

Character		Plot through the acts.	
Romeo Montague	Intense, intelligent, quick witted, and loved by his friends.	Act 1	In Italy two noble families, the Montagues and the Capulets, have much bad blood between them. Romeo, son of Montague, is in love with Rosaline, who disdains his love. As a result, Romeo is depressed. To cure him of his love, his friend Benvolio introduces him to attend a masked ball at the Capulets, where he could encounter other beauties and forget Rosaline. At the ball, Romeo is attracted by a girl who he learns is Juliet, daughter of the Capulet. They seal their love with a kiss.
Juliet Capulet	Naive and sheltered at the beginning, develops into a woman with strength. Grounded	Act 2	Romeo lingers in Capulet's garden, standing in the orchard beneath Juliet's balcony. He sees Juliet leaning over the railing, hears her calling out his name, and wishes that he was not a Montague. He reveals his presence, and they resolve, after an ardent love scene, to be married secretly.
Mercutio	Romeo's close friend. Wild, playful and sarcastic.	Act 3	Tybalt encounters Romeo returning from Friar Laurence's cell. Romeo, softened by his newfound love and his marriage to Juliet, refuses to be drawn into a quarrel with Tybalt, now his kinsman by marriage. Mercutio grapples with Tybalt and is killed. Aroused to fury by the death of his friend, Romeo fights with Tybalt and kills him and takes shelter in Friar's cell.
Tybalt	Juliet's cousin. A hothead consumed by issues of family honour. Hates the Montagues. Name translates as the prince of cats.	Act 4	In despair, Juliet seeks Friar Laurence's advice. He gives her a sleeping potion, which for a time will cause her to appear dead. Thus, on the day of her supposed marriage to Paris, she will be carried to the family vault. By the time she awakens, Romeo will be summoned to the vault and take her away to Mantua.
Benvolio	Romeo's cousin. Less quick witted than Romeo and Mercutio, tries to keep the peace.	Act 5	The Fair's letter fails to reach Romeo. When he hears of Juliet's death Romeo procures a deadly poison from an apothecary and secretly returns to Verona to say his last farewell to his deceased wife and die by her side. At Juliet's side, Romeo drinks the poison and dies. When Juliet awakens from her deep sleep, she realises Romeo's error and kills herself with his dagger. The Capulets and Montagues decide to reconcile as a result of the deaths of their children.
Friar Laurence	A Franciscan monk and a friend to both Romeo and Juliet.	<b>Structural Features</b>	
Nurse	Juliet's best friend and confidante, and in many ways is more her mother than Lady Capulet.	Sonnet	A fourteen line poem, written in iambic pentameter with rhyming pattern abab, cddc, efef.
Prince Escalus	Leader of Verona, concerned with keeping order between the warring families.	Iambic Pentameter	A line with ten beats, consisting of unstressed and stressed syllables.
<b>Themes</b>		Couplet	A pair of successive lines in a verse, especially a pair that rhymes

Fate Vs Free Will	The belief that fate determines our lives echoes throughout the play. This belief is firstly presented in the prologue by the 'star crossed lovers' and Romeo fears that unhappy things are in store for him if he goes to the Capulet's feast.	Volta	A turn of thought in an argument before the final couplet
Love Vs Hate	'Here's much to do with hate, but more with love'. The love of Romeo and Juliet is threatened by a society full of hate. The hateful honour code that governs the feuding families will destroy Romeo and Juliet, Mercutio, Tybalt and Paris. Love in Verona's masculine society is about domination	Prose	A form of written language without metrical structure. Usually spoken by comics and low status characters.
		Blank Verse	Unrhymed verse, especially Unrhymed iambic pentameter.
		Protasis	The first part of an ancient drama, in which the characters are introduced and the subject is proposed.

Literary devices		Key Vocabulary	
Antithesis	A person or thing that is the direct opposite.	Sanctimonious	Making a show of being morally superior.
Oxymoron	Bringing together two contradictory terms.	Idolatry	Excessive or blind devotion
Puns	A play on words based on the similarity of sound between two words with different meanings.	Unrequited	Not returned or reciprocated.
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.	Interplay	Reciprocal relationship, action, or influence
Imagery	Representation in words of a vivid sensory experience.	Slander	Words falsely spoken that damage the reputation of another.
Dramatic Irony	The full significance of a character's word or actions is clear to the audience but not the speaker.	Caustic	Severely critical or sarcastic:corrosive, capable of burning.
Juxtaposition	The fact of two things being seen or placed close together with contrasting effect.	Courteous	Having or showing good manners
Soliloquy	A speech an actor gives as though talking too him or herself	Reprehensible	Deserving or reproof, rebuke
Euphemism	A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing	Exile	The act of expelling a person from their native land.
Paradox	A statement that might seem to contradict itself but it is nevertheless true.	Abhor	To regard with extreme repugnance or aversion; detest utterly; loathe.