

## ROMEO & JULIET

### ROLES

**Sampson** - Sampson is the livelier, funny man to Gregory who is smarter, slower to anger and tolerates his companion's attempts at humour.

**Gregory** - Sampson is the livelier, funny man to Gregory who is smarter, slower to anger and tolerates his companion's attempts at humour.

**Abraham** - An intimidating presence.

**Balthasar** - fighter but younger or same age as Romeo. Boyish but trying to be one of the lads, a little scared of what this leads him to at times, sensitive.

**Benvolio** - sensible one of the group who is Romeo's friend and sometimes mentor, credible fighter.

**Tybalt** - good looking capable, cruel and must be believed to be capable of spiteful violence. Passionate role with no softness.

**Capulet** - an older man.

**Lady Capulet** - ranges between cold anger as well as strong anger.

**Montague** - an older man. A caring father

**Lady Montague** - needs to do a lot of weepy stuff

**Prince** - older but not as old as Capulet and Montague, regal looking.

**Paris** - regal looking, credible fighter, gentle at times. He is the good looking, privileged young man about town.

**Nurse** - Will need to be able to pull off the comedy, and later on in the play, the intense drama of this role.

**Mercutio** - clownish alpha male, must be charismatic, able to fight, crack jokes and generally show off.

**Friar Laurence** - needs to be able to play the boffin and pass as idealistic priest. An optimist and an idealist, one who hopes for the best.

## AUDITION PIECES

You will not be expected to memorize these pieces (however you are welcome to do so if you prefer).

### 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;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

## MERCUTIO PIECE 1

### MERCUTIO

O, then, I see Queen Mab hath been with you.  
She is the fairies' midwife, and she comes  
In shape no bigger than an agate-stone  
On the fore-finger of an alderman,  
Drawn with a team of little atomies  
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep;  
And in this state she gallops night by night  
Through lovers' brains, and then they dream of love;  
O'er courtiers' knees, that dream on court'sies straight,  
O'er lawyers' fingers, who straight dream on fees,  
O'er ladies' lips, who straight on kisses dream,

### ROMEO

Mercutio...

### MERCUTIO

Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues,  
Because their breaths with sweetmeats tainted are:  
Sometime she gallops o'er a courtier's nose,  
And then dreams he of smelling out a suit;  
Sometime she driveth o'er a soldier's neck,  
And then dreams he of cutting foreign throats,  
Of breaches, ambuscadoes, Spanish blades,  
Of healths five-fathom deep; and then anon  
Drums in his ear, at which he starts and wakes,  
And being thus frighted swears a prayer or two  
And sleeps again. This is that very Mab  
That plaits the manes of horses in the night,  
And bakes the elflocks in foul sluttish hairs,  
Which once untangled, much misfortune bodes:  
This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,  
That presses them and learns them first to bear,  
Making them women of good carriage:  
This is she—

### ROMEO

Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace!  
Thou talk'st of nothing.

### MERCUTIO

True, I talk of dreams,  
Which are the children of an idle brain,  
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy,  
Which is as thin of substance as the air

## MERCUTIO PIECE 2

*SCENE IV. A street.*

*Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO*

**MERCUTIO**

Where the devil should this Romeo be?  
Came he not home to-night!

**BENVOLIO**

Not to his father's; I spoke with his man.

**MERCUTIO**

Ah, then it is that same pale hard-hearted wench, Rosaline,  
who Torments him so, that he will sure run mad.

**BENVOLIO**

Tybalt, the kinsman of old Capulet,  
Has sent a letter to his father's house.

**MERCUTIO**

A challenge, on my life I bet.

**BENVOLIO**

Romeo will answer it.

**MERCUTIO**

Any man that can write may answer a letter.

**BENVOLIO**

No, he will answer the letter's master, how he  
dares, being dared.

**MERCUTIO**

Alas poor Romeo! he is already dead; stabbed with a  
Cupid's black eye; shot through the ear with a  
love-song; the very pin of his heart cleft with the  
blind bow-boy's butt-shaft: and is he the man to  
encounter Tybalt?

**BENVOLIO**

Why, what is Tybalt?

**MERCUTIO**

More than prince of cats, I can tell you now  
He fights like a music player, all precision,  
And makes his time and distance perfect play.  
With one and two and three and in your chest.  
He is a gentleman and a duelist  
And none who fight him live to tell the tale.

*Enter ROMEO*

**MERCUTIO**

Where did you vanish to last night.  
You gave us both the slip most prettily.

**ROMEO**

Good morrow to you both. What counterfeit did I give you?

**MERCUTIO**

The slip, sir, the slip; can you not conceive?

**ROMEO**

Pardon, good Mercutio, my business was great; and in  
such a case as mine a man may strain courtesy.

**MERCUTIO**

And more besides. Nay we forgive you,  
For now you are sociable, now you are our Romeo; now you  
are what you are, by art as well as by nature:  
for this drivelling love is like a great caveman,  
that runs lolling up and down to hide his bauble in a hole  
With this Mercutio has been getting more and more animated

**BENVOLIO**

Stop there, stop there.  
This is getting too much for Benvolio

**MERCUTIO**

Thou desirest me to stop in my tale against the hair.

