Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet has become Shakespeare’s most well-known love story. See how true love can blossom, even in an unfriendly setting of hatred and feuding. Read along and find out how their innocence enables them to overlook the fighting between their families. Romeo and Juliet are betrayed by the very families they care about, forcing them to take their lives instead of being separated. In the end, through the pain of losing their children, the families realize how trivial their differences really were.
Romeo and Juliet

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
At that Balthasar handed Prince Escalus the letter Romeo had given him. It proved what Friar Laurence had said was true.

You Montagues and Capulets! See what your fighting has done? First of all, Mercutio and Paris are dead.

And finally, at the prince’s words, the two families realized how stupid they had been.

Montague, give me your hand. From this day forth our feud is over!

I give you my hand and more. We shall never fight again!

That is good! But for now, let us leave this place. The sad story of what happened here will remain with us always!
Welcome to Saddleback’s Illustrated Classics™

We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback’s Illustrated Classics™. Saddleback’s Illustrated Classics™ was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

With these graphically Illustrated Classics™, you learn what happens in the story in a number of different ways. One way is by reading the words a character says. Another way is by looking at the drawings of the character. The artist can tell you what kind of person a character is and what he or she is thinking or feeling.

This series will help you to develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment as you finish each novel. The stories in Saddleback’s Illustrated Classics™ are fun to read. And remember, fun motivates!
Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback’s Illustrated Classics™ was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world’s greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

• Establish a purpose for reading
• Use prior knowledge
• Evaluate your reading
• Listen to the language as it is written
• Extend literary and language appreciation through discussion and writing activities

Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the Illustrated Classics™, you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.
Step-By-Step

The following is a simple guide to using and enjoying each of your Illustrated Classics™. To maximize your use of the learning activities provided, we suggest that you follow these steps:

1. **Listen!** We suggest that you listen to the read-along. (At this time, please ignore the beeps.) You will enjoy this wonderfully dramatized presentation.

2. **Pre-reading Activities.** After listening to the audio presentation, the pre-reading activities in the Activity Book prepare you for reading the story by setting the scene, introducing more difficult vocabulary words, and providing some short exercises.

3. **Reading Activities.** Now turn to the “While you are reading” portion of the Activity Book, which directs you to make a list of story-related facts. Read-along while listening to the audio presentation. (This time pay attention to the beeps, as they indicate when each page should be turned.)

4. **Post-reading Activities.** You have successfully read the story and listened to the audio presentation. Now answer the multiple-choice questions and other activities in the Activity Book.
Remember,

"Today's readers are tomorrow's leaders."
At this very moment the County Paris was at Juliet’s tomb. Suddenly his servant called out to him.

Sir, I hear horses coming.

Then I’ll step aside for a moment. I don’t want anyone to see me.

Romeo and Balthasar drew near to Juliet’s tomb. They had just arrived from Mantua.

Take this letter, Balthasar, and give it to my father. I would like to be alone.

I will go, sir.

When he had gone, Romeo used Balthasar’s tools to open the tomb. Seeing this, Paris stepped from the shadows and ordered Romeo to stop.

Romeo, you killed Juliet’s cousin and she died from sadness at his death. You must not do anything else to hurt her family. Leave her tomb alone.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek and Latin. Historians aren’t sure of the exact date of Shakespeare’s birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583, the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592, Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, The King’s Men, appeared most often in the Globe theatre, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems and a number of sonnets. In 1611, when he left the active life of the theatre, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.
Meanwhile, back in Verona, Friar Laurence was very upset. The day before, he had written a letter to Romeo and had given it to Friar John. He thought Friar John would bring back an answer.

Have you been to see Romeo, Friar John?

I have bad news, Friar Laurence. The house I was staying in was locked up all day yesterday because they thought someone had a disease that would spread to others. No one was allowed to come or go until they were sure everything was all right.

The letter you gave me never reached Romeo.

What? Quick, get me some tools! Juliet will wake up in three hours, and Romeo won't be there!
While these things were happening, Romeo was walking down a street in Mantua. All at once his servant, Balthasar, found him.

Balthasar, how is Juliet?

Your wife is dead, Romeo. I saw her body placed in the Capulet tomb.

Romeo was stunned at the news, but he made plans quickly.

Get some horses for us, Balthasar. We will leave for Verona tonight. Are there any messages from Friar Laurence?

No, none.

When Balthasar had gone, Romeo went to a nearby drug store to buy some poison. He planned to take his own life and die next to Juliet.

Many years ago in Verona, Italy, there lived two families who hated one another. The Montagues and the Capulets had been carrying on a feud for as long as they could remember.

If those Montagues should come by, I'll strike before they can run away!

Then take out your sword, for two of them are coming now.

Sampson and Gregory were servants of the Capulets. They were just as ready to fight the Montagues as their masters were.
I'll pick a fight with them. Stay near and help me.

I will. And other Capulets will join us if we need help.

The Capulets are better masters than the Montagues!

What? You lie!

Within seconds the liquid had done its work.

The next morning, the nurse went to Juliet's room to prepare her for the wedding.

Juliet? Oh, no! She is dead!

Hearing the nurse's cries, Lord and Lady Capulet rushed into the room.

Death has come like a frost to this sweet flower.

Downstairs, the County Paris waited with Friar Laurence.

Is the bride ready to go to church?

