

Romeo & Juliet Dramatic/Literary Conventions

drama: a story to be performed in front of an audience

act : a major unit in a play

scene: an indication of action taking place at a different time and place

aside: a character speaks their inner thoughts aloud to be heard by only the audience

prologue: a speech or poem addressed to the audience by one of the actors at the beginning of the play

stage directions: a set of instructions (printed in italics or brackets) that tells the actors what to do

blank verse: unrhymed poetry written in iambic pentameter

free verse: Unrhymed verse that has an irregular pattern or no metrical pattern

unrhymed iambic pentameter: an unrhymed metrical line of 5 feet, or units, each of which is made up of 2 syllables, the 1st unstressed and the 2nd stressed

couplet: two consecutive lines that rhyme

monologue: an extended speech by a character

soliloquy: an extended speech by a character who is alone on stage

comedy : light and often humorous in tone, it usually ends happily with a peaceful resolution to the conflict

pun: a joke that comes from a play on words.

foil character: a character who provides a striking contrast to another character

prop: any physical object used in a stage production

tragedy : a work where the protagonist meets an unhappy ending

tragic flaw : the flaw in a hero that causes their fate, it can be a character's personality, or an error in judgment

tragic hero : the main character that is brought to a final downfall as a result of a tragic fall

hyperbole: a figure of speech using deliberate exaggeration or overstatement

understatement: to present something as less significant than it is

paradox: A statement that seems to contradict itself, but, in fact, reveals some element of truth.

oxymoron: contradictory terms that appear side by side

allusion: A reference in literature to a familiar person, place, thing, or event.

flashback: to present past events during current events, in order to provide background

mood: The feeling or atmosphere that a writer creates for the reader.

tone: An expression of a writer's attitude toward a subject.

apostrophe: a figure of speech that directly addresses an absent or imaginary person **foreshadowing:** use of hints or clues to indicate events that will occur in a story.

irony: The contrast between expectation and reality.

conflict: the problem or struggle between the opposing forces

theme: the central idea or message of a work, the insight it offers into life

A List of Characters in Romeo and Juliet

The Montague Family

Lord Montague: Wealthy nobleman of Verona, Italy and enemy to Lord Capulet

Lady Montague: Lord Montague's wife

Romeo: Lord and Lady Montague's son

Benvolio: Romeo's cousin and good friend to Romeo

Balthasar: Romeo's personal servant

Abram: Montague family servant

The Capulet Family

Lord Capulet: Wealthy nobleman of Verona, Italy and enemy to Lord Montague

Lady Capulet: Lord Capulet's wife

Juliet: Lord and Lady Capulet's daughter

Tybalt: Juliet's cousin

Nurse: Servant who has cared for Juliet since infancy

Sampson: Servant to the Capulet Family

Gregory: Servant to the Capulet Family

Other

Chorus: Actor who speaks directly to the audience to introduce the play

Prince Escalus: Ruler of Verona, Italy (often referred to as simply Prince)

Count Paris: Relative to the prince and suitor to Juliet

Mercutio: Relative to the prince and Romeo's best friend

Friar Lawrence: Catholic priest of the order of Franciscans; mentor to Romeo and Juliet

Apothecary: Pharmacist in Mantua

Friar John: Franciscan Priest

Page: Servant to Paris

Setting is Verona, Italy in the fourteenth century.