

Shakespeare Power Hour: Romeo and Juliet

Narration: Benvolio interrupts a fight between the Capulet's and Montagues. He tries to make peace between the two.

1. Benvolio Tries to Keep the Peace

(2) Benvolio, Tybalt

Benvolio	Part, fools! Put up your swords; you know not what you do.
Tybalt:	Turn thee, Benvolio, look upon thy death.
Benvolio:	I do but keep the peace: put up thy sword, Or manage it to part these men with me.
Tybalt:	What, drawn, and talk of peace! I hate the word, As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee!

Narration: Benvolio and Tybalt begin to fight. As the conflict grows the Prince arrives to order the two families to cease their dispute.

2. The Prince Speaks

(1) Prince

Prince:	Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace, Profaners of this neighbour-stained steel,-- Throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground, And hear the sentence of your moved prince.
---------	--

Narration: The Prince threatens punishment to both families if there is another brawl and orders everyone away. After the streets have cleared Romeo arrives and sees the tell-tale signs of a fight.

3. Romeo Worries

(1) Romeo

Romeo	O me! What fray was here? Here's much to do with hate, but more with love. Why, then, O brawling love! O loving hate! O any thing, of nothing first create! O heavy lightness! serious vanity! Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health! Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is! This love feel I, that feel no love in this.
-------	---

Narration: Meanwhile in the Capulet house, the County Paris has asked for Juliet's hand. Lady Capulet takes her daughter aside to discuss the idea.

4. Lady Capulet Counsels Juliet

(2) Lady Capulet, Juliet

Lady Capulet: How stands your disposition to be married?

Juliet: It is an honour that I dream not of.

Lady Capulet: Well, think of marriage now; Thus then in brief:
The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.
Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?

Juliet: I'll look to like, if looking liking move:
But no more deep will I endart mine eye
Than your consent gives strength to make it fly.

Narration: Romeo has been sulking ever since the fight. His friend Mercutio tries to pull him out of it by suggesting they go crash the Capulet's masked ball.

5. If Love Be Rough With You

(2) Mercutio, Romeo

Mercutio: Nay, gentle Romeo, we must have you dance.

Romeo: Not I, believe me: you have dancing shoes
With nimble soles: I have a soul of lead
So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.

Mercutio: You are a lover; borrow Cupid's wings,
And soar with them above a common bound.

Romeo: Under love's heavy burden do I sink.

Mercutio: And, to sink in it, should you burden love;
Too great oppression for a tender thing.

Romeo: Is love a tender thing? it is too rough,
Too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like thorn.

Mercutio: If love be rough with you, be rough with love.

Narration: Mercutio convinces Romeo to go with him to the party. There he sees Juliet and instantly falls in love.

6. Romeo and Juliet Meet

(2) Romeo, Juliet

Romeo: O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!
Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

(To Juliet)

If I profane with my unworhiest hand
This holy shrine, the gentle sin is this:

My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

Juliet: Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,
Which mannerly devotion shows in this;
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch,
And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss.

Romeo: Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

Juliet: Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

Romeo: O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do;
They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

Juliet: Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

Romeo: Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take.

Narration: Juliet asks the Nurse to find out who Romeo is.

7. My Only Love Sprung From My Only Hate

(2) Nurse, Juliet

Nurse: His name is Romeo, and a Montague;
The only son of your great enemy.

Juliet: My only love sprung from my only hate!
Too early seen unknown, and known too late!

Narration: After the party is over Romeo sneaks in the garden and sees Juliet sitting on her balcony.

8. What Light Through Yonder Window Breaks?

(1) Romeo

Romeo: But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.
It is my lady, O, it is my love!
O, that she knew she were!
O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek!

Narration: Juliet is unaware of Romeo's presence and begins to speak about her feelings for him.

9. A Rose By Any Other Name

(1) Juliet

Juliet: O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man.
O, be some other name!
What's in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.

Narration: Romeo reveals his presence and the two are finally able to talk alone.

10. The Balcony Scene

(2) Juliet, Romeo

Romeo: O, wilt thou leave me so unsatisfied?

Juliet: What satisfaction canst thou have to-night?

Romeo: The exchange of thy love's faithful vow for mine.

Juliet: I gave thee mine before thou didst request it:
And yet I would it were to give again.

Romeo: Wouldst thou withdraw it? for what purpose, love?

Juliet: But to be frank, and give it thee again.

Romeo: Love goes toward love, as schoolboys from
their books,
But love from love, toward school with heavy looks.

