

Table of Contents

Guthrie Quotation.....	vii
Introduction	viii
Cast of Characters.....	9
The Four-Day Story	10
Synopsis by Scene	14

Act I

Scene 1	18
Scene 2	36
Scene 3	43
Scene 4	50
Scene 5	58

Act II

Scene 1	68
Scene 2	72
Scene 3	86
Scene 4	92
Scene 5	106
Scene 6	110

Act III

Scene 1	114
Scene 2	128
Scene 3	138
Scene 4	150
Scene 5	152

Act IV

Scene 1	170
Scene 2	178
Scene 3	182
Scene 4	186
Scene 5	188

Act V

Scene 1	200
Scene 2	206
Scene 3	208

Activities

Writing, Discussion and Improvisation

Act I

1. Democratic Due Process230
2. Friendship
3. Getting Involved
4. Attitudes Toward Social Class231
5. Ideal Mates
7. Power of Imagery
8. Party Crashing
9. Group Dynamics
10. True Love
11. Party Planning
12. Element of Chance

Act II

1. Practical vs. Romantic
2. Words and Connotations232
3. Mentors
4. Adolescence
5. Prejudice
6. Famous Lovers
7. Colorful Characterization
8. Marriage That Endures

Act III

1. Heroism or Foolishness
2. Vigilante Actions
3. Heat and Temperament233
4. Mixed Feelings
5. Home Sweet Home
6. Arranged Marriages
7. Modern Dating Services
8. Ambiguous Communication
9. Creative Writing and Ballads
10. Generation Gap
11. Risks of Revealing Oneself
12. Status of Women

Activities

Writing, Discussion and Improvisation

Act IV

1. Mourning234
2. Coping
3. Deception
4. Death Rites
5. Emergencies
6. Power of Music
7. Humor
8. Rituals
9. Character Descriptions235
10. Character Insights
11. Importance of Detail
12. Changing the Outcome

Act V

1. Fate vs. Control
2. Situational Ethics
3. Violence, the Law and Religion
4. Feuds and Grudges236
5. Character Insight
6. Daily Life in Verona
7. Letter Writing—A Unique Expression
8. Effects of the Plague
9. Problems of Authority
10. Suicide
11. Parent-Child Conflict237
12. Innocent Bystander
13. Casting the Characters
14. In Praise of Shakespeare

A Sketch—Shakespeare: His Life and Times237

Shakespeare's Life238

Bibliography240

[The Prologue]

[Enter Chorus.]

Chor. 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.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes 5
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, naught 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.

[Exeunt.]

[Act I]

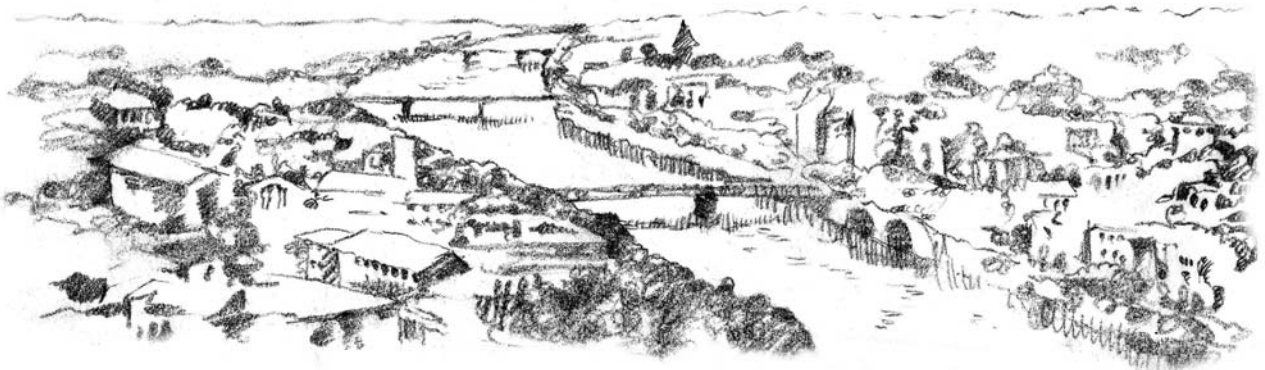
[Scene I. A street in Verona.]

[Enter Sampson and Gregory (with swords and bucklers)
of the house of Capulet.]

Samp. Gregory, on my word, we'll not carry coals.

Greg. No for then we should be colliers.

Samp. I mean, and we be in choler, we'll draw.



The Prologue

(Enter CHORUS.)

CHORUS: Once there were two families of equal station and prestige who lived in the city of Verona, Italy, where this story takes place. In Verona another bout of fighting has broken out in a long-standing and bitter feud between the Montagues and the Capulets. Each family has both perpetuated and endured the physical and bloody assault.

From each of these adversarial households come the young lovers of this story. Romeo, the young man, is the son of Lord and Lady Montague, while Juliet is Lord and Lady Capulet's daughter. The two meet and fall in love, aware that their union will bring sorrow to their parents. The death of these two young people becomes the source of such profound grief for the parents that the tragedy finally ends the feud and brings peace to both bereaved families.

(CHORUS leaves.)

Act 1

(Scene 1: A street in the city of Verona.)

(Enter SAMPSON and GREGORY with swords and shields of the house of CAPULET.)

SAM: Gregory, I promise you, I won't be insulted.

GREG: Absolutely, for then we'd be no better than coal workers.

SAM: I mean that if we're provoked, we'll fight.

