

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

ROMEO & JULIET

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Shakespeare's Background



- † Born in 1564 in England
- † Married at age 18 to Anne Hathaway, who was not only 8 years older than he, but pregnant.
- † Had three children but his son, Hamnet, died mysteriously at age 11.

- † 1586-1592: The Lost Years, no information on him.
- † 1593: Plague closed many theaters, so he and two others opened their own theater company known as Lord Chamberlain's Men, later becoming "The King's Men"





- † 1597: The Globe theater was built in London, England and finished in 1599.
- † 1616: Shakespeare died at age 53, after writing 37 plays, 154 sonnets, and many poems.



Epitaph

Good friend for Jesus sake forebeare,
to digg the dust enclosed heare,
Bleste be ye man yt spares thes stones,
And curst be he yt moves my bones.

But, who was Shakespeare?

- † What do you think of when you hear the name: William Shakespeare?
- † Some people may think of a great writer and still others will think of a boring dead playwright. But who will actually think that Shakespeare was a funny guy? It may be hard to believe, but he did have quite a sense of humor, that was even dirty at times. Shakespeare inserted humor and puns all over his works to entertain his Elizabethan audience.



MERCUTIO (from Romeo & Juliet)

An old hare hoar,
And an old hare hoar,
Is very good meat in lent
But a hare that is hoar
Is too much for a score,
When it hoars ere it be spent.

hare = rabbit

hoar = stale, old, or musty

hair = that stuff that used to be on dad's head

whore = a cheap prostitute

score = twenty men

score = sex, as in "he scored."

spent = money paid to a prostitute

spent = sexually exhausted

ere = before



Shakespearean Insults

Shakespeare was also a master at insults. Throughout his plays he wrote plenty such as...