**BENVOLIO**

Thou wouldst else have made thy tale large.

**MERCUTIO**

O, thou art deceived; I would have made it short:  
for I was come to the whole depth of my tale; and  
meant, indeed, to occupy the argument no longer.  
Again Mercutio thinks his puns are hilarious

## NURSE PIECE 1

*SCENE III. A room in Capulet's house.*

*Enter LADY CAPULET and Nurse*

**LADY CAPULET**

Nurse, where's my daughter? call her forth to me.

**NURSE**

Now, by my maidenhead, at twelve year old,  
I bade her come. What, lamb! what, ladybird!  
God forbid! Where's this girl? What, Juliet!

*Enter JULIET*

**JULIET**

How now! who calls?

**NURSE**

Your mother.

**JULIET**

Madam, I am here.  
What is your will?

**LADY CAPULET**

This is the matter:--Nurse, leave us awhile,  
We must talk in secret:--nurse, come back again;  
I have remember'd me, thou's hear our counsel.  
You know'st my daughter's of a pretty age.

**NURSE**

Faith, I can tell her age unto an hour.

**LADY CAPULET**

She's not fourteen.

**NURSE**

I'll lay fourteen of my teeth,--  
And yet, I have but four--  
She is not fourteen. How long is it now  
To Lammas-tide?

**LADY CAPULET**

A fortnight and odd days.

**NURSE**

Even or odd, of all days in the year,  
Come Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen.  
Susan and she--God rest all Christian souls!--

Were of an age: well, Susan is with God;  
She was too good for me: but, as I said,  
On Lammas-eve at night shall she be fourteen;  
That shall she, marry; I remember it well.  
'Tis since the earthquake now eleven years;  
And she was wean'd,--I never shall forget it,--  
Since that time it is eleven years;  
For then she could stand alone;  
She could have run and waddled all about;  
For even the day before, she broke her brow:  
And then my husband--God be with his soul!  
--took up the child:  
'Yea,' quoth he, 'dost thou fall upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou hast more sense;  
won't you, Jule?' and, by my word,  
The pretty wretch stopped crying and said 'Ay.'  
I warrant, an I should live a thousand years,  
I never should forget it: won't you, Jule?' quoth he;  
And, pretty fool, said 'Ay.'

**LADY CAPULET**

Enough of this; I pray thee, hold thy peace.

**NURSE**

Yes, madam: but you have to laugh,  
To think she should stop crying and say 'Ay.'  
And yet, I warrant, she had upon her brow  
A bump as big as a young cockerel's stone;  
A parlous knock; and she cried bitterly:  
'Yea,' quoth my husband, 'fall'st upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou comest to age;  
won't you, Jule?' she stopped and said 'Ay.'

**JULIET**

And stop you too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.

**NURSE**

Peace, I am done. God mark thee to his grace!  
you were the prettiest babe that I ever nursed:  
And that I might live to see thee married,  
If I have my wish.

## NURSE PIECE 2

### NURSE

Marry, farewell! I pray you, sir, what cheeky merchant was this, that was so full of his jokes?

### ROMEO

A gentleman, nurse, that loves to hear himself talk, and will speak more in a minute than he will listen to in a month.

### NURSE

Scurvy knave! And thou must stand by too, and suffer every knave to use me at his pleasure?

### PETER

I saw no man use you in pleasure; if I had, my weapon should quickly have been out,

### NURSE

Now, afore God, I am so cross, that every part about me quivers. Scurvy knave! To the business my young lady asked me find you out; what she bade me say, I will keep to myself: but first let me tell ye, if ye should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very wicked kind of behavior, as they say: for the gentlewoman is young; and, therefore, if you should be dealing double with her, truly it were an wicked thing to do to any gentlewoman, and very weak act.

### ROMEO

Nurse, commend me to thy lady and mistress. I protest unto thee—

### NURSE

Good heart, and, i' faith, I will tell her as much: Lord, Lord, she will be a joyful woman.

### ROMEO

What wilt thou tell her, nurse? You're not listening to me.

### NURSE

I will tell her, sir, that you do protest; which, as I take it, is a gentlemanlike offer.

### ROMEO

Bid her to gain her mother's word to make confession later on today;

And there she shall at Friar Laurence' cell  
Be shrived and married too.

**NURSE**

This afternoon a bride?

**ROMEO**

Farewell, be trusty and commend me to your mistress

**NURSE**

There's one thing more

**ROMEO**

What is it?

**NURSE**

There is a nobleman in town, one Paris, who plans to marry and to lie with her

**ROMEO**

And does she like him?

**NURSE**

Never! She would sooner lie with a stinking toady. Her thoughts are all with you, as I have taunted her. But you should know of him

**ROMEO**

And so I do. And now commend me to my lady.

*Exit Romeo*

**NURSE**

I will, a thousand times.

Peter!

