

— 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: Romeo's cousin and friend

BALTHASAR: Romeo's servant

ABRAHAM: Lord Montague's servant

FRIAR LAWRENCE: A Franciscan
priest

FRIAR JOHN: Friar Lawrence's friend

— Cast of Characters —

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:** Lord Capulet's servants

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: This play is about two families in Verona, Italy. They have been fighting for years. Two teens fall in love. One is a Capulet. The other is a Montague. They take their own lives. The fighting stops. Read on. You will learn the details.

ACT 1

— Scene 1 —

(A Verona street. Sampson and Gregory enter. They have swords. They are looking for trouble.)

SAMPSON: I won't be put down by Montagues. Believe me!

GREGORY: Calm down. This isn't our

fight. The fight is between our bosses.

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

GREGORY: Here's your chance. Draw your sword!

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

GREGORY: How? By running away?

SAMPSON: Don't worry!

GREGORY: I'm more afraid of what you will do. I'm not afraid of the Montagues.

SAMPSON: We'll let them start the fight. Then we'll have a right to fight back. The law will be on our side.

GREGORY: I'll frown as they pass by. They can take it however they want.

SAMPSON: I'll make a face at them. They'll

have to fight. Or they'll be shamed.

(Abraham and Balthazar enter.)

ABRAHAM: Did you make a face at us?

SAMPSON *(aside to Gregory):* What will happen if I say yes? Will we be arrested?

GREGORY: Yes.

SAMPSON: Then, no. I didn't make a face at you.

GREGORY: Do you want to fight?

ABRAHAM: Fight? No, sir!

SAMPSON: Well, if you do, I'm ready. My boss is as good as yours.

ABRAHAM: As good? Maybe. But no better.

GREGORY: Say "better"—here comes Benvolio. He'll back us up.