

## Romeo and Juliet Summary

Romeo and Juliet is a tragic play set in Verona, Italy. It tells the story of two young lovers from feuding families, the Montagues and the Capulets.

**Act I:** The play begins with a street brawl between Montagues and Capulets. Prince Escalus of Verona intervenes and declares that further breach of the peace will be punished by death. Romeo, the son of Lord Montague, feels depressed over his unrequited love for Rosaline. His friend, Benvolio, persuades him to attend a masked ball at the Capulet's house to forget her. At the ball, Romeo meets and falls in love with Juliet, the daughter of Lord Capulet.

**Act II:** Later that night, Romeo sneaks into the Capulet's garden and overhears Juliet confessing her love for him. They exchange vows of love. With the help of Friar Lawrence, they decide to marry secretly the next day.

**Act III:** Tybalt, a Capulet, challenges Romeo to a duel. However, Romeo, now secretly related to Tybalt by marriage, refuses to fight. Mercutio, Romeo's close friend, accepts the challenge instead but gets fatally wounded. In a fit of rage, Romeo avenges Mercutio's death by killing Tybalt. For this act, Prince Escalus exiles Romeo from Verona.

**Act IV:** Juliet is devastated by Romeo's exile and her upcoming arranged marriage to Paris. She seeks Friar Lawrence's help, who gives her a potion to fake her death. The plan is for Romeo to return to Verona, wake her from her sleep, and they can live together in exile.

**Act V:** However, Romeo does not receive word of the plan. Instead, he learns of Juliet's "death" and returns to Verona. He goes to Juliet's tomb, encounters Paris there, and kills him in a duel. Believing Juliet to be truly dead, Romeo drinks poison and dies beside her. Juliet wakes up, finds Romeo dead, and stabs herself. The play ends with the Montagues and Capulets reconciled by their children's tragic deaths, but it is too late for Romeo and Juliet.

