

1. Characterisation			2. Literary Techniques and Methods		QR Codes:
1. Romeo Montague	Son and heir of the Montagues; individualistic ; non-violent (at the start); melancholic (at start); driven by impulse & desire; rashness is his hamartia ; a symbol of recklessness /romantic love; quick-witted; shallow desire for Rosaline replaced by intense passion for Juliet; a tragic hero ; a modern man.		1. Foreshadowing	Foreshadowing of final catastrophe through the prologue & repeated imagery of death; emphasizes inevitability of fate	Key Words 
2. Juliet Capulet	Stands on border between immaturity & maturity; individualistic ; obedient & naïve (start); a dutiful daughter; journey from childhood to adulthood; breaks social convention ; self-assured (end); strong female character; tragic heroine; her purity/beauty is symbolised through light. <i>Represents how girls were married at a young age. They were expected to remain chaste & pure & to obey their fathers & husbands to the word – if not, they would bring dishonour upon the family.</i>		2. Dramatic Irony	Audience watch R & J’s destiny unfold & are unable to intervene ; tragic end revealed to audience in the prologue . Romeo unknowingly falls in love with a Capulet . Romeo unaware Juliet is alive in A5.	
3. Lord Capulet	Patriarch of the Capulet family; hot-tempered; a loving father; tyrannical ; possessive; behaves according to social norms; driven by status & reputation; a symbol of patriarchal violence; a complex character. <i>Represents a patriarchal society where the father was the undisputed head of the family.</i>		3. Soliloquy	Soliloquies add complexity and depth to characters; passionate and heartfelt disclosures draws empathy from the audience; Balcony scene soliloquies reveal R+J’s intense feelings for each other.	Essays 
4. Tybalt	Violent and hot-tempered; vain ; upholds traditional chivalric values; antithesis of Romeo; a social conformist ; a symbol of a phallocentric world.		4. Oxymoron	Oxymoron show confused emotions of Romeo in A1S1: ‘O loving hate!’; also highlights contradiction of R+J’s love against backdrop of families’ hate.	
5. Benvolio	Name means ‘good will’; a symbol of friendship & peace; Romeo’s friend and confidante .		5. Innuendo and imagery	‘earthy’ sexual innuendo & punning vs poetic & romantic imagery . Shakespeare uses celestial imagery to characterise love or to develop theme of ‘ <i>star-crossed</i> ’ lovers who are destined to die.	Wider reading 
6. Friar Lawrence	Even-tempered; Romeo’s surrogate father; peace-loving; scheming & political; an expert herbalist; a catalyst for fate; mystical ; a symbol of moderation . <i>Reflects how Priests would have been respected and revered in this Italian Catholic society.</i>		6. Critical theory	Feminist theory exposes the misogyny and masculine bias evident in the depiction of the patriarchy ; Juliet’s role as wife and daughter reveals her low-status as a woman. Psychoanalytical theory : Romeo’s Id, Ego and Superego; the psychological effects of love and hate; Oedipal connections between the characters.	
7. Nurse	Vulgar/bawdy ; long-winded; sentimental ; Juliet’s faithful confidante ; a symbol of earthy & sexual love; a comic character; ultimately succumbs to society. <i>Reflects how In high society, children often raised by a ‘wet nurse’ & did not always build strong bonds with their parents.</i>				
8. Mercutio	Imaginative; witty; hot-headed ; deflates the possibility of romantic love; a symbol of realism over romanticism; a victim of the feud ; physically. <i>Reflects how the expected masculine response to being wronged was to take revenge. Violence was often encouraged.</i>				
3. Themes and Ideas			Authorial intention and Tragic Structure		British Library Resources 
1. Love		Love as a new religion; unrequited love ; the perils of forbidden love; love as an unstoppable force; physical love versus pure/spiritual love; the relationship between love and death. <i>Marriages for love were very rare and were frowned upon by society</i>	1. Patriarchal society	Masculinity and honour seen as necessary traits for men; obedience seen as expected trait of young women; patriarchal society - women were given to husbands by their fathers; Romeo fulfills the role of Petrarchan lover : melodramatic, suffering, man expected to pursue woman.	
2. Fate		Inescapable power of fate; the fragility of human ambitions; the inevitability of death; the tension between fate & ill-fortune/missed chances. <i>The play was set during a very religious period: Italy had a Catholic society where there was a strong belief in fate and mortal sin.</i>	2. Authorial intent	R & J could be seen as a cautionary tale against lust & disobedience ; alternatively the play could celebrate the eternal power of true love; huge riots in London in the summer of 1595 were one of Shakespeare’s inspirations;	Copy of the text 
3. Conflict and violence		The foolishness & futility of conflict; the thin line between love and hate; the conflict between children and parents; the way violence tears families & communities apart.	3. Fate	The belief that your life is mapped out and ‘written in the stars.’ Many Elizabethans believed that God decided your fate, and that astrology could help you identify your course in life.	
4. Family		The importance of honour, reputation and loyalty to family; the expectations of parents & the longings of their children; strained relations within & between families; the significance of a family name. <i>Children often regarded as ‘property’ & marriages were often arranged for political and financial gain.</i>	4. Religion	England was under Protestant rule. Romeo and Juliet display their faith at several points in the play, including being married before they share a bed.	
5. Society vs Individuals		The freedom of the individual vs. the restrictions imposed by society; the danger of breaking social rules; being true to oneself; free-will . <i>Suicide and bigamy were both considered mortal sins.</i>	2. Structure	Shakespeare uses elements of Aristotelian tragedy to structure RJ. Romeo represents the tragic hero archetype. Prince Escalus’ speech in A5 resolves ‘ <i>ancient grudge</i> ’ and represents ‘restored order’. Tragic Hero : Protagonist who possesses a flaw that leads to their downfall . Hamartia : The fatal character flaw of the tragic hero. Catharsis : The release of audience emotions through empathy with characters.	
6. Gender		The violence of men towards women; the foolishness & recklessness of young men; the difficulty of upholding traditional gender roles ; the inflexibility & unsuitability of traditional gender stereotypes .			