She will go to church and never return. Juliet is dead!
You will then be placed in a tomb. I will write to Romeo, and he will be there when you wake up.

Then you and Romeo can go to live in Mantua.

As the servants prepared to fight, Montague's nephew, Benvolio, rushed up to them.

Stop, you fools! You don't know what you're doing!

Juliet returned at once to her father's house.

I'll do it! Goodbye, Father.

Just then Tybalt, a nephew of Capulet's wife, saw Benvolio with his sword drawn. He thought Benvolio wanted to fight along with the servants.

Why fight them when you can fight me, Benvolio?

Father, I met Paris in Friar Laurence's room. I believe he is a good man.

Up in her room, Juliet drank the liquid Friar Laurence had given her.

Romeo, I do this to join you!

I am trying to keep peace, Tybalt. If you must use your sword, help me to separate these servants.

I do not like the word peace. I hate you and all the other Montagues. Fight me, I say!
I shall be the death of you, Benvolio.

Many good citizens of Verona were tired of the long feud. They rushed up to the fighting men.

Stop them citizens! Strike! Beat them down!

Down with Montague! Down with Capulet! Down with both families!

Meanwhile, the County Paris had gone to see Friar Laurence to make plans for his wedding.

Three days is a very short time!

It is the Capulets who want to hurry.

Just then Juliet rushed into the room. She could hardly wait to speak with the kind friar.

Ah, it is my lady and my wife.

Not yet, Paris. Father, may I see you alone?

When the County Paris had left, Juliet begged the monk to help her.

Drink the liquid in this vial. It will put you into a deep sleep, and everyone will think you are dead!

I know what troubles you, Juliet. And I have an answer.
As Lady Capulet entered the room, she saw how sad Juliet was and thought she was still weeping at Tybalt’s death.

I have good news, Juliet. To make you happy, we have arranged for you to marry the County Paris.

Oh, no! Mother, I will never marry him!

In a moment her father entered the room. Lady Capulet turned to him.

Juliet does not want to marry Paris.

What? You shall, Juliet, or I will send you out of this house!

Of course the Capulets thought they knew what was best for their daughter. When she would not do as they wished, they left her room angrily. Then Juliet found a way to get out of the house.

Nurse, I must go and see Friar Laurence. I have to tell him that I made my parents angry.

That’s a good idea, Juliet.

Hearing the noise, Old Capulet and Lord Montague came out of their houses to see what was happening.

Look! Here comes Montague with a sword. Get mine for me, wife.

No, you are too old to fight.

There is Old Capulet. Let go of me, woman!

I will not!
At that moment Prince Escalus of Verona arrived.

Stop this fighting! Three times already you Montagues and Capulets have upset our city with your bloody feud. We are tired of it!

Just then Juliet’s nurse called to her.

She must not find me here! Kiss me, Juliet, and I will go.

Madam, your mother is coming to see you.

I will wait every day for a message from you!

And I will send one, I promise.

From now on, anyone who is caught fighting in the streets will pay for it with his life!

With that, Romeo disappeared into the garden and was gone.
You may take my daughter as your wife next Thursday. How does that sound?

Sir, I wish tomorrow were Thursday!

Yes, my love. The birds are starting to sing and the sun is coming up. If I stay any longer I will be killed.

But I would gladly stay and die for you, Juliet, if that is what you wish.

At this very moment Romeo was standing on Juliet’s balcony.

Must you go so soon, Romeo?

I will go upstairs and tell Juliet about this.

With this the prince left, and the people went back to their homes.

By the way, Benvolio, have you seen my son Romeo today? I am glad he was not in this fight.

I saw him walking this morning, Lady Montague. He wanted to be left alone.

As they spoke, Romeo came down the street. Benvolio went alone to talk with him.

Good morning, cousin. What is bothering you?

Oh, Benvolio, I am in love!
But the girl I love does not love me. It troubles my heart.

A woman who says that she will never marry.

Who is she, Romeo?

Then forget her and find someone else.

Friar Laurence told Romeo to leave Verona before dawn and go to the city of Mantua to live.

Just be sure to leave the city before dawn. Go to Mantua for the time being, and I will contact you through your servant Balthasar. Now go.

Go and see Juliet, Romeo. Someday Prince Escalus may pardon you. Then you can return to your home.

Thank you, Father. Farewell and good night.

All this time, Juliet’s father did not know his daughter was wed to Romeo. He made plans with the County Paris.

I will let you marry Juliet. Then she will forget about her dead cousin.

No one is as lovely as she is. I cannot forget her! Goodbye, cousin.

There are many other lovely girls in Verona.

Poor Romeo! I must help him somehow!
Meanwhile, Friar Laurence returned to his home with news for Romeo.

Prince Escalus has given you a gentle punishment. You are to be sent away forever.

I would rather die than be sent away. How can I live without Juliet?

Just then Juliet’s nurse knocked and entered.

Romeo, I come from lady Juliet. She asks that you come and comfort her tonight.

A short time later, Old Capulet met with the County Paris, a handsome and rich young man.

Sir, I would like to marry your daughter Juliet.

She is very young. But if she is willing, I will let you marry her.

Come to my feast tonight. You may see some other lady more beautiful than Juliet.

Old Capulet called his servant and gave him a list of names.

Go and invite all the people on this list to my home tonight.

I will come, sir.
At his master's order, the servant took the list and left. But because he could not read, he had to stop someone and ask for help. As luck would have it, Romeo and Benvolio happened to be walking by just then.