*Exeunt*

## CAPULET PIECE 1

*SCENE II. A street.*

*Enter CAPULET, PARIS, deep in conversation attended by a Servant*

**PARIS**

But now, have you an answer for your daughter's hand

**CAPULET**

But what I have said before:

My child is still a stranger in the world;  
She hath not seen the change of fourteen years,  
Let two more summers wither in their pride,  
Then we may think her ripe to be a bride.

**PARIS**

Younger than she are happy mothers made.

**CAPULET**

And old before their time  
Juliet is my only living child,  
The earth hath swallowed all my hopes but she  
She is the hopeful lady of my earth  
But woo her, gentle Paris, gain her heart,

**PARIS**

And if she will consent, do you?

**CAPULET**

If she can love you, that will weigh  
Heavily in every argument  
On this night, every year, I hold a feast,  
To which I have invited many a guest,  
Those I love; and you, among the store,  
Stars come to earth, those stars that make heaven light,  
That comfort as do lusty young men feel,  
When bright Spring treads the heels of winter  
and brings such fresh delights unto young girls, the like of which  
Shall you discover at my house; hear all, all see,  
And like her most whose merit most shall be:  
Come, go with me.  
*To Servant, giving a paper*  
Go, sirrah, trudge about  
Through fair Verona; find those persons out  
Whose names are written there, and to them say,  
My house and welcome on their pleasure stay.

## CAPULET PIECE 2

*Enter CAPULET and NURSE*

### **CAPULET**

How now! what, still in tears?  
Evermore showering?  
For still thy eyes, which I may call the sea,  
Do ebb and flow with tears;  
But come the level of the sea  
Will start to lift if much more  
Water flows from your sweet eyes  
How now, wife!  
Have you delivered to her our decree?

### **LADY CAPULET**

Ay, sir; but she will none, she gives you thanks.  
I would the fool were married to her grave!

### **CAPULET**

What? If she be sane how can she not be proud?  
Surely she counts herself amongst the blessed  
That she, unworthy chit, should have a man  
As noble as the Count to be her groom?

### **JULIET**

Not proud, you have; but thankful, that you have:  
Proud can I never be of what I hate;  
But thankful even for hate, that is meant love.

### **CAPULET**

How now, how now! What is this?  
'Proud,' and 'I thank you,' and 'I thank you not;'  
And yet 'not proud,' mistress minion, you,  
Thank me no thankings, nor, proud me no prouds,  
But fettle your fine joints against Thursday next,  
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,"  
Or I will drag thee on a rail there.  
Out, you green-sickness carrion! out, you baggage!

### **LADY CAPULET**

Fie, fie! what, are you mad?

### **JULIET**

Good father, I beseech you on my knees,  
will you not give me leave to plead my cause?

**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:  
Speak not, reply not, do not answer me;  
My fingers itch. Wife, we scarce thought us blest  
That God had lent us but this only child;  
But now I see this one is one too much,  
And that we have a curse in having her:

**NURSE**

God in heaven bless her!  
You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.

**CAPULET**

And why, my lady wisdom? hold your tongue,  
you dice with your own place in talking thus

**NURSE**

May not one speak?

**CAPULET**

Peace, you mumbling fool!  
Utter your gravity o'er a gossip's bowl;  
For here we need it not.

**LADY CAPULET**

You are too hot.

**CAPULET**

God's bread! it makes me mad:  
Day, night, hour, tide, time, work, play,  
Alone, in company, still my care has always been  
To have her matched, married: and having now provided  
A gentleman of noble parentage,  
Of fair countenance, youthful, and nobly train'd,  
Stuff'd, as they say, with honourable parts,  
Proportion'd as one's thought would wish a man;  
And then to have a wretched sniveling fool,  
A whining mammet, in her fortune's tender,  
To answer 'I'll not wed; I cannot love,  
I am too young; I pray you, pardon me.'  
But, as you will not wed, I'll pardon you:  
Graze where you will you shall not live with me:  
Look to it, think on it, I do not jest.  
Thursday is near; lay hand on heart, advise:

And you be mine, I'll give you to my friend;  
And you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in  
the streets,  
For, by my soul, I'll never acknowledge thee,  
Nor what is mine shall never do thee good:  
Trust to it, bethink you; I'll not be forsworn.

*Exit*

## FRIAR LAURENCE PIECE 1

### FRIAR LAURENCE

What early tongue so sweetly calls on me?  
Young son, it argues a mindless head  
So soon to bid good bye to thy warm bed:  
Care keeps his watch in every old man's eye,  
And where care lodges, sleep will never lie;  
Or if not so, then here I hit it right,  
Our Romeo hath not been in bed to-night.

### ROMEO

That last is true; the sweeter rest was mine.  
The Friar dismisses the Novice

### FRIAR LAURENCE

God pardon sin! Were you with Rosaline?

### ROMEO

With Rosaline, my holy father? no;  
I have forgot that name, and that name's woe.

### FRIAR LAURENCE

That's my good son: but where hast thou been, then?

### ROMEO

I'll tell you, if you ask it me again.  
I have been feasting with my enemy,  
Where all of a sudden one wounded me,  
Then by me wounded her: both our remedies  
Within your help and holy ritual lies:

### FRIAR LAURENCE

Be plain, good son, and simply in your drift;  
Riddling confession finds but riddling shrift.

