**Romeo & Juliet by Shakespeare**

**Big Questions**

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| What is a tragedy? | How were plays in Elizabethan England performed? |
| What is ‘fate’? | What is the importance of family? |
| What does honour mean? | What does stereotypical femininity look like? |
| What does stereotypical masculinity look like? | What is sin? |
| What is the importance of marriage? | What types of conflict there? How does conflict affect people/communities? |

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**Act 1**

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| What do we learn from the Prologue? | Why does Shakespeare begin with a prologue? |
| Who are the main instigators of violence in Act 1 Scene 1? | What is important about the Prince’s speech in scene 1? |
| What role does Benvolio play in Act 1? | Who is Romeo? |
| Who is Juliet? | Why is the party at the Capulet house important? |
| What is important about Romeo and Juliet’s first meeting? | What value do women hold in the eyes of men in this act? |
| How does the tone of scenes alternate throughout this Act? | Where do we sense ‘the hand of fate’ in this Act? |

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**Act 2**

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| What does the Act 2 prologue reveal? | How does Romeo respond to the dangers of being seen with Juliet? |
| What do Romeo and Juliet agree at the end of Scene 2? | Who is Friar Lawrence? |
| How does Friar Lawrence react to Romeo’s request? | Who is Mercutio? |
| Who is Romeo ***now***? | What is the relationship between the Nurse and Juliet like? |
| What future event do Mercutio and Benvolio discuss before Romeo arrives? | How do the young men treat the Nurse? |
| What does the Friar say about love in scene 6? | Scene 6 is the marriage scene – why is it so short? |

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**Act 3**

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| Why does Mercutio get involved in Scene 1? | How is Romeo’s behaviour at the end of Scene 1 different to how we’ve come to know him so far? |
| What does the Prince say about the fight at the end of Scene 1? Why? | How does Juliet’s monologue about Romeo at the beginning of Scene 2 add to the sense of fate? |
| How is Romeo presented in Scene 3? | How is the Friar presented in Scene 3? |
| Why does Capulet choose to move the wedding forward? (Scene 4) | Why does Shakespeare use bird imagery in Scene 5? |
| How does Juliet speak ‘double’ in the conversation with Lady Capulet about Romeo? | How does Shakespeare demonstrate Capulet’s rage in Scene 5? |
| What is the Nurse’s advice to Juliet at the end of Scene 5? | How is Juliet resolved at the end of the Act? |

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**Act 4**

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| How is Paris presented in Scene 1? | How does scene 1 mirror Act 3 scene 3? |
| What does Juliet’s behaviour tell us about the power of love? | Why does Juliet make amends with her parents in Scene 2? |
| What is the effect of Juliet’s vision of Tybalt at the end of Scene 3? | How does the atmosphere of Scene 4 contrast with Scene 5? |
| How does Shakespeare continue to use oxymorons in Scene 5? | What is the purpose of the conversation between the musicians at the end of the Act? |
| How do the family react to the news of Juliet’s ‘death’? Does this surprise you? | What is the Friar’s plan to help Juliet? |

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**Act 5**

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| How is Romeo presented in this Act? | How does Shakespeare use structural choices to create dramatic irony throughout this Act? |
| What is the significance of Friar John’s line: “Suspecting that we both were in a house where the infectious pestilence did reign, sealed up the doors and would not let us hence forth”? | What do we learn about Paris in Act 5 Scene 3? |
| How is the idea of Juliet’s vision of Tybalt and Romeo in the vault revisited? | Why does Shakespeare gather every one of the remaining characters on stage in the final scene? |
| How does Shakespeare us language to remind the audience that Juliet is not really dead in scene 3? | What is the significance of the final two lines of the play? |
| Why does Paris die? | Does Paris’ death change your view of Romeo? |