As Romeo read the list for him, he saw that the name of the lady he loved was included.

When the servant left, Benvolio quickly spoke with Romeo.

So your lady is on the list! Let us go to the feast tonight. I am sure you will see others there who are just as pretty. When you compare them, you will agree with me!

Meanwhile, knowing nothing of what had happened, Juliet was sitting quietly in her garden.

Tonight Romeo will climb my balcony, and we will be together!

What is wrong, nurse?

Tybalt is dead, killed by Romeo. The prince has sent your new husband away from the city!

At this, Juliet was filled with grief.

If I cannot have Romeo, I will die!

No, Juliet. Do not kill yourself. I know where Romeo is hiding. I will tell him to see you tonight before he leaves.
At this, Lady Capulet spoke up.

Benvolio is a good friend of the Montagues, good prince. Do not listen to his story.

If Tybalt killed Mercutio, then Romeo was right in killing Tybalt.

The prince listened to both sides. Then he spoke.

Romeo must be sent away from Verona. If he is caught before leaving the city, he will be put to death.

I will go, Benvolio, but not to find someone else. I want only to see my beloved.

Meanwhile, in the Capulet house, Juliet’s mother ordered the family nurse to call her daughter.

Nurse, where is Juliet? Tell her I want to see her.

In a moment Juliet walked in.

What would you like, mother?

I would like to know how you feel about getting married.
Marriage? I haven’t thought about it.

Well, think about it now. Many ladies in Verona younger than yourself are already married.

County Paris has asked for your hand. He will be at the feast tonight. Do you think you can love him?

I will not know until I see him, Mother.

Not long afterward, a servant appeared at the door.

Madam, the guests have arrived, and supper will be served soon.

We’ll be right there. Juliet, Paris is waiting. Let us go.

Seeing this, Benvolio urged Romeo to leave.

People are coming! You will get the death penalty if you are caught!

Benvolio is right. I am a fool.

Who started this fight?

A crowd soon gathered. The prince himself came to learn what had happened.

Tybalt killed Mercutio, and Romeo fought Tybalt for doing it.
And just then Tybalt returned. Mercutio’s spirit waits for company, Tybalt! One of us must go with him!

Then it will have to be you, Romeo. We shall see!

That evening Romeo and Benvolio joined the other guests at the Capulets’ costume party. Mercutio, another friend, went along as well.

Cheer up, Romeo. What’s the matter?

I had a bad dream last night, Mercutio. I think it was a warning.

Come on. If we waste our time talking, we will be late for supper.

I cannot shake this feeling that something bad is going to happen.

The fight did not last long. In a few moments Tybalt was dead.

It doesn’t matter, Benvolio.
Inside the house, Lord Capulet greeted the masked guests.

Welcome, gentlemen. We must have dancing! Play, musicians, play!

Some time later, Romeo arrived. Catching sight of Juliet across the room, he asked a servant her name.

What lady is that? She is very lovely.

I do not know her name, sir.

She is like a snowy dove among dark crows. My heart has not known love until tonight!

Help me to a house, Benvolio, or I will die in the street.

Just then Benvolio rushed out of a nearby house.

Poor Mercutio! This is all my fault. He was hurt trying to protect my reputation. And I didn’t want to fight Tybalt because he is Juliet’s cousin.

Then I must kill Tybalt, or be killed myself!

Romeo! Brave Mercutio is dead!
Then Tybalt ran away with the other Capulets, while Mercutio held his bleeding side.

A curse on the Montague and Capulet houses! I am dying!

Easy, Mercutio. The wound cannot be very deep.

Standing nearby, Tybalt heard Romeo's low words and recognized his voice.

This man is a Montague. Where is my sword?

Why do you shout so, Tybalt?

Uncle, that man is Romeo, a Montague. He has come here to ruin your party.

The citizens of Verona think highly of young Romeo. I do not want trouble under my roof, Tybalt.

Bah! You should not allow a Montague here. As you wish, I will not fight him now. But soon he will have to pay for this.

It is neither deep nor wide. But it is enough to put me in my grave.

Why did you come between us, Romeo? This is all your doing.
While Tybalt argued with Old Capulet, Romeo went over to speak with Juliet.

May I take your hand?

Why not? Saint's kiss by holding hands.

Benvolio, help me to stop this!

At that moment, Romeo and Juliet fell deeply in love with one another.

If hands can kiss, may my lips do the same.

Tybalt . . . Mercutio . . . stop! The prince has forbidden fighting in the streets of Verona!

Tybalt, fast as a cat, ducked under Romeo's arm and stabbed Mercutio.

Oh, I am hurt!
Romeo had just been married to Juliet. Tybalt's words could not anger him.

You have insulted me, Romeo. Draw your sword.

I cannot fight you, Tybalt. The Capulet name is as dear as my own!

Hearing this, Mercutio thought Romeo was too love-sick to fight. He challenged Tybalt himself.

I will fight you, Tybalt. Hurry, before I cut off your ears!

After Juliet left, Romeo turned to the nurse.

Then Juliet's nurse drew near.

Madam, your mother would like to speak with you.

Very well.

Who is her mother?

Why, she is the lady of this house.

Her mother is a Capulet. This young girl is an enemy of my family. But I shall surely die without her!
Coming up behind him, Benvolio could tell that something had disturbed Romeo.

Let us leave now.