### ROMEO

Then plainly know my heart's dear love is set  
On the fair daughter of rich Capulet:  
As mine on hers, so hers is set on mine;  
And all combined, save what thou must combine  
By holy marriage: when and where and how  
We met, we woo'd and made exchange of vow,  
I'll tell thee as we pass; but this I pray,  
That thou consent to marry us to-day.

### FRIAR LAURENCE

Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!

Is Rosaline, whom you loved so dear,  
So soon forsaken? young men's love then lies  
Not truly in their hearts, but in their (pause) eyes.  
Jesu Maria, what a deal of brine  
Has washed your sallow cheeks for Rosaline!

**ROMEO**

You scolded me oft for loving Rosaline.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

I scolded you for moping like a child.  
I'd not believe you'd tasted true love's joy.

**ROMEO**

Then scold no more. For God has taught me now  
To know true love and Juliet has her face

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

You speak so, though she be a Capulet?

**ROMEO**

What care I for the quarrels of the past  
Or rivalaries now buried in the tomb?  
The Friar thinks on this

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Well, well if this could carry all before  
I see the chance to end the city's strife  
If, as I pray, your marriage should prove sweet  
To turn your households' rancour to pure love.  
Come, young waverer, come, go with me,  
In one respect I'll thy assistant be;

**ROMEO**

Oh, let us go; I stand on sudden haste.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.

*Exeunt*

## FRIAR LAURENCE PIECE 2

*Knocking*

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Hark, how they knock! Who's there?  
Romeo, arise; You will be taken! Stand up;

*Knocking*

Run to my study. By and by! God's will,  
What is this! I come, I come!

*Knocking*

Who knocks so hard? whence come you? what's your will?

**NURSE**

*[Within]* Let me come in, and you shall know  
my errand;  
I come from Lady Juliet.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Welcome, then.

*Enter NURSE*

**NURSE**

O holy friar, O, tell me, holy friar,  
Where is my lady's lord, where's Romeo?

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Behold him now with his own tears made drunk

**NURSE**

So is my lady Juliet, blubbering and weeping  
Weeping and blubbering

**ROMEO**

Good nurse you speak of Juliet  
Say quick does she now think I am a murderer  
Now I have stained our joy  
With the blood of her cousin?  
Where is she? and how does she? and what says  
My concealed lady to our cancelled love?

**NURSE**

O, she says nothing, sir, but weeps and weeps;  
And now falls on her bed; and then starts up,  
And calls Tybalt; and then cries Romeo,

**ROMEO**

My name was fatal to her from the start  
It kills her as it killed her noble kinsman  
In what vile part of this anatomy  
Doth my name live? tell me, that I may cut it out of  
The hateful mansion.  
Drawing his sword

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

What? Would you kill yourself and all the lady's hopes?  
Hold your desperate hand:  
Are you a man? Your form cries out that you are:  
But your tears are womanish; your wild acts denote  
The unreasonable fury of a beast:  
Look to your wits! Your Juliet is alive!  
There you are happy! Tybalt would kill you.  
But instead you killed Tybalt. There you are happy!  
The Prince has altered death to simple exile.  
There you are happy! Another stroke of luck to make you smile.  
A pack of blessings lights up upon thy back;  
Have done with the pouting. Go now to your love  
Climb to her chamber, kiss and comfort her.  
But leave before the Watch begins to walk  
To make the journey safe to Mantua  
Where you will live until we find a way  
To blaze your marriage, reconcile your friends  
Beg pardon of the Prince and call you back  
With twenty hundred thousand times more joy  
Than thou went forth in sorrow.  
Nurse you go first: commend me to thy lady;  
And bid her hasten all the house to bed,  
Which heavy sorrow makes them acquiese:  
Romeo is coming.

**NURSE**

O Lord, I could have stayed here all the night  
to listen to your learning  
My lord, I'll tell my lady you will come

**ROMEO**

Do so, and say I am prepared to be chastised

**NURSE**

Here, sir, a ring she bid me give you, sir:  
Hie you, make haste, for it grows very late.

*Exit*

**ROMEO**

How well my comfort is revived by this!

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Be sure that you are gone before the dawn  
Then make your home in Mantua and wait  
I will send messages with all our news

**ROMEO**

But that a joy past joy calls out on me,"  
It were a grief, so brief to part with thee: Farewell.

*Exeunt*

## BENVOLIO PIECE 1

### PRINCE

Benvolio, who began this bloody fray?

### BENVOLIO

Tybalt, here slain, and I was witness how  
Romeo did beg him to desist. Alas  
Nothing could stay the rage of angry Tybalt  
Of Tybalt deaf to peace, but that he aims his sword  
at bold Mercutio's breast,  
Who just as angry, turns deadly point to point,  
they fight in a deadly game, back and forth until  
Romeo he cries aloud,  
'Hold, friends! friends, part!' and, swifter than  
his tongue, he moves to separate them  
And 'twixt them he rushes; underneath whose arm  
An envious thrust from Tybalt hit the life  
Of stout Mercutio, and then Tybalt left;  
But then he returns to fight Romeo,  
Who had now only revenge on his mind,  
And fought like lightning, before I could drag them apart  
was Tybalt slain.  
And, as he fell, did Romeo turn and run.  
This is the truth, I swear on my life.

