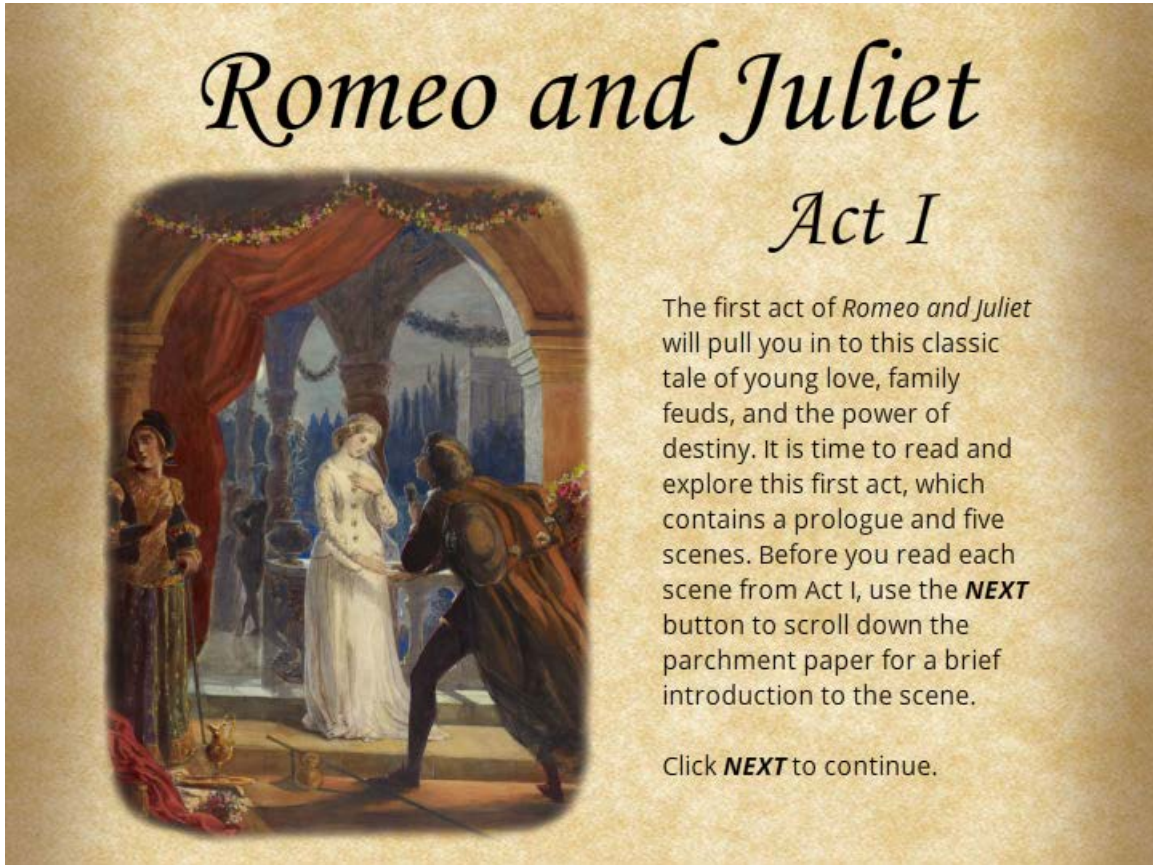


Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
Topic 2 Content: Reading Act I of *Romeo and Juliet*

Introduction



Romeo and Juliet

Act I

The first act of *Romeo and Juliet* will pull you in to this classic tale of young love, family feuds, and the power of destiny. It is time to read and explore this first act, which contains a prologue and five scenes. Before you read each scene from Act I, use the **NEXT** button to scroll down the parchment paper for a brief introduction to the scene.

Click **NEXT** to continue.


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Prologue Before Act I

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"Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean"

The fourth line of the prologue shows off Shakespeare's talent for wordplay. The word *civil* has two meanings: one refers to civilians and the other refers to courtesy. This type of wordplay is called a **pun**, which uses multiple meanings of a word. You should be on the lookout for more puns as you read the drama.

Now read the Prologue of Act I, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene i.

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Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
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Act I, Scene i

Act I, Scene i



As you read the first scene, remember to visualize the action and pay attention to stage directions and verbal cues. This scene is full of humor, jokes, and puns. A brawl will break out between the feuding houses, and you will get a glimpse of most of the play's main characters. What does the prince have to say about the ongoing feud and the effect that it has on society? Note what he says about the elder citizens.

Now read Scene i of Act I, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene ii.

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Now read Scene i of Act I, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene ii.

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Act I, Scene ii

Act I, Scene ii

In this scene, Paris visits Lord Capulet to ask for permission to marry Juliet. Who is Paris, and how does he feel about the Montagues and the Capulets? Why does Capulet care so much about Juliet's consent to the marriage? Look for clues regarding Capulet's other children.

Juliet is going to appear at a ball. Why do Romeo and Benvolio want to attend, and how do they manage to get invited even though they are Montagues? Watch for the joke that Romeo makes at the servant's expense.

Now read Scene ii of Act I, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene iii.



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Act I, Scene iii

Act I, Scene iii

In this scene, you finally get to meet Juliet. You are also introduced to the close relationship she has with her nurse. Pay close attention to the relationship between Juliet and her mother versus the relationship between Juliet and the nurse. By the way, *nurse* is another way of saying *nanny*. Women of nobility would not have nursed and cared for

their children; instead, a servant would have been in charge of a child's daily care.



Does Juliet seem excited by the prospect of marrying Paris? How does Lady Capulet's response to the marriage proposal differ from Lord Capulet's? Observe how her parents' feelings about the marriage evolve throughout the play.

Now read Scene iii of Act I, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene iv.

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Act I, Scene iv

Act I, Scene iv

The fourth scene is a very interesting scene, to say the least. You get to meet more of Romeo's friends, and Mercutio delivers one of the best known monologues with his "Queen Mab Speech." However, does Romeo seem to be a little depressing? Is this how you imagine a bunch of young men on their way to a party might act?

Now read Scene iv of Act I, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene v.



The fourth scene is a very interesting scene, to say the least. You get to meet more of Romeo's friends, and Mercutio delivers one of the best known monologues with his "Queen Mab Speech." However, does Romeo seem to be a little depressing? Is this how you imagine a bunch of young men on their way to a party might act?

Now read Scene iv of Act I, and then click **NEXT** for a preview of Scene v.

Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
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Act I, Scene v

Act I, Scene v

In the fifth scene, Romeo and Juliet finally meet for the first time! But not everyone is overly impressed with Romeo in this scene. Pay attention to Tybalt's reaction because this will be important later on in the play. What do you think about the actual meeting between Romeo and Juliet? How do you envision that part of the scene? How do the two young teenagers find out that their families are enemies?



Now read Scene v of Act I.

In the fifth scene, Romeo and Juliet finally meet for the first time! But not everyone is overly impressed with Romeo in this scene. Pay attention to Tybalt's reaction because this will be important later on in the play. What do you think about the actual meeting between Romeo and Juliet? How do you envision that part of the scene? How do the two young teenagers find out that their families are enemies?

Now read Scene v of Act I.