Yes, perhaps you are right.

As they walked to the door, Lord Capulet urged Romeo and Benvolio to stay. They refused.

We must be going, good sir. But we are glad we came.

I would like a word with one of you.

Just one word, and only with one of us?

This is a public place. Let us go somewhere else to talk.

People can look all they want. I will not leave this spot.

The hour grows late and I must rest. Thank you for coming, everyone. Good night.

When the young men had left, Capulet realized that the party had gone on long enough.

Suddenly Tybalt saw Romeo coming his way.

Ah, here comes the one I want to see!
It grew very warm that afternoon, and Benvolio pleaded with Mercutio to go home.

I think we should leave, Mercutio. It is hot, and many Capulets are nearby. If we meet one of them, we will surely be in for a fight.

Come on, now, Benvolio. You use the smallest excuse to pick a quarrel yourself!

As the other guests were leaving, Juliet asked her nurse the name of the young man she had last spoken to.

The young man who kissed you? He is a Montague. His name is Romeo, the only son of your great enemy.

As they were speaking, Tybalt and some other Capulets appeared. Tybalt was looking for Romeo.

Here come the Capulets.

My only love springs from my family’s hate!

I don’t care. Let them come!

Come, girl. The guests have all gone, and someone calls your name.

Juliet!
Meanwhile, once outside, Romeo could not bear to go home without catching another glimpse of his beloved Juliet.

I must see Juliet again!

As Romeo disappeared over the garden wall, Benvolio and Mercutio came looking for him.

I did, Benvolio. But he won't answer me.

Meanwhile, Romeo talked with Friar Laurence.

My life will know only joy once Juliet and I are wed.

Soon afterward, Juliet arrived.

I hope you are as happy as I am, Juliet.

Oh, Romeo! I cannot tell you how much I love you.

Then come with me, and I will marry you at once.
Meanwhile, Juliet was waiting in her garden. The nurse had been gone for about three hours. Where can she be? She said she would be back in half an hour!

Let's go then, Mercutio. We can't find someone who doesn't wish to be found.

Wait! What light is that? It is Juliet, as bright and beautiful as the sun!

Meanwhile, in the garden, Romeo saw Juliet at her balcony window.

Finally the nurse appeared. What news is there? Did you meet Romeo?

At this, Juliet hurried away.

Romeo is at Friar Laurence's place. Go there, and he will make you his wife.

Without seeing Romeo, Juliet stepped out onto the balcony and spoke quietly to herself.

Oh, Romeo, if only you were not a Montague! Yet, if you won't change, I'll deny my name and no longer be a Capulet!
It is only the Montague name that makes Romeo an enemy. Take that away, and I would marry him!

At this, Romeo spoke up.

I will hold you to your word, dear Juliet.

Romeo! How did you get here? This house means death for you!

This afternoon, sir? She'll be there.

Tell Juliet to come to Friar Laurence's place this afternoon. I will marry her there.

Tell your lady I love her!

I've told Juliet that the County Paris is a good man to marry, but she won't listen to me.

I will a thousand times. Let us go, Peter.
Benvolio was the first to see his friend coming toward them.

Ah, here comes Romeo.

Good day to you both. Please forgive me for running off without you last night.

I would like to speak with you in private, sir.

Just then Juliet's nurse and a servant walked up.

Can any of you gentlemen tell me where I might find Romeo?

At this, Mercutio and Benvolio excused themselves.

We are going to dinner at your father's house, Romeo.

Romeo and Juliet spoke for a few moments of their love. Then Juliet heard her nurse calling at the bedroom door.

Good night, my love.

I must go. If your love for me is true, tell my servant tomorrow when I send him to you. Then I shall marry you.

I will wait for him at nine o'clock in the morning.

I will go to see Friar Laurence and tell him what has happened.

Romeo climbed back over the wall. Even though it was very late, he knew he would not be able to sleep.
Romeo, you are up early this morning. Why, I think you haven’t been to bed at all!

That is right, Father. Even so, I’ve had a sweeter rest than you have!

Have you been with Rosaline?

Where have you been, then?

After a few moments of silence, Friar Laurence agreed.

I will help you, Romeo. By joining the Montagues and the Capulets, I may end the feud between your two families!

No, I have completely forgotten her.

I have fallen in love with Juliet, Lord Capulet’s daughter. You must marry us!

Early the next morning, Benvolio and Mercutio walked the streets of Venice searching for Romeo.

Where can he be?

Tybalt was angry that Romeo went to the party. He sent a letter to Romeo’s house.

And Romeo will fight.

Romeo is as good as dead. If Cupid’s arrow doesn’t kill him, Tybalt’s sword will.

It’s a challenge, I’ll bet!
Romeo, you are up early this morning. Why, I think you haven't been to bed at all!

That is right, Father. Even so, I've had a sweeter rest than you have!

Early the next morning, Benvolio and Mercutio walked the streets of Venice searching for Romeo.

Where can he be?

I spoke with Romeo's father. He did not come home last night.

Have you been with Rosaline?

Where have you been, then?

After a few moments of silence, Friar Laurence agreed.

I will help you, Romeo. By joining the Montagues and the Capulets, I may end the feud between your two families!

Tybalt was angry that Romeo went to the party. He sent a letter to Romeo's house.

No, I have completely forgotten her.

I have fallen in love with Juliet, Lord Capulet's daughter. You must marry us!