## BENVOLIO PIECE 2

### MONTAGUE

Speak, nephew, were you by when it began?

### BENVOLIO

When I arrived the Capulet servants were  
Fighting with your own  
I drew my sword to part them  
But fiery Tybalt, sprang at me  
And the battle spread until  
The Prince arrived to end it

### LADY MONTAGUE

O, where is Romeo? Have you seen him to-day?  
I am glad he was not at this fray.

### BENVOLIO

Madam, an hour before the dawn  
A troubled mind drew me to walk abroad;  
Where, under the grove of sycamore  
So early walking did I see your son:  
I made towards him, but he saw me  
And hid in the cover of the wood:  
Thinking he may be troubled as I,  
and might want to be alone  
Kept walking and pretended I hadn't seen him,  
And he ran away I think.

### MONTAGUE

Many a morning has he there been seen,  
In tears like the fresh morning dew.  
Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs;  
But as soon as the sun comes up  
He comes back home  
And in his private chamber locks himself away,  
Shuts up his windows, locking fair daylight out  
And lights himself a candle in the dark:  
Black and portentous must this mood does prove,  
Unless good counsel may find the cause and remove.

### BENVOLIO

My noble uncle, do you know the cause?

### MONTAGUE

I neither know will he tell me of it.

**BENVOLIO**

Have you asked him?

**MONTAGUE**

I've begged the answer  
Both by myself and friends  
But try as we may  
He is so secret and  
So close We cannot learn the cause

*Enter ROMEO*

**BENVOLIO**

See, he comes: so please, step aside;  
I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.

**MONTAGUE**

I would be so happy if indeed you would, hear his confession and learn from where  
his sorrows grow. Come, madam, let's away.

*Exeunt MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE*

**BENVOLIO**

Good-morrow, cousin.

**ROMEO**

I thought it should be eve Is it so early as that?

**BENVOLIO**

But new struck nine.

**ROMEO**

When I am sad the hours seem long.  
Was that my father that left so fast?

**BENVOLIO**

It was. What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?

**ROMEO**

I lack the thing, that if I had it, would make them short.

**BENVOLIO**

I see, you are in love?

**ROMEO**

Out—

**BENVOLIO**

Of love?

**ROMEO**

Out of her favour, where I am in love.

**BENVOLIO**

*(knowingly)* Oh, that love, so gentle in his view,  
Love is a harsh tyrant where he rules.

## PRINCE PIECE 1

### PRINCE

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,  
Throw your weapons to the ground,  
And hear your prince, your ruler.  
a long pause as they do so  
Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word,  
By thee, old Capulet, and Montague,  
Have three times disturb'd the quiet of our streets,  
If ever you disturb our streets again,  
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.  
For now, all the rest depart away:  
You Capulet; shall go along with me:  
And, Montague, come to me this afternoon,  
Once more, on pain of death, all men depart.

## PRINCE PIECE 2

### PRINCE

This letter doth make good the friar's words,  
Their course of love, the tidings of her death:  
And here he writes that he did buy a poison  
Of a poor apothecary, and therewithal  
Came to this vault to die, and lie with Juliet.  
Where be these enemies? Capulet! Montague!  
See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate,  
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.  
And I for winking at your discords too  
Have lost a brace of kinsmen: all are punished.

### CAPULET

O brother Montague, give me your hand:  
This is my daughter's dowry, for no more  
Can I demand.

### MONTAGUE

But I can give thee more:  
For I will raise her statue in pure gold;  
That while Verona by that name is known,  
There shall no figure at such rate be set  
As that of true and faithful Juliet.

### CAPULET

As rich shall Romeo's by his lady's lie;  
Poor sacrifices of our enmity!

### PRINCE

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.

*Exeunt*

## LADY CAPULET PIECE 1

### LADY CAPULET

Enough of this; I pray thee, hold thy peace.

### NURSE

Yes, madam: but you have to laugh,  
To think she should stop crying and say 'Ay.'  
And yet, I warrant, she had upon her brow  
A bump as big as a young cockerel's stone;  
A parlous knock; and she cried bitterly:  
'Yea,' quoth my husband, 'fall'st upon thy face?  
Thou wilt fall backward when thou comest to age;  
won't you, Jule?' she stopped and said 'Ay.'

### JULIET

And stop you too, I pray thee, nurse, say I.

### NURSE

Peace, I am done. God mark thee to his grace!  
you were the prettiest babe that I ever nursed:  
And that I might live to see thee married,  
If I have my wish.

### LADY CAPULET

Marry, that 'marry' is the very thing  
I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet,  
what do you think of marriage?

### JULIET

It is an honour that I dream not of.

### NURSE

An honour! were I not your only nurse,  
I would say you had sucked wisdom from my teat.

