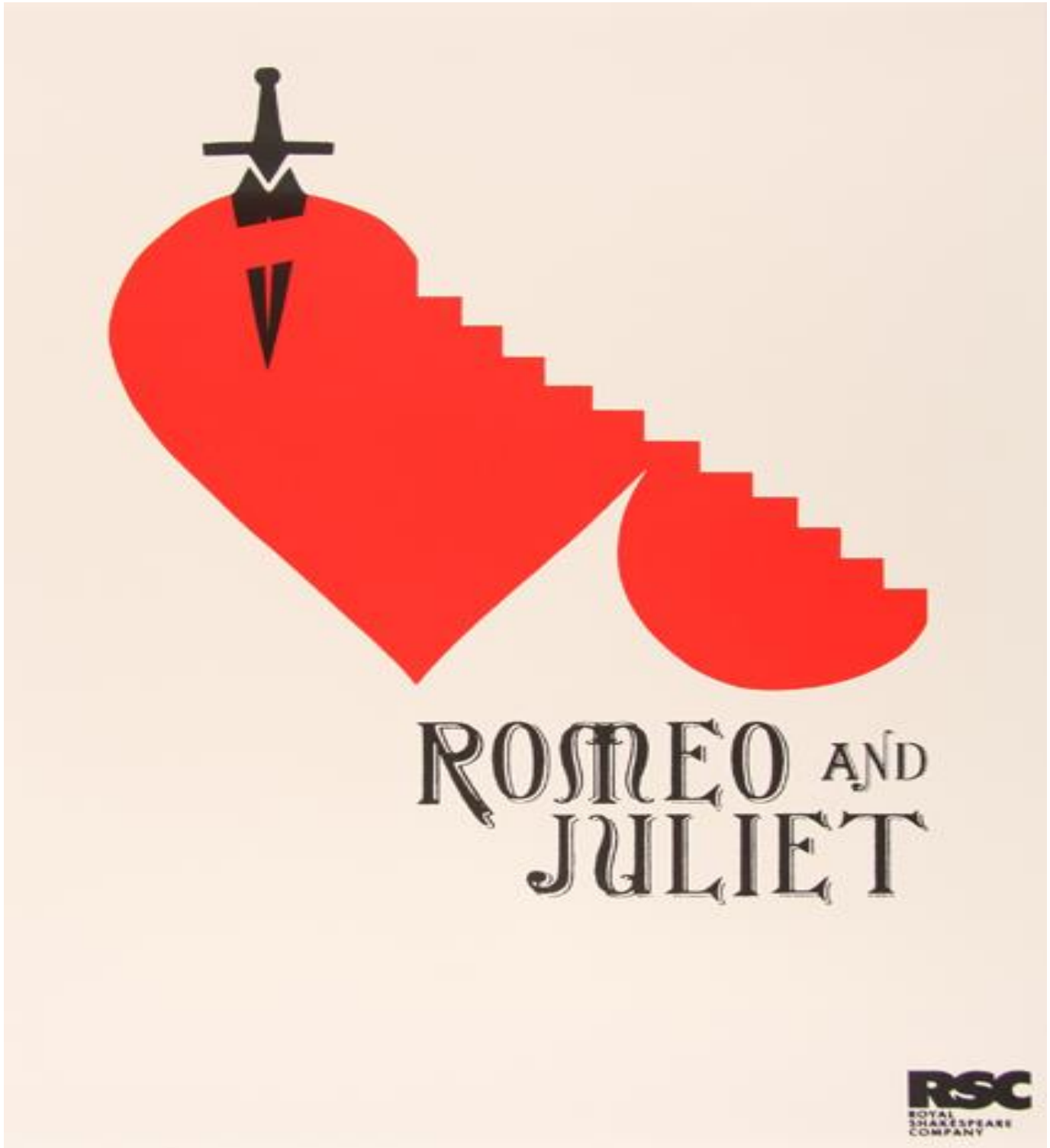


NAME

HOUR



Act 1 Scenes 1- 5

Working with a partner, write a modern translation of this famous prologue.

**PROLOGUE**

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands  
unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd  
love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could  
remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to  
mend.

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A **prologue** ([Greek πρόλογος](#) *prologos*, from the word *pro* (*before*) and *lógos*, *word*) is an opening to a story that establishes the setting and gives background details, often some earlier story that ties into the main one, and other miscellaneous information.

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## ACT 1

### Prologue

1. What is the setting?
2. What is the relationship between the two households?
3. What does Shakespeare mean by “star-crossed lovers”?
4. What happens to the lovers?
5. What is the subject matter of this play?
6. What does the course ask of the audience in the last two lines? Why?
7. Underline examples of poetic language.
8. In the prologue, Shakespeare tells us that our two title characters are going to kill themselves. (You already knew this, right?) His 1600’s audience already know the story of Romeo & Juliet from a famous poem of the time, so this information would not have ruined the experience. In fact, many scholars say that knowing the deaths are coming actually improves the play. How could this be? Explain your thoughts.

### Scene 1

9. Sampson and Gregory begin the action. To which family do they belong?
10. What does “bite my thumb” mean?
11. How many times had the city erupted in brawls?
12. Capulet says, “Give me any sword,” and his wife answers, “A crutch you mean,” what can we infer about their relationship based on this quote.

13. What does the Prince threaten to anyone who starts a fight?
14. Who does Benvolio see in the woods? Why doesn't he speak to him?
15. What does Lord Montague tell Benvolio about Romeo's behavior?
16. Why is Romeo depressed?
17. What is Romeo trying to explain with his list of contradictions in lines 189-194?
18. What is Benvolio's advice to Romeo? How does Romeo react to that advice?

## Scene 2

19. What does Paris want?
20. What does Capulet have to say about that?
21. According to line 12, does Paris agree with Capulet's decision?
22. What does Lord Capulet want Paris to do for Juliet?
23. According to lines 51-53, to what does Benvolio compare love?

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24. How does Romeo describe being in love?

25. Where does Benvolio suggest that he and Romeo go? Why does Romeo agree to go?

### **Scene 3**

26. Describe the Nurse's character in terms of her a) personality, b) attitude towards love, and c) relationship with Juliet.

27. How does Juliet feel about getting married?

28. Do you think it would be a compliment to be called, "A man of wax?"

### **Scene 4**

29. Describe your impression of Mercutio's character.

30. Describe Romeo's mood.

31. Romeo is complaining about his sadness due to his woman troubles. Mercutio says, "If love is rough with you, be rough with love. Cut the thorn that cuts you, and beat love down." Explain what he is saying.
32. Romeo says that, "something bad is hanging in the stars." a) What does that mean, and what does he see hanging in the stars?
33. Do you believe in fate, that everything's planned out? Or do you believe we have control over our lives? Explain.

## Scene 5

34. Describe your impression of Tybalt's character.
35. What does Lord Capulet's acceptance of Romeo's presence tell you about him? Give an example to support your answer.
36. What significance is there of their first dialogue being a sonnet?
37. Romeo finds out that Juliet, his new crush is a Capulet. Then Juliet, finds out that Romeo is a Montague, describe both of their reactions.