It's a challenge, I'll bet!

And Romeo will fight.

Romeo is as good as dead. If Cupid's arrow doesn't kill him, Tybalt's sword will.
Benvolio was the first to see his friend coming toward them.

Ah, here comes Romeo.

Good day to you both. Please forgive me for running off without you last night.

Just then Juliet's nurse and a servant walked up.

Can any of you gentlemen tell me where I might find Romeo?

I am Romeo.

I would like to speak with you in private, sir.

At this, Mercutio and Benvolio excused themselves.

We are going to dinner at your father's house, Romeo.

Romeo and Juliet spoke for a few moments of their love. Then Juliet heard her nurse calling at the bedroom door.

Good night, my love.

I must go. If your love for me is true, tell my servant tomorrow when I send him to you. Then I shall marry you.

I will wait for him at nine o'clock in the morning.

I will go to see Friar Laurence and tell him what has happened.

Romeo climbed back over the wall. Even though it was very late, he knew he would not be able to sleep.
It is only the Montague name that makes Romeo an enemy. Take that away, and I would marry him!

At this, Romeo spoke up.

I will hold you to your word, dear Juliet.

Romeo! How did you get here? This house means death for you!

This afternoon, sir? She’ll be there.

Tell Juliet to come to Friar Laurence’s place this afternoon. I will marry her there.

Good! She thinks only of me!

I’ve told Juliet that the County Paris is a good man to marry, but she won’t listen to me.

Tell your lady I love her!

I will a thousand times. Let us go, Peter.
Meanwhile, Juliet was waiting in her garden. The nurse had been gone for about three hours. Where can she be? She said she would be back in half an hour!

Let's go then, Mercutio. We can't find someone who doesn't wish to be found.

Wait! What light is that? It is Juliet, as bright and beautiful as the sun!

Meanwhile, in the garden, Romeo saw Juliet at her balcony window.

Finally the nurse appeared. What news is there? Did you meet Romeo?

At this, Juliet hurried away.

Without seeing Romeo, Juliet stepped out onto the balcony and spoke quietly to herself.

Oh, Romeo, if only you were not a Montague! Yet, if you won't change, I'll deny my name and no longer be a Capulet!
Meanwhile, once outside, Romeo could not bear to go home without catching another glimpse of his beloved Juliet.

I must see Juliet again!

May the heavens smile upon you today, Romeo.

My life will know only joy once Juliet and I are wed.

Meanwhile, Romeo talked with Friar Laurence.

Soon afterward, Juliet arrived.

I hope you are as happy as I am, Juliet.

Oh, Romeo! I cannot tell you how much I love you!

As Romeo disappeared over the garden wall, Benvolio and Mercutio came looking for him.

He ran this way. Call him, Mercutio.

I did, Benvolio. But he won't answer me.

Then come with me, and I will marry you at once.
It grew very warm that afternoon, and Benvolio pleaded with Mercutio to go home.

I think we should leave, Mercutio. It is hot, and many Capulets are nearby. If we meet one of them, we will surely be in for a fight.

Come on, now, Benvolio. You use the smallest excuse to pick a quarrel yourself!

As they were speaking, Tybalt and some other Capulets appeared. Tybalt was looking for Romeo.

My only love springs from my family’s hate!

I don’t care. Let them come!

As the other guests were leaving, Juliet asked her nurse the name of the young man she had last spoken to.

The young man who kissed you? He is a Montague. His name is Romeo, the only son of your great enemy.

Come, girl. The guests have all gone, and someone calls your name.

Juliet!
Coming up behind him, Benvolio could tell that something had disturbed Romeo.

Let us leave now.

Yes, perhaps you are right.

As they walked to the door, Lord Capulet urged Romeo and Benvolio to stay. They refused.

We must be going, good sir. But we are glad we came.

I would like a word with one of you.

Just one word, and only with one of us?

This is a public place. Let us go somewhere else to talk.

People can look all they want. I will not leave this spot.

The hour grows late and I must rest. Thank you for coming, everyone. Good night.

Suddenly Tybalt saw Romeo coming his way.

Ah, here comes the one I want to see!
Romeo had just been married to Juliet. Tybalt's words could not anger him.

"You have insulted me, Romeo. Draw your sword."

"I cannot fight you, Tybalt. The Capulet name is as dear as my own!"

Hearing this, Mercutio thought Romeo was too love-sick to fight. He challenged Tybalt himself.

"I will fight you, Tybalt. Hurry, before I cut off your ears!"

Then I am ready, Mercutio.

After Juliet left, Romeo turned to the nurse.

"Madam, your mother would like to speak with you.

Very well.

Then Juliet's nurse drew near.

"Who is her mother?"

Who is her mother?

Why, she is the lady of this house.

Her mother is a Capulet. This young girl is an enemy of my family. But I shall surely die without her!"
While Tybalt argued with Old Capulet, Romeo went over to speak with Juliet.

May I take your hand?

Why not? Saints kiss by holding hands.

If hands can kiss, may my lips do the same.

At that moment, Romeo and Juliet fell deeply in love with one another.

Benvolio, help me to stop this!

Tybalt... Mercutio... stop! The prince has forbidden fighting in the streets of Verona!

Tybalt, fast as a cat, ducked under Romeo's arm and stabbed Mercutio.

Oh, I am hurt!
Then Tybalt ran away with the other Capulets, while Mercutio held his bleeding side.

