

Year 10 – *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Plot	Literary Techniques	QR Codes
Act 1 Set in Verona, Italy. There is a brawl between the Capulet and Montague families who hate each other. Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet meet at a masked party and fall in love. Juliet’s cousin, Tybalt, is angry that Romeo has come. Act 2 Romeo and Juliet confess their love in the balcony scene. Romeo persuades Friar Laurence to marry them in secret. The only other character to attend the wedding is Juliet’s Nurse. Act 3 Tybalt and his friends taunt the Montagues in the street. Mercutio defends Romeo when he refuses to fight Tybalt. Tybalt kills Mercutio accidentally. Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge and is sentenced to banishment in Mantua but spends the night with Juliet first. The next day Juliet’s father forces her the marry Paris within a week. Act 4 Juliet tells Friar Lawrence she will kill herself instead. He gives her a sleeping potion so everyone will believe she is dead. 48 hours later she will wake and she and Romeo will be together. Act 5 Romeo doesn’t know about the plan and thinks that Juliet is dead. He sees her body in the tomb and commits suicide by drinking poison. Juliet wakes and stabs herself. The families are reconciled over their children’s deaths.	Tragedy – this is the genre of the play. A tragic hero loses his life because of his fatal flaw. Irony – when someone deliberately says something when they mean something else. Dramatic irony – when the audience is aware of something that the characters are not. Sonnet – a 14-line poem about love. Romeo & Juliet’s first conversation is a sonnet. Foil characters – characters who contrast strongly with one another like Tybalt and Benvolio. Blank verse – unrhymed iambic pentameter Hyperbole - exaggeration Foreshadowing – a warning of something that will happen in the future. Hamartia – the hero’s tragic flaw or weakness. Romeo’s tragic flaw is his impulsiveness. Metaphor - where an object is said to be something that isn’t literally true. Rhyme / rhythm – the pattern of stresses or beats in a line. Rhyming couplet – a pair of lines that rhyme. Pun – a word joke. Simile – when two things are directly compared using ‘like’ or ‘as’. Soliloquy – when a character speaks directly to the audience, voicing their thoughts & feelings. Sexual innuendo – where a sexual meaning is implied rather than explicitly stated. Double entendre – a play on the double meaning of a word, often to create a sexual innuendo. Personification – where something non-human is given human characteristics. Oxymoron – when contradictory terms are brought together, e.g. ‘bright smoke’. Juxtaposition – when two ideas or events are placed side by side for dramatic effect.	Punctuation Guide  The Play’s Contexts  Mr Bruff’s Top Set Analysis of the Play 
Characters	Themes	
Romeo Montague The main character. Loves and marries Juliet. Kills Tybalt. Thinks he is a victim of Fortune. Juliet Capulet Loves and marries Romeo. Distant from her mother but has a close relationship with The Nurse. Is willing to defy her parents for love. Tybalt Capulet Juliet’s cousin. Loves violence and wants to keep the feud with the Capulets alive. Killed by Romeo. Nickname is Prince of Cats. Mercutio Romeo’s best friend. A joker and witty character. Dies defending Romeo’s honour. His death sends the play into tragic mode. Friar Lawrence Plays the role of a father and confidante to Romeo. Agrees to marry them in the hope of ending the feud and reconciling the families. The Nurse Plays the role of a confidante to Juliet. She knows Juliet’s secrets and is heartbroken by her death. Prince Escalus Ruler of Verona. Passes a death sentence for the next person to fight in the town but changes it to banishment as Romeo killed Tybalt in revenge for Mercutio’s murder. Benvolio Romeo’s cousin. A peace-keeper who tries to stop Mercutio from fighting. A foil to Tybalt. Lord and Lady Montague Romeo’s parents. Lady Montague dies of grief when Romeo is banished. Lord Montague, with the Capulets, decides to erect a gold statue of the couple. Lord and Lady Capulet Lord Capulet tries to force Juliet to marry Paris and is furious when she disobeys. Lady Capulet supports her husband’s views although she calls him ‘too hot’.	Conflict/ violence Physical conflict such as the street fighting and the deaths of Mercutio and Tybalt. Conflict can also be viewed with the inner conflict of Romeo with his thoughts of love at the start; the emotional conflict of the lovers, torn between their love and their loyalty to their families. Family Importance of family name. Seen with Tybalt and his desire to maintain the family honour. Capulet’s hurry to marry Juliet to Paris after Tybalt’s death to secure the family lineage. Parents/ children relationships Parental love can be seen at the start where Lord Montague is concerned about Romeo’s isolation, in Lord Capulet’s attitude to Paris’ marriage proposal in Act 1, and how it is contrasted in Act 3 with threatening to disown Juliet. The Nurse and Friar Lawrence adopting roles as confidantes to Romeo and Juliet. Fate From the servant who cannot read the names on the invitation list for the Capulet party, to the late delivery of Friar Lawrence’s letter to Romeo. Romeo and Juliet both belittle the role of fate but many of the events are a direct result of Romeo’s impulsive nature. Love Various types of love are explored in the play. Courtly love - Romeo’s idealistic and unrequited love for Rosaline. Passionate love - the love of Romeo and Juliet which overcomes boundaries, restrictions and family feuds. Physical love/Lust: Romeo and Juliet’s consummation of their marriage; the bawdy jokes at the opening of the play; The Nurse’s comments about sex. Family love: there is a distant relationship between Juliet and her mother compared with her close bond with the Nurse. Similar relationship with Romeo and Friar Lawrence.	