Juliet: Good night, good night! parting is such
sweet sorrow,
That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

Narration: As Romeo leaves the garden he promises to send a message to Juliet the next day. In the morning she sends the Nurse out to find him and anxiously waits for her return.

11. There Stays a Husband to Make You a Wife

(2) Nurse, Juliet

Juliet: O honey nurse, what news?

Nurse: I am a-weary, give me leave awhile:
Fie, how my bones ache! what a jaunt have I had!

Juliet: I would thou hadst my bones, and I thy news:
Nay, come, I pray thee, speak;

Nurse: Do you not see that I am out of breath?

Juliet: How art thou out of breath, when thou hast breath
To say to me that thou art out of breath?

Nurse: Have you got leave to go to shrift to-day?

Juliet: I have.

Nurse: Then hie you hence to Friar Laurence' cell;
There stays a husband to make you a wife:

Narration: Friar Laurence marries Romeo and Juliet in secret, hoping that it will lead to an end of the feud between their families.

12. These Violent Delights Have Violent Ends

(1) Friar Laurence

Friar Laurence: These violent delights have violent ends
Therefore love moderately; long love doth so;
Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.

Narration: Romeo and Juliet each return home, but on his way Romeo is confronted by an angry Tybalt. Tybalt wants a duel Romeo for crashing the ball. Romeo refuses to fight him and Mercutio steps in.

13. The Duel

(3) Romeo, Tybalt, Mercutio

Tybalt: Romeo, the hate I bear thee can afford
No better term than this,--thou art a villain.

Romeo: Villain am I none.

Tybalt: Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries
That thou hast done me; therefore turn and draw.

Romeo: I do protest, I never injured thee,
But love thee better than thou canst devise.

Mercutio: Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

Tybalt: What wouldst thou have with me?

Mercutio: Good king of cats, nothing but one of your nine lives.

Tybalt: I am for you.

Narration: Tybalt and Mercutio fight. Romeo tries to come between them and Mercutio is stabbed.

14. A Plague on Both Your Houses

(1) Mercutio

Mercutio: Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch; marry, 'tis enough.
'Tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a
church-door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve:
ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man.
A plague o' both your houses!
'Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a
cat, to scratch a man to death!
Why the devil came you between us?
I was hurt under your arm.

Narration: Mercutio dies and in a fit of rage Romeo kills Tybalt. He flees Verona and the Prince pronounces him banished. The Nurse brings the news to Juliet. She returns home to find that her parents have arranged for her to marry Paris within the week. She begs them to reconsider which angers her father.

15. Get Thee to Church

(2) Capulet, Juliet

Juliet: Good father, I beseech you on my knees,
Hear me with patience but to speak a word.

Capulet: Hang thee, young baggage! disobedient wretch!
I tell thee what: get thee to church o' Thursday,
Or never after look me in the face.

Narration: Juliet resolves to find a way out of marrying Paris so she can be true to Romeo.

16. Juliet Speaks

(1) Juliet

Juliet: O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,
From off the battlements of yonder tower;
Or walk in thievish ways; or bid me lurk
Where serpents are; chain me with roaring bears;
Or shut me nightly in a charnel-house,
O'er-cover'd quite with dead men's rattling bones,
With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls;
Or bid me go into a new-made grave
And hide me with a dead man in his shroud;
Things that, to hear them told, have made me tremble;
And I will do it without fear or doubt,
To live an unstain'd wife to my sweet love.

Narration: To escape her arranged marriage Juliet drinks a potion that will make her appear dead. Her plan is that once her family has buried in the family crypt she can escape and be with Romeo. Meanwhile Romeo hears that Juliet has died and rushes to see if it's true.

17.

(1) Romeo

Romeo: O my love! my wife!
Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:

Eyes, look your last!
Arms, take your last embrace! and, lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss.
Here's to my love!
Drinks
O true apothecary!
Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.

Narration: Romeo drinks a vile of poison because he believes Juliet is dead. After he has died Juliet wakes up to find him there.

18. O Happy Dagger (1) Juliet

Juliet: What's here? a cup, closed in my true love's hand?
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end:
O churl! drunk all, and left no friendly drop
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips;
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them.

Kisses him

Thy lips are warm. O happy dagger!
This is thy sheath;

Stabs herself

There rust, and let me die.

Narration: Juliet stabs herself with Romeo's dagger. Their families find their bodies together and are so overwhelmed by the tragedy of their love that they swear to end the feud.

Optional Prologue and Epilogue

Prologue: Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life.

Epilogue: A glooming peace this morning with it brings;
The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head:
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;
Some shall be pardon'd, and some punished:
For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