### LADY CAPULET

Well, think of marriage now; younger than you,  
Here in Verona, are young ladies married,  
and made already mothers: by my reckoning,  
I was your mother around you're the age  
That you are now a maid. Thus in brief:  
The valiant Count Paris seeks you for his love.

### NURSE

A man, young lady! lady, such a man  
As all the world--why, he's a man of wax.

**LADY CAPULET**

What say you? can you love the gentleman?

**JULIET**

I hardly know him

**LADY CAPULET**

Then learn to know him at our feast tonight;  
Read over the young Paris' face,  
examine every feature, seek how you feel.  
Study his eyes, and read the message there.  
See if you can be happy  
So shall you share all that he doth possess,  
By having him, making yourself no less.

**NURSE**

No less! nay, bigger; women grow by men.

**LADY CAPULET**

Tell me, 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.  
If that is my parents wish.

## LADY CAPULET PIECE 2

*Enter LADY CAPULET*

**LADY CAPULET**

Why, how now, Juliet!

**JULIET**

Madam, I am not well.

**LADY CAPULET**

Still weeping for your cousin's death?

What, will you wash him from his grave with tears?

And if you could, you couldn't make him live;

**JULIET**

Yet let me weep for such a feeling loss.

**LADY CAPULET**

Well so you must and so must all of us

Not only for the wretched Tybalt's death

But that the killer lives who slaughtered him

**JULIET**

What villain madam?

**LADY CAPULET**

That same villain, Romeo.

You weep because the murdering traitor lives

**JULIET**

If I could only set my hands on him

Then he would feel my passion rage within

**LADY CAPULET**

We will have vengeance for it, fear not:

Then weep no more. I'll send message to one in Mantua,

Where that same banished fiend does live,

Shall give him such an unaccustom'd dram, a poison,

That he shall soon keep Tybalt company:

And then, I hope, you will be satisfied.

**JULIET**

O, how my heart abhors

To hear him named, and cannot come to him.

To wreak the love I bore my cousin

Upon the body that slaughter'd him!

**LADY CAPULET**

Find thou the means, and I'll find such a man.  
But now I'll tell thee joyful tidings, girl.

**JULIET**

And joy comes well in such a needy time:  
What are they, I beseech you

**LADY CAPULET**

Well, well, thou hast a careful, loving father, child;  
Who seeing your grief would soothe your pain  
And Has sorted out a sudden day of joy,  
That you did not expect and I had not look'd for.

**JULIET**

Mother I know it and am glad of him

**LADY CAPULET**

So he has planned on Thursday morning next  
The gallant, young and noble gentleman,  
The County Paris, at Saint Peter's Church,  
Shall happily make thee there a joyful bride.

**JULIET**

Now, by Saint Peter's Church and Peter too,  
He shall not make me there a joyful bride.  
nor anywhere, before he comes to woo  
What is the rush? I pray tell my lord and father, madam,  
I will not marry yet; and, when I do, I swear,  
It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate,  
Rather than Paris, whom I do despise

**LADY CAPULET**

Here comes your father; tell him so yourself,  
And see how he will take it from your lips.

## SAMPSON AND GREGORY AND ABRAHAM

### SAMPSON

Gregory, on my word, we'll not carry coals.

### GREGORY

No, for then we should be colliers. *(he bursts into laughter thoroughly enjoying his joke)*

### SAMPSON

I mean, if we be in "choler", and, and we'll *(he clumsily suits action to the word)* draw.

### GREGORY

*(by now just recovered)* Ay, *(slightly alarmed that Sampson has his sword out and is waving it about, he grabs his companions arm shoving his weapon back in its scabbard)* while you live, draw your neck out o' the collar.

### SAMPSON

I strike quickly, being moved. *(slightly sulking)*

### GREGORY

But thou art not quickly moved to strike. *(also making a joke which perhaps Sampson doesn't quite catch, or not too quickly)*

### SAMPSON

A dog of the house of Montague moves me. *(striking a fierce pose at an imagined dog)*

### GREGORY

*(tapping his shoulder-being a smart alec, explaining)* To move is to stir, be active; and to be valiant and brave is to stand *(hero stance)*: therefore, if you are moved, you would run away.

### SAMPSON

*(repairing his error)* A dog of that house shall move me to stand: I will take stand 'gainst any man or maid of Montague's.

### GREGORY

Leave it. The quarrel is between our masters and so then us their men.

### SAMPSON

*(actions suit the word throughout)* Who cares, I will show myself a soldier: when I have fought with the men, I will be cruel with the maids, and give them stand to or cut off their heads.

### GREGORY

The heads of the maids?

### SAMPSON

Ay, the heads of the maids, *(lewdly and laughing)* or their maidenheads; whichever way you take it.

### GREGORY

They *(to the audience)* must take it in sense they feel it.

**SAMPSON**

Me they shall feel while I am able to stand: and *(to the audience)* 'tis known I am a pretty piece of flesh.

**GREGORY**

Eeewwww! Draw your sword too! *(Sampson takes offence at this slight, turns away sulking)* here comes two of the house of the Montague.

