

Potion

a short play for young people,
inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet

Characters

CHORUS
ROMEO
JULIET
NURSE
GREGORY
ABRAHAM #1 and #2
SAMPSON
BENVOLIO
TYBALT
MERCUTIO
FRIAR LAWRENCE
PARIS
LORD CAPULET
LADY CAPULET
LORD MONTAGUE
PRINCE of VERONA

How to prepare the workshop:

The pupils will be distributed roles. The actors will be part of the CHORUS in different scenes.

Music, simple props and costumes will be discussed and agreed upon during the course of the workshop

Scene 1: New Mutiny

CHORUS + MIME: Two households,
In fair Verona,
Ancient grudges,
New mutiny,
A pair of star-cross'd lovers!

(Servants from the two rival families meet in the street)

ABRAHAM #1: Do you bite your thumb at me, sir?

SAMPSON: No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir; but I bite my thumb, sir.

GREGORY: Do you quarrel, sir?

ABRAHAM #2: Quarrel, sir? No, sir.

SAMPSON: If you do, sir, I am for you.

ABRAHAM #2: You lie.

SAMPSON: Draw!

(They insult each other with actions and words)

(They fight)

"CROWD #1": Down with the Capulets!

"CROWD #2": Down with the Montagues!

(Lord Capulet enters)

CAPULET: Give me my long sword!

(Lord Montague enters)

MONTAGUE: Villain Capulet!

(The Prince enters)

PRINCE: Rebellious subjects!

(Fighting stops) All men depart.

Scene 2: Kissing by the book

CHORUS: At Juliet's house there is a party.
Romeo and his gang turn up in disguise.
And Romeo meets Juliet.

(The party. Romeo sees Juliet and goes to her. They are both in disguise)

ROMEO: My lips touch yours with a tender kiss.

(Juliet stops Romeo)

JULIET: Palm to palm is a kiss.

ROMEO: Let lips do what hands do;

JULIET: Saints do not move.

ROMEO: Then move not.

(They kiss)

JULIET: You kiss by the book.

Scene 3: O blessed, blessed night!

CHORUS: The party is over.
But Romeo goes back to Juliet's house.
The balcony scene:

(Juliet at a 'window' and Romeo hiding)

JULIET: Ay me!

ROMEO: She speaks;
O! speak again.

JULIET: O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny your father and refuse your name;
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO: (to public) Will I speak at this?

JULIET: Your name is my enemy;
What is Montague?
It is not hand, foot, arm or face.
O! be some other name!
What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.

ROMEO: **(calling out)** I never will be called Romeo!

JULIET: Romeo Montague? **(they meet and hug)**

NURSE: **(calling from off-stage)** Juliet!

JULIET: Good night! Good night! **(she leaves)**

ROMEO: Parting is such sweet sorrow! **(he leaves)**

Scene 4: Fortune's Fool

CHORUS: The lovers are married in secrecy.

(MIME: Romeo and Juliet married by Friar Lawrence)

(The Montagues and the Capulets enter from different sides)

BENVOLIO: By my head, here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO: By my heel, I care not.

TYBALT: Gentlemen! a word with one of you.

MERCUTIO: Make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT: Mercutio, you consort with Romeo!

MERCUTIO: Consort! What! Here's my fiddle-stick! 'Zounds! Consort!

BENVOLIO: Here all eyes gaze on us.

MERCUTIO: Let them look.

(Romeo enters)

TYBALT: Here comes my man.

Romeo- you are a villain.

ROMEO: I never hurt you.

MERCUTIO: Tybalt, you rat-catcher!

TYBALT: **(drawing sword)** I am for you. **(They fight)**

ROMEO: Tybalt! Mercutio! **(Mercutio is hurt and Tybalt leaves)**

MERCUTIO: I am hurt. I die!

(Mercutio exits, helped by Benvolio)

CHORUS: Romeo's anger turns to revenge

Mercutio's death he now must avenge.

(Tybalt returns)

(Romeo and Tybalt fight: Tybalt dies)

ROMEO: O! I am fortune's fool.

Scene 5: O serpent heart!

CHORUS: The Prince orders Romeo away.

Juliet learns the bad news from her nurse.

NURSE: Shame come to Romeo!

JULIET: Blistered be your tongue for such a wish!

NURSE: Will you speak well of him that killed your cousin?

JULIET: Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?

Romeo is banished! To speak those words
'Romeo is banished!'- there is no end, no limit, no measure bound
In that word's death. **(Nurse comforts Juliet)**

Scene 6: And let life out

CHORUS: While Romeo's been hiding in the Friar's cell
Arrangements are made for a fond farewell.
(Romeo and Juliet kiss and Romeo runs off. Nurse enters)

NURSE: The day has begun.
JULIET: Then window, let day in, and let life out.
CHORUS: Her father, Lord Capulet,
Orders marriage to Count Paris on Thursday.

(Lord and Lady Capulet enter)

LORD CAPULET: What! Still in tears?
How now, wife! Have you delivered to her our order?
LADY CAPULET: Yes, sir; but she will not.
LORD CAPULET: What! She will not? **(to Juliet)** Do you not thank us?
JULIET: Proud I can never be of what I hate.
LORD CAPULET: How now, chop-logic! What is this?
'Proud,' and 'what I hate.'
JULIET: Good father, on my knees! I do not want to marry Paris!
(Lord Capulet and Juliet have a 'conflict')
LORD CAPULET: Hang you, young baggage! Disobedient girl!
You get married to Paris on Thursday,
Or never after look me in the face.

Scene 7: Past hope, past care, past help!

FRIAR: Look Paris, here comes Juliet.

PARIS: My lady and my wife!
JULIET: That may be, sir, when I may be a wife.
PARIS: That must be on Thursday next. Do not deny to him **(to Friar)** that
you love me.
JULIET: I will confess to you **(to Friar)** that I love him **(Romeo)**.
PARIS: I am sure that you love me.
JULIET: **(to Friar)** Can I speak to you?
PARIS: Juliet, till Thursday- adieu.
JULIET: O! shut the door! Past hope, past care, past help!
(Friar comforts Juliet)
JULIET: If you cannot help me... this knife can help me!
FRIAR: Stop Juliet! There is one chance!

CHORUS: The Friar devises a desperate plan:
A drug for Juliet to seem that she's dead,
Romeo will come to her as if in bed,
But Romeo never receives the message.
(Mime: Romeo does not receive the message!)
So he, like the world, believes she is dead.

Scene 8: My dismal scene

JULIET: Farewell! God knows when we shall meet again.
Romeo, I drink to you.
(She takes the potion and falls. Nurse enters)
NURSE: Mistress! Juliet! Juliet! Paris is waiting!
How sound is she asleep! **(She tries to wake Juliet)**
Help! Help! My lady's dead!

Scene 9: O happy dagger!

(Romeo sees Juliet)
ROMEO: **(cries)** Dear Juliet! **(drinks poison)** Apothecary, your drugs are
quick! With a kiss I die!

CHORUS: Romeo lies dead by his sleeping bride.

(Juliet wakes up)

JULIET: What's here? A cup in my true love's hand?

Poison! Drunk all, and no drop left.

(She reacts to voices off)

Noise? Then I'll be brief. O happy dagger!

(Snatching Romeo's dagger and stabs herself)

Let me die.

(She falls on Romeo's body and dies)

(The Montagues, the Capulets and the Prince arrive)

PRINCE: A glooming peace this morning with it brings:

The sun, for sorrow, will not show his head:

Go talk of these sad things:

For never was a story of more woe

Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

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