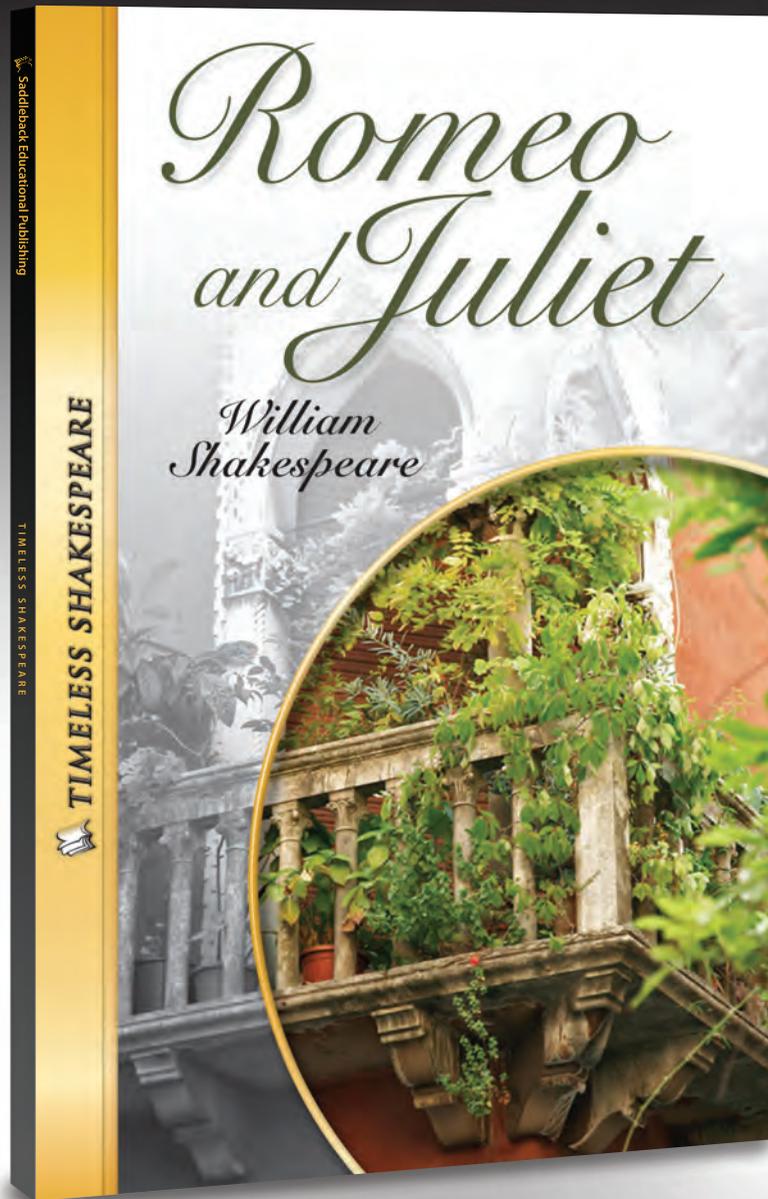




TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

STUDY GUIDE



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TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

NOTES TO THE TEACHER

THE PROGRAM

Timeless Shakespeare were expressly designed to help students with limited reading ability gain access to some of the world's greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic "flavor" of the original, each *Timeless Shakespeare* has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later, more in-depth investigations of the original works, *Timeless Shakespeare* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of reluctant readers: airy, uncomplicated page design, shortened sentences, easy-reading type style, elimination of archaic words and spellings, shortened total book length, and handsome illustrations.

THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and seven "universal" exercises which may be used to follow up the reading of any *Timeless Shakespeare* novel or play.

In addition to the universal exercises, 27 title-specific exercises are included to review, test, and enrich students' comprehension as well as their grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. All reproducible, the worksheets provided

for Shakespeare's plays are designed to be used act-by-act as the student's reading of the play proceeds. Several exercises are provided for each act. One always focuses on key vocabulary. Others include a simple comprehension check and treatment of an important literary concept such as character analysis, point of view, inference, or figurative language. A three-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guide*.

USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure each student has a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times*. Students will need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets. Obviously, the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing, art, or research projects you may wish to assign.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions or role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others as seatwork during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(1564–1616)

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the finest poet and playwright who ever lived. Yet he was the son of illiterate parents and never attended college!

Much of this remarkable man's life is shrouded in mystery. He had been dead almost a hundred years before anyone wrote a short account of his life. But we do know that his mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a prosperous farmer. His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful glovemaking who also traded in wool, hides, and grain. They lived in an English market town called Stratford-on-Avon, where William was born in 1564. Their house still stands.

Until the age of 13 or 14, Shakespeare probably attended the Stratford grammar school where he read the great Latin classics of Cicero, Virgil, and Seneca. Some stories say that he had to leave school early because of his father's financial difficulties. But there is no official record of his life until 1582, when he married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18. By 1585, he and Anne had three children. No one knows for

sure what happened to him during the next seven years, although one account says that he was a schoolmaster. In 1592, however, records reveal that he was working in London as both an actor and a playwright. By that year, he had published two popular poems and written at least three plays.

Records from various sources show that Shakespeare became wealthy. In 1597, he bought one of the grandest houses in Stratford. (It had 10 fireplaces!) The next year he bought 10 percent of the stock in the handsome Globe Theater and a fine house in London. His artistic life was very busy and productive. His theatrical company, known as the King's Men, presented a variety of plays, week after week. It is thought that he rehearsed in the mornings, acted in the afternoons, and wrote at night.

After 1612, he spent most of his time in Stratford with his family. He died there, at the age of 52, on April 23, 1616. The tomb of the great literary genius still stands at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES

In 1564, when Shakespeare was born...

About 100,000 people lived in London; the horsedrawn coach was introduced in England; the great Italian sculptor and painter, Michelangelo, died; an outbreak of plague killed more than 20,000 Londoners.

In 1616, when Shakespeare died...

Sir Walter Raleigh began his search for El Dorado; tobacco was becoming a popular crop in Virginia; Pocahontas died; the Catholic church forbade Galileo from conducting any further scientific investigations.

FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

MONTAGUE FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- Romeo**, a young man of Verona
- Lord Montague**, Romeo's father and the enemy of Lord Capulet
- Lady Montague**, Romeo's mother
- Mercutio**, Romeo's friend
- Benvolio**, Romeo's cousin
- Balthasar**, Romeo's servant
- Abraham**, Lord Montague's servant
- Friar Lawrence**, a Franciscan priest
- Friar John**, a friend of Friar Lawrence

CAPULET FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

- Juliet**, a young girl of Verona
- Lord Capulet**, Juliet's father and the enemy of Lord Montague
- Lady Capulet**, Juliet's mother
- The **Nurse**, Juliet's nanny since infancy
- Sampson** and **Gregory**, servants of Lord Capulet
- Tybalt**, Juliet's cousin
- Paris**, cousin of Prince Escalus
- Prince Escalus**, the ruler of Verona

SUMMARIES BY ACT

ACT 1

The play opens in Verona, a city in northern Italy. Two prominent families, the Capulets and the Montagues, have been involved in a long-standing feud. One day, some servants and members of the two families fight in the street. Prince Escalus, the ruler of Verona, states that any more fighting will be seen as civil disobedience—the penalty for which is death.

The parents of Romeo Montague are worried about him because he has been quite depressed lately. They ask their nephew Benvolio to find out the cause of Romeo's dark moods. Benvolio soon discovers that Romeo has been brooding over Rosaline, a young girl who does not

return his love. His cousin, Benvolio, advises him to stop thinking about Rosaline and consider other young women. Just then, an illiterate servant of the Capulets approaches. He asks for their help in reading a guest list. In this way, Romeo and Benvolio find out that a masked ball will be given that night at the Capulet house. Rosaline is listed as one of the invited guests. Benvolio sees this as a good chance for Romeo to compare Rosaline to other beautiful girls.