**SAMPSON**

My weapon *(lewdly)* is out: *(with a cry of horror he realizes the presence of the Montagues-rest in a panicked tone)* quarrel, I will back thee.

**GREGORY**

How! turn show your back and run?

**SAMPSON**

I will not fail you. Fear me not. *(waving his sword about wildly)*

**GREGORY**

No, actually; I fear thee! *(perhaps trying to calm him)*

**SAMPSON**

Wait. Let's see if they start anything.

**GREGORY**

I will frown as I pass by them, and let's see what they do. For the law to be on our side they must begin.

**SAMPSON**

Nay, I will bite my thumb at them; which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it. *(he does so as lewdly and insultingly as he likes too quickly for Gregory to dissuade him)*

*Enter ABRAHAM and BALTHASAR*

**ABRAHAM**

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir? *(straight up to Sampson)*

**SAMPSON**

I do bite my thumb, sir. *(very small whilst Gregory is despairing)*

**ABRAHAM**

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir? *(towers over Sampson threateningly)*

**SAMPSON**

*[Aside to GREGORY]* Is the law of our side, if I say ay?

**GREGORY**

No. *(desperately)*

**SAMPSON**

*(groveling)* No, sir, I do not bite my thumb at you, sir, but I bite my thumb, sir.

**GREGORY**

*(silky)* Do you “quarrel”, sir?

**ABRAHAM**

*(still strong-soldier like, Sampson eases himself away)* Quarrel sir! no, sir!

**SAMPSON**

*(now brave from a distance, probably behind Gregory and Gregory turns angrily trying to push him away)* If you want to sir, I’ll quarrel with you: I serve as good a man as Montague. *(perhaps in a sing song childish manner)*

**ABRAHAM**

*(again goes and stands toe to toe with Sampson)* He is no better certainly

**SAMPSON**

*(realizing his mistake, looking to Gregory for help)* Umm. Well, sir.

**GREGORY**

Say Capulet’s better for here comes Count Tybalt (kinsmen line up behind Gregory)

**SAMPSON**

Yes, *(braggadocio childish, and joins his kinsmen)* better, sir.

**ABRAHAM**

You lie.

**SAMPSON**

Draw, if you are men. Gregory, remember your swashing blow. *(he demonstrates all show)*

## TYBALT PIECE 1

### TYBALT

This, by his voice, should be a Montague.

By my sword what dares the slave  
To flee and scorn at our gathering?  
Now, by the honour of my blood,  
To strike him dead, I hold it not a sin."

He strides through the guests who drop back in fear. He has his hand on the hilt of his sword and would draw it out if CAPULET did not arrive, pushing through the crowd, laying his hand on Tybalt's to prevent the attack

### CAPULET

Why, how now, kinsman! Why so storm you so?

### TYBALT

Uncle, the man with Juliet is a Montague, our enemy,

### CAPULET

Young Romeo is it?

### TYBALT

'Tis he, that villain Romeo.

### CAPULET

Nephew, be easy! Let the youth alone;  
You heard the Prince's warning in the town  
To harm a Montague under this roof  
Means riot and in its bloody wake our deaths.  
I would not, for all the wealth of the town  
Let any harm beset him in my house.

### TYBALT

Never! When such a villain is a guest!  
I'll not endure him.

### CAPULET

He shall be endured:  
I say, you will;  
Am I the master here, or you?  
Go to.  
You'll not make a mutiny among my guests!

### TYBALT

Uncle, 'tis but shameful.

### CAPULET

Go to, go to;  
You must contrary me? Never

You are a princox; go:

Go to or -

By now Lady Capulet is at their side

**LADY CAPULET**

My husband

Her calculating look takes in the situation. Lord Capulet takes his wife's arm, turns from Tybalt and moves toward the dancers. But he turns back for one final word

**CAPULET**

Go to!

He moves away

**TYBALT**

I will withdraw: but this intrusion shall  
Now seeming sweet convert to bitter gall.

*Exit*

## TYBALT PIECE 2

### TYBALT

Wait over here, for I will speak to them.  
Gentlemen, good den: a word with one of you.

### MERCUTIO

And but one word with one of us? couple it with  
something; make it a word and a blow.

### TYBALT

You shall find me ready enough to that, Mercutio, if you give me the chance

### MERCUTIO

Can you not take the chance? Or must it be given?

### TYBALT

I've sent a letter writ to Romeo,  
Whom you consort with--

### MERCUTIO

Consort with! what, dost thou imagine us a pair of minstrels?  
For if you do, expect the sharpest notes.  
Here's my fiddlestick, that shall make you dance,  
"consorts" indeed

### BENVOLIO

Mercutio! Tybalt! This is a public place  
Either withdraw to some private place,  
And there dispute coldly your grievances,  
Or else depart; here all eyes gaze on us.

### MERCUTIO

Men's eyes were made to look, and let them gaze;  
I will not budge for no man's pleasure.

*Enter ROMEO*

### ROMEO

Benvolio?

### TYBALT

Well, peace be with you, sir: here is my man.

### MERCUTIO

Your "man"? I do not see him in your livery.  
How dare you call a Montague "your man"?

