

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet: The Prologue = foreword (words before the play)

CHORUS: Two ^{families} households, both alike in ^{social status} dignity, — Two wealthy families

In fair ^{setting: city in Italy} Verona where we lay our scene, B — in Verona

From ^{longstanding feud} ancient grudge break to new ^{violence, fighting} mutiny, A — begin fighting anew in a longstanding feud

Where ^{within the city} civil blood makes civil hands unclean. B — citizens of Verona join the battle

From forth the ^{reproductive organs} fatal loins of these two ^{enemies} foes, B — THE CHILDREN OF THESE ENEMIES

A pair of ^{"not meant to be"} star-crossed lovers ^{kill themselves} take their life; D — fall in love + kill themselves

^{THE LOVERS} Whose ^{misguided} misadventured ^{? sad} piteous ^{? attempts} overthrows C — their suicides

^{do, does} Doth with their death ^{get rid of} bury their parents' ^{? anger, hatred} strife. D — end the feud

The fearful passage of their death-marked love, E — The story of how they tried to be together despite the feud

And the continuance of their parents' rage, F

Which, ^{except for} but their children's end, ^{death} naught ^{nothing} could remove, E — which only the death of their children could end

Is now the two-hours ^{? actors, not cars} traffic of our stage; F — is what this play is about.

^{"two hours traffic"} The which if you with ^{shh! Listen up!} patient ears attend, G — If you listen carefully

What here shall miss, our ^{work} toil shall strive to mend. G — We'll work hard to act out the story so you will understand it all.

14 lines
rhyme scheme: ABAB CDCDEFEFGG ← THAT'S A SONNET!
10 syllables in each line