

– CAST OF CHARACTERS –

Montague family and friends:

ROMEO MONTAGUE: A young man

LORD MONTAGUE: Romeo's father and the enemy of
Lord Capulet

LADY MONTAGUE: Romeo's mother

MERCUTIO: Romeo's friend and Prince Escalus's cousin

BENVOLIO: A cousin and friend to Romeo

BALTHASAR: Romeo's servant

ABRAHAM: Lord Montague's servant

FRIAR LAWRENCE: A Franciscan priest

FRIAR JOHN: An associate of Friar Lawrence

Capulet family and friends:

JULIET CAPULET: A 13-year-old girl

LORD CAPULET: Juliet's father and the enemy of Lord
Montague

LADY CAPULET: Juliet's mother

NURSE: Juliet's nanny

SAMPSON and **GREGORY:** Servants to Lord Capulet

TYBALT: Juliet's cousin

PARIS: A young man who wants to marry Juliet;
Prince Escalus's cousin

PRINCE ESCALUS: Prince and ruler of Verona

| The Prologue |

*(The **Chorus** enters.)*

CHORUS: Two families in Verona, Italy,
equally respected,
Have been feuding for many years.
A daughter of one family and
A son of the other—
A pair of star-crossed lovers—
Take their own lives.
Their pitiful, needless deaths
Bury their parents' feud.
The sad story of their death-marked love
And how it ended their parents' rage
Is the subject of this play. If you listen well,
Our play will fill in the details.

ACT 1

| Scene 1 |

*(A street in Verona. **Sampson** and **Gregory** enter.
They are armed with swords.)*

SAMPSON: I tell you, Gregory, I won't be
insulted by any of those Montague dogs!

GREGORY: Calm down, Sampson. Remember,
The fight is between our masters—not us.

SAMPSON: It's all the same to me. I would go to the wall against any of them.

GREGORY: Well, you're about to get your chance. Draw your sword. Servants of the Montagues are coming now.

SAMPSON (*drawing his sword*): Pick a fight with them. I'll back you up.

GREGORY: How? Turn your back and run?

SAMPSON: Fear not.

GREGORY: I'm more afraid of what *you* will do than I am of the Montagues.

SAMPSON: Let's keep the law on our side. Let them start it.

GREGORY: I will frown as I pass by. Let them take it as they will.

SAMPSON: Or as they dare! I will thumb my nose at them. They will lose face if they stand for it.

(Abraham and Balthasar enter.)

ABRAHAM: Do you thumb your nose at us, sir?

SAMPSON (*aside to Gregory*): Is the law on our side if I say yes?

GREGORY: It is not.

SAMPSON: Then no, sir, I do not thumb my nose at you. But I do thumb my nose.

GREGORY: Do you want to fight, sir?

ABRAHAM: Fight? No, sir!

SAMPSON: Well, if you do, I am ready. I serve
as good a man as you do.

ABRAHAM: As good, perhaps. But no better.

GREGORY: Say “better.” Here comes Benvolio.
He’ll back us up.

SAMPSON: Yes, say *better*, sir.

ABRAHAM: You lie.

SAMPSON: Draw your swords, if you are men.
Gregory, are you ready?

*(They fight. **Benvolio** enters.)*

BENVOLIO: Stop, fools! Put up your swords.
You don’t know what you’re doing.

*(He beats down their swords. **Tybalt** enters.)*

TYBALT: Benvolio, do you fight with servants?
Turn and get ready to die!

BENVOLIO: I’m just trying to keep the peace.
Put your sword away—
Or use it to help me stop this fight.

TYBALT: What? Your sword’s drawn,
And you talk of peace? I hate the sword,
As I hate hell, all Montagues, and you!
Come on, coward!

*(They fight. Others, from both sides, join in. Then **Lord
and Lady Capulet** enter.)*



CAPULET: What's this? Give me a sword, too!

LADY CAPULET: A crutch is more like it!

Why do you call for a sword?

CAPULET: My sword, I say! Old Montague
Is coming and waving his blade to spite me.

(Lord and Lady Montague enter.)

MONTAGUE: You villain, Capulet!

(to his wife, who is holding him back): Let me go!

LADY MONTAGUE: No! Not one foot to seek a foe!

(Prince Escalus enters, with attendants.)

PRINCE: Rebels, enemies to peace,
Killers of your own neighbors—listen!