**TYBALT**

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

**ROMEO**

Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee  
Does much excuse my rage  
At such a greeting: villain am I none;  
Therefore farewell; I see you know me not.

**TYBALT**

Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries  
That you have done me; therefore turn and fight.

**ROMEO**

I do insist, I never injured you,  
But love you better than you'll understand,  
Till you know the reason.  
And so, good Capulet,--a name I tender  
As dearly as my own,--be satisfied.

**MERCUTIO**

A smooth, dishonourable, vile submission!  
*Draws*  
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; you have it to spare, with eight to use hereafter  
What, do you dither now to draw your sword?  
Make haste or I will pluck you, ere it's out

**TYBALT**

I am for you.

*Drawing*

## BALTHASAR PIECE 1

*SCENE I. Mantua. A street.*

*Enter ROMEO*

**ROMEO**

*Enter BALTHASAR, booted*

News from Verona!--How now, Balthasar!  
Do you not bring me letters from the friar?  
How does my lady? Is my father well?  
How goes my Juliet? that I ask again;  
For nothing can be ill, if she be well.

**BALTHASAR**

Then she is well, and nothing can be ill:  
Her body sleeps in Capel's monument,  
And her soul with angels lives.

**ROMEO**

You know this or you heard a story told?

**BALTHASAR**

I saw her placed in her kindred's vault,  
And straight away came to tell it you:  
O, pardon me for bringing these ill news,  
But you did leave it as my office, sir.

**ROMEO**

It is true? then I defy you, stars!  
I will hence to-night.  
get thee gone,  
I'll be with thee straight.

*Exit BALTHASAR*

## BALTHASAR PIECE 2

*Enter FRIAR LAURENCE, with a lantern, crow, and spade*

### **FRIAR LAURENCE**

Saint Francis be my speed! how oft to-night  
Have my old feet stumbled at graves! Who's there?

### **BALTHASAR**

Here's one, a friend, and one that knows you well.

### **FRIAR LAURENCE**

Bliss be upon you! Tell me, good my friend,  
What light is yond, that vainly lends his light  
To grubs and eyeless skulls? as I discern,  
It burneth in the Capel's monument.

### **BALTHASAR**

It doth so, holy sir; and there's my master,  
One that you love.

### **FRIAR LAURENCE**

Who is it?

### **BALTHASAR**

Romeo.

### **FRIAR LAURENCE**

How long hath he been there?

### **BALTHASAR**

Full half an hour.

### **FRIAR LAURENCE**

Go with me to the vault.

### **BALTHASAR**

I dare not, sir  
My master knows not but I am gone hence;  
And fearfully did menace me with death,  
If I did stay to look on his intents.

### **FRIAR LAURENCE**

Stay, then; I'll go alone. Fear comes upon me:  
O, much I fear some ill unlucky thing.

### **BALTHASAR**

As I did sleep under this yew-tree here,  
I dreamt my master and another fought,  
And that my master slew him.

**FRIAR LAURENCE**

Romeo!

## MONTAGUES

### MONTAGUE

Speak, nephew, were you by when it began?

### BENVOLIO

When I arrived the Capulet servants were  
Fighting with your own  
I drew my sword to part them  
But fiery Tybalt, sprang at me  
And the battle spread until  
The Prince arrived to end it

### LADY MONTAGUE

O, where is Romeo? Have you seen him to-day?  
I am glad he was not at this fray.

### BENVOLIO

Madam, an hour before the dawn  
A troubled mind drew me to walk abroad;  
Where, under the grove of sycamore  
So early walking did I see your son:  
I made towards him, but he saw me  
And hid in the cover of the wood:  
Thinking he may be troubled as I,  
and might want to be alone  
Kept walking and pretended I hadn't seen him,  
And he ran away I think.

### MONTAGUE

Many a morning has he there been seen,  
In tears like the fresh morning dew.  
Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs;  
But as soon as the sun comes up  
He comes back home  
And in his private chamber locks himself away,  
Shuts up his windows, locking fair daylight out  
And lights himself a candle in the dark:  
Black and portentous must this mood does prove,  
Unless good counsel may find the cause and remove.

### BENVOLIO

My noble uncle, do you know the cause?

### MONTAGUE

I neither know will he tell me of it.

**BENVOLIO**

Have you asked him?

**MONTAGUE**

I've begged the answer

Both by myself and friends

But try as we may

He is so secret and

So close We cannot learn the cause

*Enter ROMEO*

**BENVOLIO**

See, he comes: so please, step aside;

I'll know his grievance, or be much denied.

**MONTAGUE**

I would be so happy if indeed you would, hear his confession and learn from where his sorrows grow. Come, madam, let's away.

*Exeunt MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE*

## MONTAGUE PIECE 2

### CAPULET

O brother Montague, give me your hand:  
This is my daughter's dowry, for no more  
Can I demand.

### MONTAGUE

But I can give thee more:  
For I will raise her statue in pure gold;  
That while Verona by that name is known,  
There shall no figure at such rate be set  
As that of true and faithful Juliet.