

READING

A Shakespearean tragedy

- 1 What do you know about William Shakespeare?
- 2 Look at the list of characters in the story of *Romeo and Juliet*. What do you know about the story? How did people at that time decide who to marry? Who made the decision?
- 3 Read 1–6 in the story. Answer the questions.
 - 1 Why did the Montagues and the Capulets hate each other?
 - 2 Why wasn't it a good idea for Romeo to go to the Capulet's party?
 - 3 What happened when Romeo and Juliet first met?
 - 4 'Wherefore art thou Romeo?' (= *Why are you Romeo?*) Why was Juliet upset about Romeo's name?
 - 5 How long had they known each other when they decided to get married?
 - 6 Why did Friar Laurence agree to marry them?
 - 7 Why did Romeo try to stop the fight?
 - 8 Why was Juliet desperate?
- 4 Read 7–12 in the story. Answer the questions.
 - 1 What couldn't Juliet tell her father?
 - 2 What was the Friar's plan?
 - 3 Which part of the plan worked?
 - 4 What went wrong with the plan?
 - 5 Why did Romeo kill himself?
 - 6 Why did Juliet kill herself?
 - 7 How did their families feel at the end?
- 5 **T 3.14** Listen to actors speaking Shakespeare's lines, and follow them in the story. Read the lines in more modern English on p148.

6 Retell the story using the pictures.

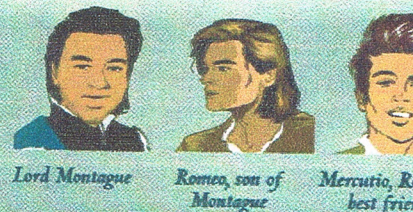
What do you think?

- Whose fault was the tragedy?
- In the play, Juliet was just thirteen. Do you think this is too young to fall in love?
- Shakespeare wrote comedies, tragedies, and history plays. What titles do you know? Do you know any of the stories?

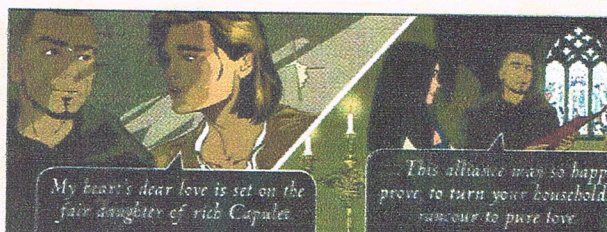
▶▶ **WRITING TELLING A STORY (1) p105**

Romeo

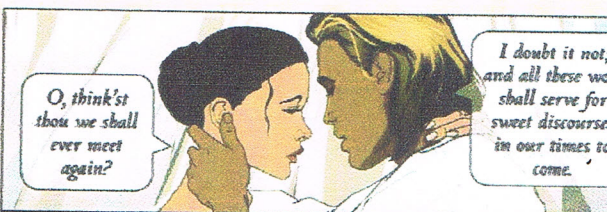
The Montagues



I Many years ago, in the ancient Italian city of Verona, there were two very rich but warring families, the Montagues and the Capulets. They had hated each other for so long that no one could remember how the feud had started. Fights often used to break out in the streets.



4 As dawn broke, Romeo raced to Friar Laurence and begged him to marry them. The Friar agreed, hoping this would end the families' feud. That afternoon, Juliet joined Romeo, and the lovers were wed. They parted, but planned to spend that night together.



7 Next morning the lovers could hardly bear to part. When would they meet again? More disaster was to come. Juliet learned that her father had agreed to give her in marriage to a nobleman, Paris. How could she tell her father she had already married Romeo?



10 But Romeo never received the Friar's letter. Thinking that his beloved Juliet had died, he bought poison and went to the tomb. He saw his beautiful, lifeless Juliet. He could never leave her side. He kissed her, and drank the poison.