Before the party, Lord Capulet talks to Paris about Paris's wish to marry Juliet. Capulet is not willing to allow this because Juliet, his only child, is not yet 14. Yet even so, he invites Paris

to come to the party and speak to Juliet himself. Capulet tells Paris that if Juliet is willing to marry him, Capulet will give his consent.

At the party, Romeo and Juliet meet by chance and fall in love at first sight. Later, they discover that they are members of the rival families.

ACT 2

That night, after the party, Romeo climbs the wall into the Capulet orchard. Juliet comes out on her balcony. Each declares love for the other, and they make plans to marry. The next day, Romeo goes to see Friar Lawrence to make arrangements for the wedding. The friar performs the ceremony, hoping that the marriage will bring peace between the two families.

ACT 3

The same day as the secret marriage, Tybalt, a Capulet who had recognized Romeo at the party, insults Romeo on the street. Romeo's friend Mercutio defends Romeo by fighting Tybalt in a duel. Now related to Tybalt, Romeo tries to stop the fight—but he is unsuccessful. In the duel, Tybalt kills Mercutio. Enraged, Romeo then fights Tybalt, killing him. For this, Prince Escalus banishes Romeo from Verona.

Romeo and Juliet spend one night together before he leaves. They pray for a quick pardon so he can soon return. The grief-stricken Juliet spends much time weeping. Her father, thinking she is grieving for her cousin Tybalt, arranges for her marriage to Paris, in hopes

the marriage will cheer her up. When she objects, her parents become angry, telling her that she must obey them and marry Paris. Even Juliet's nurse agrees with them, saying that Paris is a better match than the banished Romeo.

ACT 4

Juliet visits Friar Lawrence and begs for help. Friar Lawrence explains his plan for Juliet to avoid marrying Paris. He gives her a potion that will make her appear to be dead for 42 hours. She will be put in the family tomb where the friar and Romeo will meet her when she wakes up, so she can leave Verona with Romeo. That night, Juliet drinks the potion and falls into a deep sleep. The next morning, the nurse finds her, and everyone thinks she is dead. The joyful wedding plans are changed into funeral plans.

ACT 5

Romeo's servant brings him word of Juliet's death. The friar's message—that she is not really dead—fails to reach Romeo. Romeo decides to join Juliet in death. He buys some poison before leaving for Verona. At the Capulet tomb, Romeo finds Paris and kills him when he will not leave. Romeo then kisses Juliet, drinks the poison, and dies. The friar arrives just as Juliet is waking up. He tries to get her to leave the tomb, but she won't go. Fearful of being discovered, the friar leaves. Juliet then kills herself with Romeo's dagger. When the families discover the tragic truth, they agree to end their feud.

TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

LITERARY GLOSSARY

aside lines spoken by an actor that the other characters on stage supposedly cannot hear; an aside usually shares the character's inner thoughts with the audience

Although she appeared to be calm, the heroine's aside revealed her inner terror.

backstage the part of the theater where actors prepare to go onstage, where scenery is kept, etc.

Before entering, the villain impatiently waited backstage.

cast the entire company of actors performing in a play

The entire cast must attend tonight's dress rehearsal.

character a fictional person or creature in a story or play

Mighty Mouse is one of my favorite cartoon characters.

climax the outcome of the main conflict of a play or novel

The outlaw's capture made an exciting climax to the story.

comedy a funny play, film, or TV show that has a happy ending

My friends and I always enjoy a Jim Carrey comedy.

conflict the struggle between characters, forces, or ideas at the center of a story

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde illustrates the conflict between good and evil.

conclusion the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing a story to a close

That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.

dialogue words spoken by the characters in a novel or play

Amusing dialogue is an important element of most comedies.

drama a story, usually not a comedy, especially written to be performed by actors in a play or movie

The TV drama about spies was very suspenseful.

event something that happens; a specific occurrence

The most exciting event in the story was the surprise ending.

figurative language colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.

introduction a short reading that presents and explains a novel or play

The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.

motive the internal or external force that makes a character do something

What was that character's motive for telling a lie?