A curse on the Montague and Capulet houses! I am dying!

Easy, Mercutio. The wound cannot be very deep.

Standing nearby, Tybalt heard Romeo’s low words and recognized his voice.

This man is a Montague. Where is my sword?

It is neither deep nor wide. But it is enough to put me in my grave.

Why did you come between us, Romeo? This is all your doing.

I thought it best for all to stop the fight.

Why do you shout so, Tybalt?

Uncle, that man is Romeo, a Montague. He has come here to ruin your party.

The citizens of Verona think highly of young Romeo. I do not want trouble under my roof, Tybalt.

Bah! You should not allow a Montague here. As you wish, I will not fight him now. But soon he will have to pay for this!
Inside the house, Lord Capulet greeted the masked guests.

Welcome, gentlemen. We must have dancing! Play, musicians, play!

Some time later, Romeo arrived. Catching sight of Juliet across the room, he asked a servant her name.

What lady is that? She is very lovely.

I do not know her name, sir.

Help me to a house, Benvolio, or I will die in the street.

She is like a snowy dove among dark crows. My heart has not known love until tonight!

Just then Benvolio rushed out of a nearby house.

Romeo! Brave Mercutio is dead!

Then I must kill Tybalt, or be killed myself!

Poor Mercutio! This is all my fault. He was hurt trying to protect my reputation. And I didn’t want to fight Tybalt because he is Juliet’s cousin.
And just then Tybalt returned. Mercutio’s spirit waits for company, Tybalt! One of us must go with him!

Then it will have to be you, Romeo. We shall see!

That evening Romeo and Benvolio joined the other guests at the Capulets’ costume party. Mercutio, another friend, went along as well.

Cheer up, Romeo. What’s the matter?

I had a bad dream last night, Mercutio. I think it was a warning.

Come on. If we waste our time talking, we will be late for supper.

I cannot shake this feeling that something bad is going to happen!

The fight did not last long. In a few moments Tybalt was dead.

It doesn’t matter, Benvolio.
Marriage? I haven't thought about it.

Well, think about it now. Many ladies in Verona younger than yourself are already married.

County Paris has asked for your hand. He will be at the feast tonight. Do you think you can love him?

I will not know until I see him, Mother.

Not long afterward, a servant appeared at the door.

Madam, the guests have arrived, and supper will be served soon.

We'll be right there, Juliet. Paris is waiting. Let us go.

Seeing this, Benvolio urged Romeo to leave.

People are coming! You will get the death penalty if you are caught!

Benvolio is right. I am a fool.

Who started this fight?

A crowd soon gathered. The prince himself came to learn what had happened.

Tybalt killed Mercutio, and Romeo fought Tybalt for doing it.
At this, Lady Capulet spoke up.

Benvolio is a good friend of the Montagues, good prince. Do not listen to his story.

But old Montague answered for his son.

If Tybalt killed Mercutio, then Romeo was right in killing Tybalt.

The prince listened to both sides. Then he spoke.

Romeo must be sent away from Verona. If he is caught before leaving the city, he will be put to death.

Meanwhile, in the Capulet house, Juliet’s mother ordered the family nurse to call her daughter.

Nurse, where is Juliet? Tell her I want to see her.

In a moment Juliet walked in.

What would you like, mother?

I would like to know how you feel about getting married.
At his master’s order, the servant took the list and left. But because he could not read, he had to stop someone and ask for help. As luck would have it, Romeo and Benvolio happened to be walking by just then.

Excuse me, good sirs. Can you tell me whose names are on this paper?

As Romeo read the list for him, he saw that the name of the lady he loved was included.

Thank you for helping me, sirs. My master is Lord Capulet. If you are not Montagues, you are welcome to attend his party.

When the servant left, Benvolio quickly spoke with Romeo.

So your lady is on the list! Let us go to the feast tonight. I am sure you will see others there who are just as pretty. When you compare them, you will agree with me!

Meanwhile, knowing nothing of what had happened, Juliet was sitting quietly in her garden.

Tonight Romeo will climb my balcony, and we will be together!

At this, Juliet was filled with grief.

If I cannot have Romeo, I will die!

Suddenly the nurse arrived carrying the rope ladder that Romeo would use. She was very upset.

What is wrong, nurse?

Tybalt is dead, killed by Romeo. The prince has sent your new husband away from the city!

No, Juliet. Do not kill yourself. I know where Romeo is hiding. I will tell him to see you tonight before he leaves.
Meanwhile, Friar Laurence returned to his home with news for Romeo.

Prince Escalus has given you a gentle punishment. You are to be sent away forever.

I would rather die than be sent away. How can I live without Juliet?

Just then Juliet’s nurse knocked and entered.

Romeo, I come from lady Juliet. She asks that you come and comfort her tonight.

A short time later, Old Capulet met with the County Paris, a handsome and rich young man.

Sir, I would like to marry your daughter Juliet.

She is very young. But if she is willing, I will let you marry her.

Come to my feast tonight. You may see some other lady more beautiful than Juliet.

Old Capulet called his servant and gave him a list of names.

Go and invite all the people on this list to my home tonight.
But the girl I love does not love me. It troubles my heart.

A woman who says that she will never marry.

Who is she, Romeo?

Then forget her and find someone else.

There are many other lovely girls in Verona.

Poor Romeo! I must help him somehow!

