

LEAD-INS TO LITERATURE

*Romeo
and Juliet*

by William Shakespeare



PRESTWICK HOUSE, INC.





Table of Contents

LEAD-INS TO LITERATURE

Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

■ Introduction 8

Background
Shakespeare's Language
Shakespeare's Sources
The Elizabethan Age

■ Theater and Audience 37

Shakespeare's Theaters
The Groundlings

■ Dramatic Conventions 48

Asides
Soliloquies

■ Narrative Conventions 58

Prologue
Confidants

■ Shakespeare's Language 71

Punctuation
Inverted and Elliptical Sentences
Poetry
Prose

■ Literary Techniques 86

Metaphor & Simile
Allusion
Pun
Paradox
Personification

■ Themes 115

Contrasting Loves
Courtly Love
Genuine Passionate Love
Vulgar Love
Other Kinds of Love
Fate vs. Free Will

■ Characters 136

Romeo
Juliet
Mercutio
Tybalt
The Nurse
The Friar

■ Productions 167

■ Biography 169



Romeo and Juliet

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

SHAKESPEARE'S LANGUAGE

SOURCES OF *ROMEO AND JULIET*

THE ELIZABETHAN AGE



Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet opens in the streets of Verona, a beautiful city that has had its peace disturbed by a feud between two rival families, the Montagues and the Capulets.



Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

In the midst of hatred and animosity, a secret love affair blossoms between Romeo, the son of Lord Montague, and Juliet, the daughter of Lord Capulet.



Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

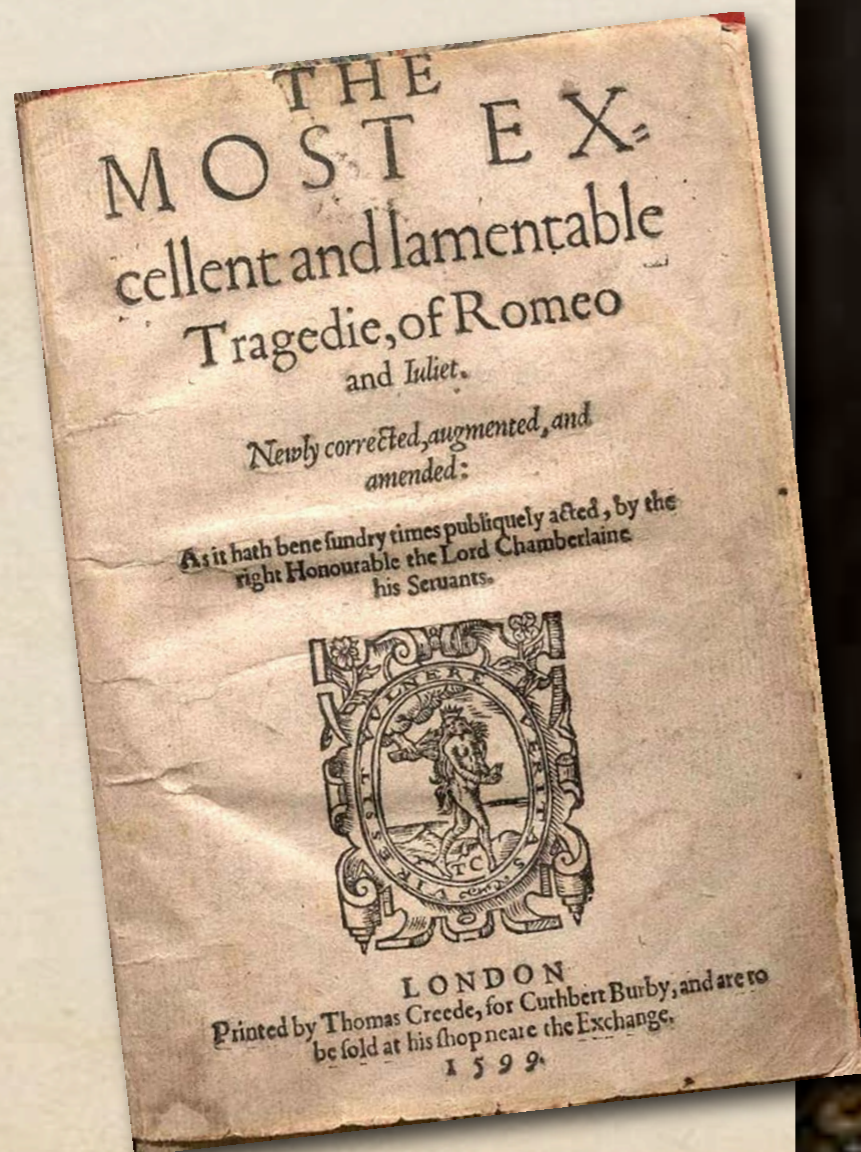
Because their families cannot accept the lovers' relationship, Romeo and Juliet's romance is fated to have a tragic end.



Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, which first appeared in print in 1597, deals with the power of love...



Romeo and Juliet
by William Shakespeare

the inevitability of Fate...

