

Romeo and Juliet: Scene by Scene Summaries

Act I

- Scene 1: Capulets and Montagues fight in the streets; Romeo mopes over Rosaline.
- Scene 2: Capulet tells Paris Juliet is too young to marry and prepares for a party; Romeo learns Rosaline will be at the party.
- Scene 3: Lady Capulet tells Juliet to take a good look at Paris and consider marrying him; the nurse tells a ridiculously long story about Juliet when she was a little kid.
- Scene 4: Mercutio shows off his verbal skills, teasing Romeo about Queen Mab.
- Scene 5: Romeo and Juliet meet at the party and fall in love; Tybalt is offended by Romeo's presence at the Capulet party; Romeo and Juliet discover they are from rival families.

Act II

- Scene 1: Romeo ditches his friends after the party, goes into Capulet's orchard.
- Scene 2: The Balcony Scene – Romeo and Juliet profess their love for each other.
- Scene 3: Romeo asks Friar Laurence to help him get married to Juliet.
- Scene 4: Romeo meets up with Mercutio and Benvolio on the street, and they are glad to see that Romeo is back to his old joking self...but he doesn't tell them about Juliet; the nurse, acting as Juliet's messenger, comes to Romeo to find out his intentions.
- Scene 5: Juliet anxiously awaits the nurse's return; the nurse teases Juliet about her impatience, but then gives her the good news about her wedding to Romeo.
- Scene 6: Friar Laurence marries Romeo to Juliet in a secret ceremony.

Act III

- Scene 1: Mercutio, defending Romeo's honor, is killed by Tybalt; Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge and is banished by the Prince.
- Scene 2: Juliet, who was anxiously awaiting Romeo's arrival, learns from the nurse that he killed Tybalt and was banished from Verona.
- Scene 3: Romeo, who is hiding at Friar Laurence's cell, learns his fate and threatens to kill himself; Friar and the Nurse try to talk sense to him, and Friar tells him to go comfort Juliet and then get out of town.
- Scene 4: Capulet decides he will force Juliet to marry Paris...to help her get over her grief about Tybalt (!)...in two days.
- Scene 5: Romeo and Juliet say goodbye (at the balcony); Lady Capulet tells Juliet she gets to marry Paris; Juliet says no; Capulet goes nuts and threatens to disown her.

Act IV

- Scene 1: Juliet goes to the Friar for help; he devises the plan with the sleeping potion.
- Scene 2: Juliet goes home and "apologizes" to her father; he is delighted.
- Scene 3: Juliet takes the potion
- Scene 4: Capulet is preparing for a wedding feast...silly fool.
- Scene 5: They discover Juliet is "dead" and prepare for a funeral instead of a wedding.

Act V

- Scene 1: Romeo hears that Juliet has died and immediately plans to go back and kill himself at her side; he purchases poison from the apothecary.
- Scene 2: Friar John, who was quarantined due to sickness in the town, returns the Friar's letter to Romeo (which is why Romeo didn't know that Juliet wasn't really dead).
- Scene 3: The Grand Finale – Romeo kills Paris outside the Capulet tomb; he goes inside, says his final words to Juliet, and drinks the poison; Friar Laurence arrives to get Juliet when she awakes and discovers what Romeo has done; Juliet wakes up; Friar hears the police coming, but Juliet will not leave; she stabs herself with Romeo's dagger. The star-crossed lovers are dead. The townspeople and the Capulet and Montague families learn what has happened, and the family feud finally comes to a sad end.

Things that haven't changed since this play was written:

Teenagers often fail to see the "big picture" because everything in their lives seems so immediate and intense.

Teenagers blow things out of proportion.

Teenagers enjoy things more than adults do (because everything is so immediate and intense).

Teenagers are impatient.

Teenagers can be very productive (because they are impatient).

Teenagers are moody.

Teenagers often understand feelings better than adults do (because they are moody, and they experience those feelings more often).

Teenagers rush into things without thinking them through.

Young love is often based on looks more than anything else.

Teenagers enjoy creating disturbance and conflict, which can be fun...or dangerous.

Conflict between parents and teenagers is inevitable.