

Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

THE PROLOGUE

- 1 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.
- 5 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-marked love,
- 10 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.

Vocabulary:

Quatrain 1: grudge = rancune

Quatrain 2: the loins of = the children of; two foes = two enemies; overthrow = la chute/ la ruine; their parents' strife = their parents' quarrel

Prologue in modern English & French

Modern English :

In the beautiful city of Verona, where our story takes place,
a long-standing hatred between two families erupts into new violence,
and citizens stain their hands with the blood of their fellow citizens.
Two unlucky children of these enemy families become lovers and commit suicide.
Their unfortunate deaths put an end to their parents' feud.
For the next two hours, we will watch the story of their doomed love and their parents' anger,
which nothing but the children's deaths could stop. If you listen to us patiently, we'll make up for everything
we've left out in this prologue onstage.

French : Deux familles, égales en noblesse,
Dans la belle Vérone, où nous plaçons notre scène,
Sont entraînées par d'anciennes rancunes à des rixes nouvelles
où le sang des citoyens souille les mains des citoyens.
Des entrailles prédestinées de ces deux ennemies a pris naissance,
sous des étoiles contraires, un couple d'amoureux dont la ruine néfaste et lamentable doit ensevelir dans leur
tombe l'animosité de leurs parents.
Les terribles péripéties de leur fatal amour et les effets de la rage obstinée de ces familles,
que peut seule apaiser la mort de leurs enfants,
Vont en deux heures être exposés sur notre scène.
Si vous daignez nous écouter patiemment,
Notre zèle s'efforcera de corriger notre insuffisance.

Exctract from Act 1 ; scene 1

On a street somewhere in Verona: two servingmen of the Capulets, Sampson and Gregory.

Enter ABRAHAM and BALTHASAR, servingmen of the Montagues

SAMPSON

My naked weapon is out. Quarrel, I will back thee.

GREGORY

How? Turn thy back and run?

SAMPSON

Fear this not.

GREGORY

No, marry°, I fear thee. (°really)

SAMPSON

Let us have the law on our side; let them begin.

GREGORY

I will frown as I pass by and let them take it as they will.

SAMPSON

Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them, which is disgrace to them if they bear it.

ABRAHAM

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON

I do bite my thumb, sir.

ABRAHAM

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

SAMPSON

[To GREGORY] Is the law on our side, if I say aye?

GREGORY

No.

SAMPSON

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

GREGORY

Do you quarrel, sir?

ABRAHAM

Quarrel, sir? No sir.

SAMPSON

If you do, sir, I am yours to fight. I serve as good a man as you.

ABRAHAM

No better than mine.

SAMPSON

Well, sir.

Enter BENVOLIO

GREGORY

Say ours is better; here comes one of our master's kinsmen.

SAMPSON

Yes: better, sir.

ABRAHAM

You lie.

SAMPSON

Draw, if you be men. Gregory, remember thy swashing blow.

They fight

BENVOLIO

Part, fools! Put up your swords; you know not what you do.

Enter TYBALT

TYBALT

What, art thou drawn among these heartless hinds°? (°peasants; servants)

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.

Have at thee, coward!

They fight

Tache finale :

Seul ou à plusieurs, vous rejouez une des scènes vues en classe : scène du prologue, scène de la bagarre, scène du balcon. Mais vous les rejouez « à votre sauce » : trouvez une situation moderne qui amènerait à ces scènes. (un amour impossible, une rivalité, etc.). Ré-écrivez le texte en gardant les mêmes personnages.

Vous pouvez la jouer en classe ou bien vous filmer et déposer la vidéo sur le dossier partagé dans les devoirs.

Les accessoires, costumes etc sont autorisés.

Respect de la situation initiale de la pièce	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5
Modernisation, adaptation	/2	/2	/2	/2	/2	/2
Qualité de l'anglais du nouveau texte (grammaire...)	/3	/3	/3	/3	/3	/3
intonation	/2	/2	/2	/2	/2	/2
Diction, prononciation	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5	/2,5
jeu	/3	/3	/3	/3	/3	/3
	/15	/15	/15	/15	/15	/15