No one is as lovely as she is. I cannot forget her! Goodbye, cousin.

Go and see Juliet, Romeo. Someday Prince Escalus may pardon you. Then you can return to your home.

Friar Laurence told Romeo to leave Verona before dawn and go to the city of Mantua to live.

Just be sure to leave the city before dawn. Go to Mantua for the time being, and I will contact you through your servant Balthasar. Now go.

Thank you, Father. Farewell and good night.

All this time, Juliet’s father did not know his daughter was wed to Romeo. He made plans with the County Paris.

I will let you marry Juliet. Then she will forget about her dead cousin.
You may take my daughter as your wife next Thursday. How does that sound?

Sir, I wish tomorrow were Thursday!

I will go upstairs and tell Juliet about this.

At this very moment Romeo was standing on Juliet’s balcony.

Must you go so soon, Romeo?

Yes, my love. The birds are starting to sing and the sun is coming up. If I stay any longer I will be killed.

With this the prince left, and the people went back to their homes.

By the way, Benvolio, have you seen my son Romeo today? I am glad he was not in this fight.

I saw him walking this morning, Lady Montague. He wanted to be left alone.

He has been doing that a lot lately, dear wife. He stays up all night long. And during the day he locks himself in his room.

As they spoke, Romeo came down the street. Benvolio went alone to talk with him.

Good morning, cousin. What is bothering you?

Oh, Benvolio, I am in love!

But I would gladly stay and die for you, Juliet, if that is what you wish.

No, no! You must leave!
At that moment Prince Escalus of Verona arrived. Stop this fighting! Three times already you Montagues and Capulets have upset our city with your bloody feud. We are tired of it!

Just then Juliet's nurse called to her. She must not find me here! Kiss me, Juliet, and I will go.

Madam, your mother is coming to see you.

I will wait every day for a message from you!

And I will send one, I promise.

With that, Romeo disappeared into the garden and was gone.

From now on, anyone who is caught fighting in the streets will pay for it with his life!
As Lady Capulet entered the room, she saw how sad Juliet was and thought she was still weeping at Tybalt's death.

I have good news, Juliet. To make you happy, we have arranged for you to marry the Count Paris.

Oh, no! Mother, I will never marry him!

In a moment her father entered the room. Lady Capulet turned to him.

What? You shall, Juliet, or I will send you out of this house!

Of course the Capulets thought they knew what was best for their daughter. When she would not do as they wished, they left her room angrily. Then Juliet found a way to get out of the house.

Nurse, I must go and see Friar Laurence. I have to tell him that I made my parents angry.

That's a good idea, Juliet.

Hearing the noise, Old Capulet and Lord Montague came out of their houses to see what was happening.

Look! Here comes Montague with a sword. Get mine for me, wife.

No, you are too old to fight.

There is Old Capulet. Let go of me, woman!

I will not!
I shall be the death of you, Benvolio.

Many good citizens of Verona were tired of the long feud. They rushed up to the fighting men.

Stop them citizens! Strike! Beat them down!

Down with Montague!

Down with Capulet!

Down with both families!

Meanwhile, the County Paris had gone to see Friar Laurence to make plans for his wedding.

Three days is a very short time!

It is the Capulets who want to hurry.

Just then Juliet rushed into the room. She could hardly wait to speak with the kind friar.

Ah, it is my lady and my wife.

Not yet, Paris. Father, may I see you alone?

When the County Paris had left, Juliet begged the monk to help her.

Drink the liquid in this vial. It will put you into a deep sleep, and everyone will think you are dead!

I know what troubles you, Juliet. And I have an answer.
You will then be placed in a tomb. I will write to Romeo, and he will be there when you wake up.

Then you and Romeo can go to live in Mantua.

As the servants prepared to fight, Montague's nephew, Benvolio, rushed up to them.

Stop, you fools! You don't know what you're doing!

Juliet returned at once to her father's house.

I'll do it! Goodbye, Father.

Just then Tybalt, a nephew of Capulet's wife, saw Benvolio with his sword drawn. He thought Benvolio wanted to fight along with the servants.

Why fight them when you can fight me, Benvolio?

Father, I met Paris in Friar Laurence's room. I believe he is a good man.

Up in her room, Juliet drank the liquid Friar Laurence had given her.

I am trying to keep peace, Tybalt. If you must use your sword, help me to separate these servants.

I do not like the word peace. I hate you and all the other Montagues. Fight me, I say!
I'll pick a fight with them. Stay near and help me.

I will. And other Capulets will join us if we need help.

The Capulets are better masters than the Montagues!

What? You lie!

Within seconds the liquid had done its work.

Hearing the nurse's cries, Lord and Lady Capulet rushed into the room.

Death has come like a frost to this sweet flower.

The next morning, the nurse went to Juliet's room to prepare her for the wedding.

Juliet? Oh, no! She is dead!

Downstairs, the County Paris waited with Friar Laurence.

Is the bride ready to go to church?

She will go to church and never return. Juliet is dead!
While these things were happening, Romeo was walking down a street in Mantua. All at once his servant, Balthasar, found him.

Balthasar, how is Juliet?

Your wife is dead, Romeo. I saw her body placed in the Capulet tomb!

Romeo was stunned at the news, but he made plans quickly.

Get some horses for us, Balthasar. We will leave for Verona tonight. Are there any messages from Friar Laurence?

No, none.

