

Structure of the Elizabethan Tragedy

Exposition

- the part of the plot that gives background information about the characters and conflicts
- includes the following:
 - setting
 - general atmosphere or mood
 - opening conditions
 - main characters

Setting

- time and place

General Atmosphere or Mood

- the prevailing mood of the play

Opening Conditions

- the initial scenes that set the conflicts for the various characters

Exciting Force

- the event or action that starts the real plot action of the play
 - serves as a catalyst for the main conflict
 - Without this action the play would turn out quite differently

Rising Action

- the events marking a time when things are going well for the protagonist

Climax

- the event marking the moment when things are going the best for the protagonist

Turning Point

- the event marking the first moment when things begin to go badly for the protagonist

Falling Action

- the events marking a time when things continue to go badly for the protagonist

Moment of Final Suspense

- The event(s) marking a brief time when things look like they may end well for the protagonist

Catastrophe

- the event marking the final downfall of the protagonist

Tragic Love

An Introduction to *Romeo and Juliet*

Romeo and Juliet Setting

- Place
 - Verona, Italy
 - Mantua, Italy
- Time
 - 1300s = 14th century





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Characters: The Capulets

- Juliet Capulet
- Lord Capulet
- Lady Capulet
- Tybalt
- Nurse

Characters: The Montagues

- Romeo
- Lord Montague
- Lady Montague
- Benvolio

Characters: The Others

- Prince Escalus
- Count Paris
- Mercutio
- Friar Laurence
- Friar John

Romeo and Juliet: Summary

- A family feud
- Boy and girl falling in love
- A secret marriage
- A fight
- A banishment
- A match-making father
- A desperate plan
- Some deadly gossip
- Deaths
- Lessons learned

Romeo and Juliet Today

- Why do we read *Romeo and Juliet* today?
- How does the story connect to the lives of teenagers today?

Tragedy



Romeo and Juliet is a tragedy.

Examples of Tragedy



Thinking about Tragedy

- What TV shows, movies, or books show tragedy?
- How does tragedy affect people's lives?

Tragic Love?

- *Romeo and Juliet* is considered a “tragic love story.”
- What is tragic love?
- How does tragic love affect teenagers today?

