**Romeo and Juliet plot organiser**

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|  | Plot event | Symbol | Significance | Quotation(s) |
| A1P | The opening Prologue, written in sonnet form, lays out the plot and key themes of the play. |  | To establish the key events of the play - it is about how it happens, not what happens  To create a feeling of doom and fate.  To establish the key themes. | ‘Fatal loins’  ‘Star-crossed lovers’  ‘Civil hands unclean’ |
| A1S1 | Servants of the Montague and Capulet families meet in the streets of Verona and fight. |  |  |  |
| The Prince warns both families that any further public fighting will result in execution. |  |  |  |
| Benvolio approaches Romeo to discover that his cousin is miserable because the woman he loves has sworn to be a nun. |  |  |  |
| A1S2 | Lord Capulet tells Paris that he must wait to marry his daughter Juliet. |  |  |  |
| Romeo and Benvolio discover the Capulets are having a ball and plan to attend, uninvited. |  |  |  |
| A1S3 | Lady Capulet and the Nurse talk to Juliet about her opinion on marriage. |  |  |  |
| Juliet states that she will only marry with her parents’ consent. |  |  |  |
| A1S4 | Romeo’s friends, Benvolio and Mercutio, taunt him for his misery. |  |  |  |
| Mercutio shares a disturbing dream he has had about Queen Mab. |  |  |  |
| Romeo reveals he has also had a disturbing dream that the night’s events will lead to his early death. |  |  |  |
| A1S5 | At the Capulet ball, Romeo sees Juliet and is instantly enamoured with her. |  |  |  |
| Tybalt is angry Romeo has attended the ball, but Lord Capulet warns him not to act on it. |  |  |  |
| Romeo and Juliet meet and fall instantly in love. |  |  |  |
| To their dismay, Romeo and Juliet discover they have fallen for their sworn enemy. |  |  |  |
| A2P | The Prologue suggests that Romeo and Juliet have been changed already and will have a short period of happiness. |  |  |  |
| A2S1 | Mercutio and Benvolio try to find Romeo, who has vanished after the ball; Mercutio mocks Romeo’s love for Rosaline. |  |  |  |
| A2S2 | Romeo, seeing Juliet at her window, expresses his love for her. |  |  |  |
| Juliet, unaware Romeo is there, declares her love for him |  |  |  |
| When Romeo reveals himself, Juliet expresses her concerns over their relationship. |  |  |  |
| Romeo proposes to Juliet and promises to organise the marriage. |  |  |  |
| A2S3 | Friar Laurence discusses the link between life and death. |  |  |  |
| The Friar scolds Romeo for his fickle nature, but agrees to marry the couple in an attempt to resolve the feud. |  |  |  |
| A2S4 | Romeo returns to his friends and is a changed man. |  |  |  |
| The Nurse meets Romeo to learn of the plans for Juliet’s marriage. |  |  |  |
| A2S5 | Juliet impatiently demands to know the news of her marriage. |  |  |  |
| A2S6 | Friar Laurence warns of the dangers of the marriage, but conducts the ceremony anyway, off stage. |  |  |  |
| A3S1 | The weather in Verona is hot and Mercutio and Benvolio are restless. |  |  |  |
| Tybalt wishes to fight Romeo, but Romeo refuses. |  |  |  |
| Mercutio fights Tybalt instead, but is killed, cursing the family feud. |  |  |  |
| Romeo rashly kills Tybalt to avenge his friend’s death. |  |  |  |
| The Prince declares that Romeo will be banished from Verona. |  |  |  |
| A3S2 | Juliet wishes Romeo would arrive sooner to consummate their marriage. |  |  |  |
| The Nurse reveals Tybalt is dead and Romeo is banished, to Juliet’s dismay. |  |  |  |
| A3S3 | Romeo bemoans his punishment to Friar Laurence. |  |  |  |
| Friar Laurence scolds Romeo for his ingratitude at the Prince’s leniency and helps him plan for his future. |  |  |  |
| A3S4 | Lord Capulet decides that Juliet shall be married to Paris in 4 days’ time. |  |  |  |
| A3S5 | Romeo leaves Juliet for the final time. |  |  |  |
| Lord Capulet is furious with Juliet for refusing the marriage and threatens to disown her. |  |  |  |
| The Nurse urges Juliet to marry Paris and forget Romeo. |  |  |  |
| Juliet decides to ask Friar Laurence for help, or she will take her own life. |  |  |  |
| A4S1 | Juliet meets Paris at Friar Laurence’s cell, and he asserts his authority over her. |  |  |  |
| Juliet begs Friar Laurence to help her. |  |  |  |
| Friar Laurence gives Juliet a potion to fake her own death and plans to send a message to Romeo to tell him. |  |  |  |
| A4S2 | Juliet returns to her home and tells her father she will marry Paris after all. |  |  |  |
| A4S3 | Juliet shares her worries about taking the potion, then drinks to Romeo. |  |  |  |
| A4S4 | Lord Capulet urges haste in preparing for the wedding. |  |  |  |
| A4S5 | The Nurse discovers Juliet’s body and she and Lady Capulet mourn. |  |  |  |
| Lord Capulet mourns the loss of his daughter. |  |  |  |
| A5S1 | Romeo learns of Juliet’s ‘death’ and procures poison from an apothecary. |  |  |  |
| A5S2 | Friar John fails to deliver the message to Romeo; Friar Laurence plans to rescue Juliet himself. |  |  |  |
| A5S3 | Romeo and Paris both visit Juliet’s tomb. |  |  |  |
| Romeo fights and kills Paris. |  |  |  |
| Romeo mourns over Juliet’s body, before drinking the poison and dying. |  |  |  |
| Friar Laurence tries to convince Juliet to leave the tomb; she refuses. |  |  |  |
| Juliet stabs herself with Romeo’s dagger and dies. |  |  |  |
| The town of Verona is woken by the chaotic gathering at Juliet’s tomb. |  |  |  |
| Friar Laurence relates his version of events. |  |  |  |
| The Prince warns Lord Capulet and Lord Montague that this is all due to their feud, and they shake hands. |  |  |  |
| The Prince concludes the play with a speech of lamentation as the sun rises. |  |  |  |