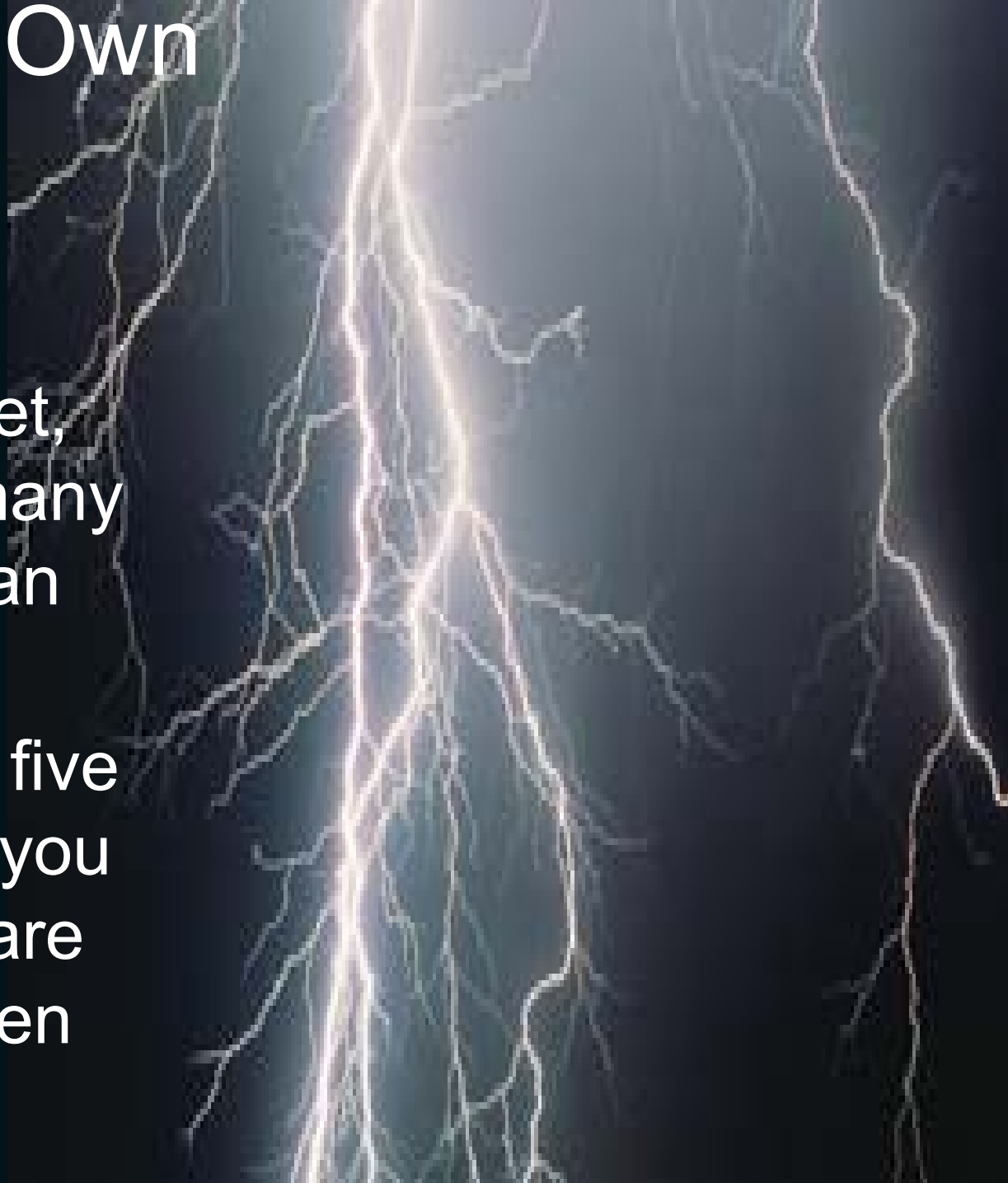


- † Thou loggerheaded common-kissing bladder.
- † Thou weedy doghearted scut.
- † Thou spongy boil-brained clotpole.
- † Thou weedy hedge-born bugbear.
- † Thou pribbling tardy-gaited s



Create your Own Insults

- † While reading Romeo and Juliet, write down as many insults as you can find.
- † Then, make up five of your own, as you think Shakespeare might have written them.



What were we going to read again?



- † What do you already know, or think you know about this play?
- † Is it a romance or a tragedy, as Shakespeare would have classified it?
- † What would you like to know more about in this play?

Prologue

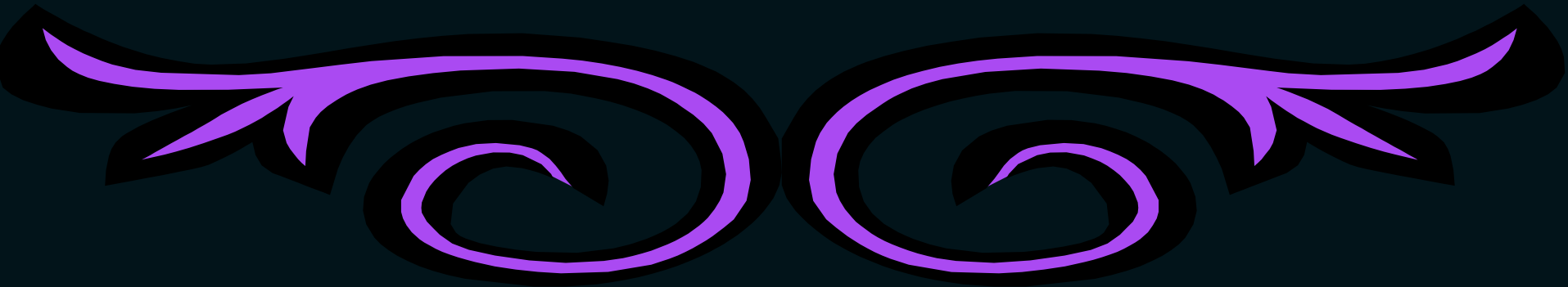


Two households, both
alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where
we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge
break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood
makes civil hands
unclean.

From forth the fatal
loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross'd
lovers take their life;

Whole misadventured piteous overthrows
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, nought 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.

