

William Shakespeare's

Romeo & Juliet

Level 2



Verona and fighting



In Verona, fights would start over silly things.

Preview:

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Verona is a city in

- ☐ a. Spain.
- ☐ b. Italy.
- ☐ c. Germany.
- ☐ d. Ireland.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out how hard it is to keep the peace in Verona.

The Magic of a Night

Capulet stands in the great room to meet his friends. He smiles, he laughs, as the music begins. "Come my friends, use the music and dance!"

They come and dance. But not Romeo; he stands and watches. Soon he is watching the most beautiful lady he has ever seen. All thoughts of other women are gone.

The lady is dancing. When the dance ends, Romeo will go to where she stands. He will touch her hand for the next dance.

Tybalt watches Romeo. Romeo wears a mask, but Tybalt hears him talk and knows he is Romeo. He sees, too, who Romeo watches and he is angry. A Montague in the house looking at her! He sends a boy to bring his sword.

Capulet is watching. "Tybalt, let Romeo be. All Verona knows him as a good young man. Tonight he is a friend. Get hold of yourself or leave."

Tybalt is still angry, but he leaves.

The beautiful lady returns to her place. She is Juliet, and Romeo is waiting for her. He touches her hand. They dance. They feel close. Soon, they talk of love. They cannot help it. The dance ends.

Romeo wants to find out who this beautiful girl is. He finds Nurse, one of Juliet's servants. He asks Nurse who Juliet's father is. When he hears, he can't believe it! Juliet is the daughter of his father's enemy! What will he do?

The party comes to an end. Juliet stands with Nurse. She wants the name of that man in the mask. Nurse will find out. In a little while, Nurse returns. She

tells Juliet he is Romeo, the only son of Montague, her father's enemy. Juliet cannot believe it! What will she do?

* * *

Outside, Romeo cannot leave. Juliet is so near. Benvolio and Mercutio come looking for him. "Romeo, my cousin Romeo, Romeo," Benvolio calls. But Romeo does not answer.

"He came this way. He climbed the garden wall. Call him, Mercutio," Benvolio cries.

Mercutio calls. Still, Romeo does not answer. Tonight, he will not be found. They leave.

Romeo waits in the garden under Juliet's window. "What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east and Juliet is the sun," he whispers.

Juliet comes to the window. She does not know Romeo is there. She begins to talk out loud to herself. "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?"

She is asking why the one man she ever loved is Romeo, a Montague. She thinks a little then says, "Give up your name. Or if you will not, say you love me—and I will give up my name, Capulet."

Then Juliet thinks a little more about it. She says, after all, "Tis but your name that is my enemy. You are yourself though, and not a Montague. O be some other name! What is in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Romeo speaks out. "I take you at your word. Call me love and it will be my new name. After, never will I be Romeo."

Juliet is surprised that her

words were heard by someone. "What man hides in the dark and hears my thoughts?" Juliet asks.

"I know not how to tell you who I am. My name, dear lady, is hateful to myself because it is an enemy to you," Romeo says.

"I have not heard you say a hundred words, yet I know the sound. Are you not Romeo, a Montague?" Juliet asks.

But just then, Nurse calls. Romeo must leave. If he is found in Juliet's garden, he could be killed.

"If you truly love me," says Juliet, "have word for me tomorrow that we will marry. I will send to you. What o'clock?" Juliet asks.

"Nine," says Romeo.

"Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow that I shall say good night till it be tomorrow," Juliet sighs.

A Day of Sorrow

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. In the beginning of this chapter, Juliet
 - ☐ a. wonders where Romeo can be.
 - ☐ b. wonders where Nurse can be.
 - ☐ c. dreams of her life in Verona.
 - ☐ d. dreams of heaven.
2. When Nurse first tells Juliet, "*He is dead*," Juliet thinks she means
 - ☐ a. the Prince is dead.
 - ☐ b. her cousin is dead.
 - ☐ c. her husband is dead.
 - ☐ d. her father is dead.
3. At first, Juliet
 - ☐ a. does not understand Nurse's words.
 - ☐ b. thinks Nurse is making up a story.
 - ☐ c. is happy when she hears the news.
 - ☐ d. will not listen to what Nurse has to say.
4. When Juliet understands that Tybalt is dead,
 - ☐ a. she does not show surprise.
 - ☐ b. she hits Nurse in the face.
 - ☐ c. she falls to the floor and cries.
 - ☐ d. she feels better that Tybalt is dead and not Romeo.
5. Juliet didn't want to believe that
 - ☐ a. the Prince put Romeo out of Verona.
 - ☐ b. Romeo's hand took the life of her cousin.
 - ☐ c. her husband was born to shame.
 - ☐ d. heaven waited for Romeo.
6. Juliet believes that being apart from Romeo
 - ☐ a. will be harder than if he were dead.
 - ☐ b. will be the best thing for both of them.
 - ☐ c. will bring peace to the Montagues and Capulets.
 - ☐ d. will make her a strong lady.
7. Nurse
 - ☐ a. wants nothing to do with Juliet.
 - ☐ b. feels bad for Romeo.
 - ☐ c. feels bad for Juliet.
 - ☐ d. wishes Romeo had never been born.
8. Friar Laurence tells Romeo
 - ☐ a. to stop frightening him.
 - ☐ b. to stand up and be a man.
 - ☐ c. to stop hating himself.
 - ☐ d. to give thanks that the Prince lets him live.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - ☐ a. "Happy Days are Here at Last."
 - ☐ b. "Alone Again."
 - ☐ c. "Sad Days Ahead."
 - ☐ d. "Come Gentle Night."
10. This story is mainly about
 - ☐ a. how Romeo and Juliet feel about being apart.
 - ☐ b. why Romeo was born to shame.
 - ☐ c. why Juliet will not speak bad of her husband.
 - ☐ d. why Nurse hates Romeo.

Preview Answer:

b. a few hours.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.