PRE-READING

NAME _____

DATE _____

Read the Prologue at the beginning of *Romeo and Juliet*.

1. What word or words in the Prologue suggest that this play is *not* a comedy?

2. After reading the Prologue, study the book's cover. Which characters do you think are pictured on it?

3. What visual clue or clues suggest that this is *not* a modern story?

4. Have you ever known anyone who was involved in a relationship that was not approved of by his or her parents? What happened to the relationship?

5. Suppose someone in your family was involved in a long-standing feud with someone else. What, if anything, would you try to do about it?

6. The Prologue previews what will happen in the play. Is this helpful, or does it spoil the story for you? Explain your answer.

NAME _____

DATE _____

Circle a letter to answer each question.

1. Which word best describes the relationship between the Montagues and the Capulets?
 - a. friendly
 - b. angry
 - c. respectful
2. Why has Romeo been in such a sad mood lately?
 - a. He's not doing well in school.
 - b. He can't find a job.
 - c. He is lovesick.
3. How does Romeo find out about the party at the Capulets' home?
 - a. He is personally invited by Lord Capulet.
 - b. A Capulet servant asks him to read the guest list.
 - c. His beloved Rosaline invites him to be her date.
4. What does Lady Capulet want Juliet to do at the dinner party?
 - a. Study Paris and think about whether she'd like to marry him.
 - b. Look for strangers, especially Montagues, and tell her father about them.
 - c. Dance with as many young men as possible.
5. What is Romeo's mood as he and his friends approach the Capulets' house?
 - a. He has a feeling of dread.
 - b. He feels joyful.
 - c. He is nervous about seeing Rosaline.
6. Why is Tybalt so upset at the party?
 - a. He doesn't like any of the food.
 - b. No one will dance with him.
 - c. He recognizes Romeo.
7. What is Romeo's first impression of Juliet?
 - a. He thinks she is too shy.
 - b. He falls in love with her immediately.
 - c. He thinks that she is almost as beautiful as Rosaline.

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Find and circle the hidden vocabulary words from Act 1. Words may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ___ VIRTUOUS | ___ RUIN |
| ___ CHARIOT | ___ RAGE |
| ___ DISTURB | ___ BRAIN |
| ___ ARTIFICIAL | ___ FEAST |
| ___ REPUTATION | ___ PATIENT |
| ___ REQUESTED | ___ FROWN |

D	J	C	L	T	O	I	R	A	H	C	E
F	R	O	W	N	P	A	T	I	E	N	T
L	A	I	C	I	F	I	T	R	A	R	F
K	F	B	Q	E	B	D	C	E	D	S	A
D	N	E	N	A	V	E	A	P	Z	T	P
D	W	M	A	F	I	T	R	U	I	X	H
I	F	Z	M	S	R	S	Q	T	Y	S	B
S	Y	L	E	P	T	E	B	A	M	R	V
T	X	G	O	R	U	U	I	T	A	U	K
U	A	G	U	Y	O	Q	W	I	W	Z	Q
R	O	I	O	X	U	E	N	O	R	V	T
B	N	B	H	U	S	R	V	N	J	U	G

B. Now complete each sentence with one or more of the hidden words.

- Someone who is very good is _____, and probably has a good _____.
- If you asked for something, you _____ it.
- A _____ is a fancy carriage, an old-fashioned form of transportation.
- Your _____ controls many of your body's functions.
- A _____ person seldom falls into a _____.
- The rich foods at a _____ can _____ your weight-loss diet.
- Something that is _____ is not natural.
- If you _____ the peace, your neighbors might _____ at you.