

## Week 1: The Greatest Love Story Ever Told.

- The Prologue gives us an overview of the tragedy.
- The Capulets and Montagues are rival families- the conflict could reflect tensions between Catholics and Protestants in England.
- Romeo is in love with Rosaline.
- Men were viewed through the lens of masculinity, expected to be dominant and powerful.

## Week 2: The Female Characters.

- Juliet, her mother and nurse prepare for a grand ball and discuss Paris, an eligible bachelor who will be at the party.
- In Elizabethan society, women were seen as the property of their husband/father; there was a lack of women's rights, and a lack of choice regarding education or marriage. It was considered foolish to marry for love.

## Week 3: The Language of Love.

- Romeo and Juliet meet at the Capulet ball and fall in love immediately- this was unusual – normally parents and friends helped to arrange potential marriages.
- Friar Lawrence marries Romeo and Juliet in secret.

## Week 4: A Tragic Climax.

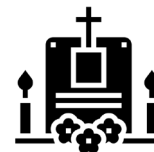
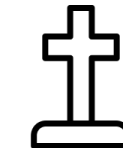
- Tybalt, seeing Romeo at the party, wants to fight Romeo due to pride. Romeo refuses to fight, due to his *eros* love for Juliet and a developing *pragma* towards the Capulets.
- Mercutio steps in to fight Tybalt for Romeo, showing his *philia* and is killed in the brawl.
- Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge due to his overwhelming *philia* for Mercutio and is exiled.

## Week 5: The Lovers Are Separated.

- Capulet arranges for Juliet to marry Paris. She refuses and Friar Lawrence devises a plan for Juliet to fake her death.
- Lord Capulet demonstrates typical patriarchal behaviour by physically disciplining Juliet.

## Week 6: Dénouement.

- Romeo learns of Juliet's "death" and visits her tomb, killing himself next to her.
- Juliet wakes and, seeing Romeo dead, ends her life.
- The Elizabethan attitude towards death was that it is as a release of the soul from the body, which can finally be free, and two souls could join each other again in the afterlife.



Patriarchy	A system of society in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it.
Dénouement	The part of a text where normality is restored and conflicts are resolved.
Betrothal	A formal arrangement to be married.
Matriarch	The female head of a family.
Soliloquy	A dramatic device where a character is speaking aloud their inner thoughts.
Masculinity	Qualities or attributes regarded as stereotypical characteristic of the cultural concept of men.
Narcissism	Excessive interest or admiration in oneself.
Philia	Love for a brother or friend.
Pragma	Committed, understanding and tolerant love.
Agape	Love for humanity.
Familial	The love of parents for their children.
Philautia	Love of oneself.
Storge	Love of a family member.