

Personalised Classics - Romeo and Juliet

Book summary:

Romeo and Juliet was written to be performed on stage. The Montagues and Capulets are two families forever feuding with each other so when Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet fall in love at first sight, the romance must remain hidden. When Romeo is then banished for the murder of Juliet's cousin, the pair look for a way, against all the odds, to remain together.

Replace the following characters:

Romeo - The main male character in the story, Romeo is impetuous, enthusiastic and determined. He is the heir of the Montague family of Verona. Having been born into nobility, he has a personal servant and he is a skilled swordsman. He falls in love with Juliet Capulet and features prominently throughout. He kills himself with poison at the end, believing Juliet to be dead.

Juliet - Juliet is the lead female character, the beautiful daughter of the wealthy Capulet family. She is sensitive, courageous and resourceful. She is also young, not yet fourteen years old; her father is keen to protect her since she is his only surviving child. Like Romeo, Juliet features regularly throughout the play. At the end of the play, she awakens from a drug-induced sleep to find Romeo dead so she kills herself with his dagger.

Mercutio - Mercutio is a close friend of Romeo's. He is sociable, witty, bold and loyal. He is an attractive character who brings a sense of fun to the tale. Later, he is involved in a swordfight with Tybalt and dies. He appears frequently during the first half of the story.

The Nurse - Juliet's closest friend at the outset and former nursemaid, the Nurse is talkative and fun-loving. At times she adds a comic element. She also enjoys a few moments of power – she is Juliet's messenger to Romeo though she later betrays her. She appears regularly in the play.

Tybalt - Tybalt is Juliet's cousin and Romeo's rival. He is aggressive and dangerous. He appears at the beginning of the play when he talks of his dislike for the Montagues. He is the one man who wishes for the Montagues and Capulets to continue their feuding. He makes several crucial appearances throughout the story and is killed by Romeo as revenge for Mercutio's death.

Paris - Paris is an admirer of Juliet's. He is handsome, wealthy and overconfident. He pursues his love for Juliet with determination and sensitivity but ultimately he dies defending her. He first appears early on and then again in the second half of the story. He is killed by Romeo at the end.