

Name _____

A Fateful Encounter: Act 1 of 'Romeo and Juliet'

In Act 1 of William Shakespeare's timeless tragedy, "Romeo and Juliet," the stage is set for a story of love, conflict, and destiny. Act 1 introduces us to the characters, themes, and circumstances that will shape the unfolding drama.



Scene 1: Verona's Feuding Families

The play opens in the streets of Verona, where two noble families, the Montagues and the Capulets, are engaged in a bitter feud. The tension between the families is palpable, and the Prince of Verona has warned them that further disturbances will be punished severely. The opening scene sets the stage for the conflict that will drive the narrative.

Scene 2: A Secret Love

In contrast to the feuding families, we are introduced to Romeo Montague, a young man deeply infatuated with a woman named Rosaline. However, his romantic yearning is unrequited, and he is melancholic. His friend Benvolio, in an effort to cheer him up, suggests they attend the Capulet's masquerade ball. Romeo reluctantly agrees, and the two friends decide to crash the event.

Scene 3: The Capulet Household

At the Capulet household, we meet Juliet, a young and beautiful girl. Her parents, Lord and Lady Capulet, are planning a grand ball in their home, and Juliet's nurse is tasked with finding Juliet. The Nurse's humorous and caring nature becomes evident in this scene.

Scene 4: The Montagues Prepare for the Ball

As Romeo, Benvolio, and their friend Mercutio prepare to attend the Capulet's masquerade ball, Mercutio delivers a famous monologue about the fairy Queen Mab. His speech explores the whimsical and fantastical nature of dreams and desires.

Scene 5: The Fateful Meeting

The grand ball at the Capulet's mansion is in full swing. Romeo, wearing a mask, enters the party with his friends. As he gazes upon Juliet, who is also masked, he is struck by her beauty. Despite the enmity between their families, Romeo and Juliet share an instant and profound connection. They engage in a passionate conversation and share a kiss, unaware of each other's true identities.