

***Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare (Published by Washington Square Press)**

Approved for use in Honors Communication Arts I and Communication Arts I

Summary

Romeo and Juliet, the only children of the long-feuding Montagues and Capulets meet at a feast in the Capulet home and fall in love. Throughout the story, they have to figure out a way to try and be together, overcoming the obstacles of feuding families, banishment, and Juliet's engagement to another man. Ultimately, their deaths will end their families' feud.

Connection to the Curriculum

Romeo and Juliet gives students and teachers the opportunity to examine drama and the dramatic structure of literature. Students will learn about the structure of a tragedy and the development of the tragic hero. The play also is rich in poetic elements and descriptive language. Examples of these elements are paradox, simile and metaphor, personification, irony, and blank verse. In addition, the play allows students to examine societal issues that provide ample material for higher-level thinking and discussion of the Renaissance era as it compares to modern day society. Because the play is full of figurative language and is rich in history, writing and research opportunities are also significant.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Writing: 3.9- The students will use a variety of modes of writing for different purposes and audiences.

Research: 4.1 and 4.2- The students use effective and ethical research practices.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.14- The student explains and analyzes cause-effect relationships in appropriate-level texts.

Literature:

2.1.4- The student analyzes themes, tones, and the author's point of view across a variety of works and genres using textual evidence and considering audience and purpose.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices in a text.

Writing:

3.9.36- The student writes persuasive pieces, e.g., speeches, critical evaluations, editorials, letters, position papers, and advertisements.

Research:

4.1.2- The student locates appropriate print and non-print information using texts and technical resources, periodicals and book indices, including databases and the Internet.

4.2.9- The student documents sources of information using Modern Language Association (MLA) style manual to construct a "Works Cited" page.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Shakespeare's classic tale of young love includes limited violence (sword scenes resulting in death) and a double suicide. The tragic ending prompts discussion of the poor decisions that were made in haste.

AP Connections

This play is truly a standard of CAI classes everywhere. The classic nature of this play makes it beneficial for cultural literacy.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities