

## The character of Romeo

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Romeo isn't in the fight that opens the play which suggests he isn't interested in joining or the feud with the Capulets. Romeo is sad when we first meet him and he is talking to Benvolio (Benvolio is his cousin); this is because he is in love with Rosaline but she doesn't love him back.

Romeo only gets invited to the Capulet Ball because the servant sent to deliver the invitations can not read and so asks Romeo to read them and then says, 'if you are not of the house of Montagues, I pray come and crush a cup of wine.'

Before Romeo goes in to the party he seems to realise that everything will go badly for him. He says, '... for my mind misgives / Some consequence, yet hanging in the stars, / Shall bitterly begin his fearful date / With this night's revels'.

Romeo falls in love with Juliet as soon as he sees her (this is called 'love at first sight') and forgets all about Rosaline. It is only at the end of the Ball that he discovers Juliet is a Capulet. After the party Romeo creeps back to the Capulet mansion and goes to see Juliet; this is usually called 'the balcony scene' because Juliet stands on the balcony to declare her love for Romeo. The two agree to meet the next day and marry.

Friar Lawrence agrees to marry Romeo and Juliet after Romeo speaks to him. Romeo then goes off to see his friend Mercutio, and his cousin Benvolio.

Although the audience see Romeo and Juliet agree to be married we do not see the actual wedding ceremony.

Act 3 opens with the fight between Tybalt and Mercutio in which Mercutio is killed. Romeo then kills Tybalt. Only the audience know that Romeo is now related to Tybalt because Tybalt is Juliet's cousin and Romeo is married to Juliet.

The Prince banishes Romeo for the murder of Tybalt. Romeo visits the Friar again who tells him he is lucky but Romeo claims it would be better to be dead than banished and therefore away from Juliet. When the Nurse arrives Romeo even draws his dagger as if he is going to kill himself but he is stopped.

Romeo and Juliet spend the night together before Romeo leaves for Mantua (the town he is banished to).

Friar Lawrence gives Juliet a poison so that she can pretend she is dead and avoid marrying Paris, who her father has told her she must marry but Romeo hears that she is really dead. He buys poison from an apothecary (a chemist) and returns to Verona to kill himself beside Juliet.

When Romeo is at Juliet's tomb he is disturbed by Paris who tries to capture him. Romeo kills him and lays him in the tomb by Juliet. Romeo then drinks the poison, kisses Juliet (who still looks dead) and dies.