When Balthasar had gone, Romeo went to a nearby drug store to buy some poison. He planned to take his own life and die next to Juliet.

Many years ago in Verona, Italy, there lived two families who hated one another. The Montagues and the Capulets had been carrying on a feud for as long as they could remember.

If those Montagues should come by, I'll strike before they can run away!

Then take out your sword, for two of them are coming now.

Sampson and Gregory were servants of the Capulets. They were just as ready to fight the Montagues as their masters were.
Meanwhile, back in Verona, Friar Laurence was very upset. The day before, he had written a letter to Romeo and had given it to Friar John. He thought Friar John would bring back an answer.

I have bad news, Friar Laurence. The house I was staying in was locked up all day yesterday because they thought someone had a disease that would spread to others. No one was allowed to come or go until they were sure everything was all right.

The letter you gave me never reached Romeo.

What? Quick, get me some tools! Juliet will wake up in three hours, and Romeo won't be there!
At this very moment the Count Paris was at Juliet's tomb. Suddenly his servant called out to him.

Sir, I hear horses coming.

Then I'll step aside for a moment. I don't want anyone to see me.

Romeo and Balthasar drew near to Juliet's tomb. They had just arrived from Mantua.

Take this letter, Balthasar, and give it to my father. I would like to be alone.

I will go, sir.

When he had gone, Romeo used Balthasar's tools to open the tomb. Seeing this, Paris stepped from the shadows and ordered Romeo to stop.

Romeo, you killed Juliet's cousin and she died from sadness at his death. You must not do anything else to hurt her family. Leave her tomb alone.

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek and Latin. Historians aren't sure of the exact date of Shakespeare's birth.

In 1582, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583, the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592, Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, The King's Men, appeared most often in the Globe theatre, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems and a number of sonnets. In 1611, when he left the active life of the theatre, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.
Remember,

“Today’s readers are tomorrow’s leaders.”
The following is a simple guide to using and enjoying each of your Illustrated Classics™. To maximize your use of the learning activities provided, we suggest that you follow these steps:

1. **Listen!** We suggest that you listen to the read-along. (At this time, please ignore the beeps.) You will enjoy this wonderfully dramatized presentation.

2. **Pre-reading Activities.** After listening to the audio presentation, the pre-reading activities in the Activity Book prepare you for reading the story by setting the scene, introducing more difficult vocabulary words, and providing some short exercises.

3. **Reading Activities.** Now turn to the “While you are reading” portion of the Activity Book, which directs you to make a list of story-related facts. Read-along while listening to the audio presentation. (This time pay attention to the beeps, as they indicate when each page should be turned.)

4. **Post-reading Activities.** You have successfully read the story and listened to the audio presentation. Now answer the multiple-choice questions and other activities in the Activity Book.
Overview

Everyone deserves to read the best literature our language has to offer. Saddleback’s Illustrated Classics™ was designed to acquaint readers with the most famous stories from the world’s greatest authors, while teaching essential skills. You will learn how to:

- Establish a purpose for reading
- Use prior knowledge
- Evaluate your reading
- Listen to the language as it is written
- Extend literary and language appreciation through discussion and writing activities

Reading is one of the most important skills you will ever learn. It provides the key to all kinds of information. By reading the Illustrated Classics™, you will develop confidence and the self-satisfaction that comes from accomplishment—a solid foundation for any reader.

But Juliet was too shocked and sad to leave. Meanwhile, Friar Laurence was afraid to be found by the guards, and he and Balthasar left quickly.

I cannot live without Romeo, so I, too, must die!

With this, she took Romeo’s dagger and plunged it into her heart.

Called by Paris’ servant, several guards soon arrived at the tomb. Another guard brought Balthasar and Friar Laurence back.

There is a lot of blood here. What could have happened?
Welcome to Saddleback’s *Illustrated Classics™*

We are proud to welcome you to Saddleback’s *Illustrated Classics™*. Saddleback’s *Illustrated Classics™* was designed specifically for the classroom to introduce readers to many of the great classics in literature. Each text, written and adapted by teachers and researchers, has been edited using the Dale-Chall vocabulary system. In addition, much time and effort has been spent to ensure that these high-interest stories retain all of the excitement, intrigue, and adventure of the original books.

With these graphically *Illustrated Classics™*, you learn what happens in the story in a number of different ways. One way is by reading the words a character says. Another way is by looking at the drawings of the character. The artist can tell you what kind of person a character is and what he or she is thinking or feeling.

This series will help you to develop confidence and a sense of accomplishment as you finish each novel. The stories in Saddleback’s *Illustrated Classics™* are fun to read. And remember, fun motivates!
At that Balthasar handed Prince Escalus the letter Romeo had given him. It proved what Friar Laurence had said was true.

You Montagues and Capulets! See what your fighting has done? First of all, Mercutio and Paris are dead.

And finally, at the prince’s words, the two families realized how stupid they had been.

Montague, give me your hand. From this day forth our feud is over!

I give you my hand and more. We shall never fight again!

That is good! But for now, let us leave this place. The sad story of what happened here will remain with us always!
Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet has become Shakespeare's most well-known love story. See how true love can blossom, even in an unfriendly setting of hatred and feuding. Read along and find out how their innocence enables them to overlook the fighting between their families. Romeo and Juliet are betrayed by the very families they care about, forcing them to take their lives instead of being separated. In the end, through the pain of losing their children, the families realize how trivial their differences really were.