† The feuding families of Montague and Capulet have been enemies for longer than they can remember. At a party the Capulets give one night, the daughter of their house falls in love with the son of their enemy.

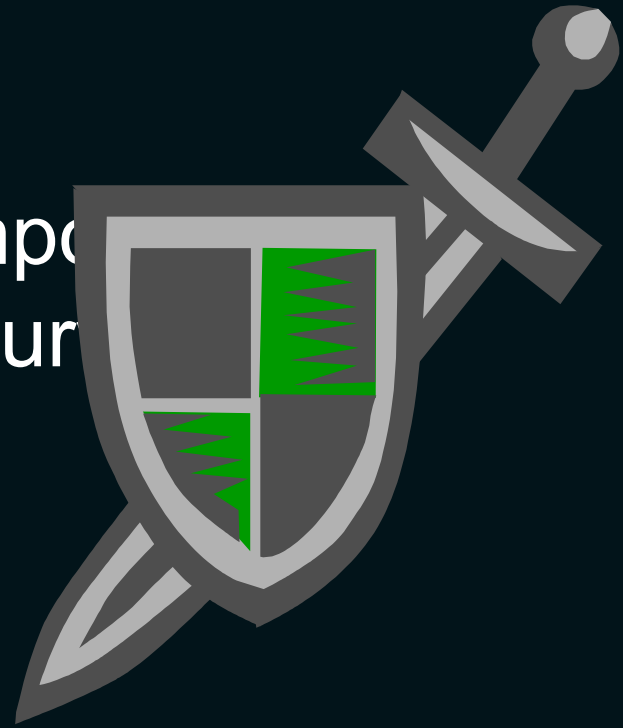


- † These two, Romeo and Juliet, meet in secret and their love is, Friar Laurence hopes, enough to unite the two families.
- † However, even when they marry in secret, tragedy strikes. Tybalt (of the Capulets) kills Mercutio (friend to Romeo) and Romeo exacts a terrible vengeance which results in his banishment from the city.



† Not knowing their daughter to be already married, the Capulets try to force her to wed Paris, the local dude.

† In horror, Juliet elicits the Friar Laurence's help from whence he devises a canny but ultimately unsuccessful plan. As usual in Shakespeare's tragedies, the important and likeable characters do not survive.



The way to read Shakespeare

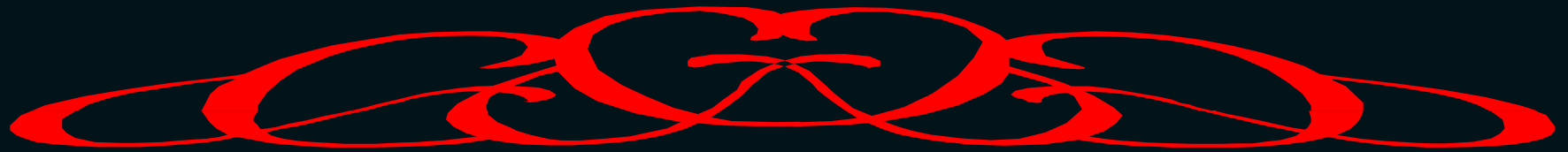
† After reading a scene, we will go over it to understand the details we may have missed. After we understand it, we will be acting out the scene.



Important Vocabulary Words



† Create your own list of vocab words (no less than 50 words, at least twenty of them NOT from the footnotes)



† The theatre in Shakespeare's day was very different from the theatre we know today. The greatest difference was -- it had no actresses. All of the women's roles were played by boys! -sometimes recruited from the choirs of London churches. Many of these boys acted their parts very well and all were totally accepted by Elizabethan audiences. The first women actors did not appear on the English stage until 1660!

Some Anagram Fun



1. Mr Eeo
2. Careful rainer
3. Ron Ave. (street in Verona)
4. Giror went to purchase Swiss

In the end, parting is such sweet
sorrow



Answers

- † 1. Romeo
- † 2. Friar Laurence
- † 3. Verona
- † 4. Parting is such
sweet sorrow



So, are
you
ready
to
read?