

D R A M A

William Shakespeare

# Romeo and Juliet



William Shakespeare

# *Romeo and Juliet*

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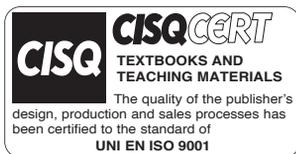
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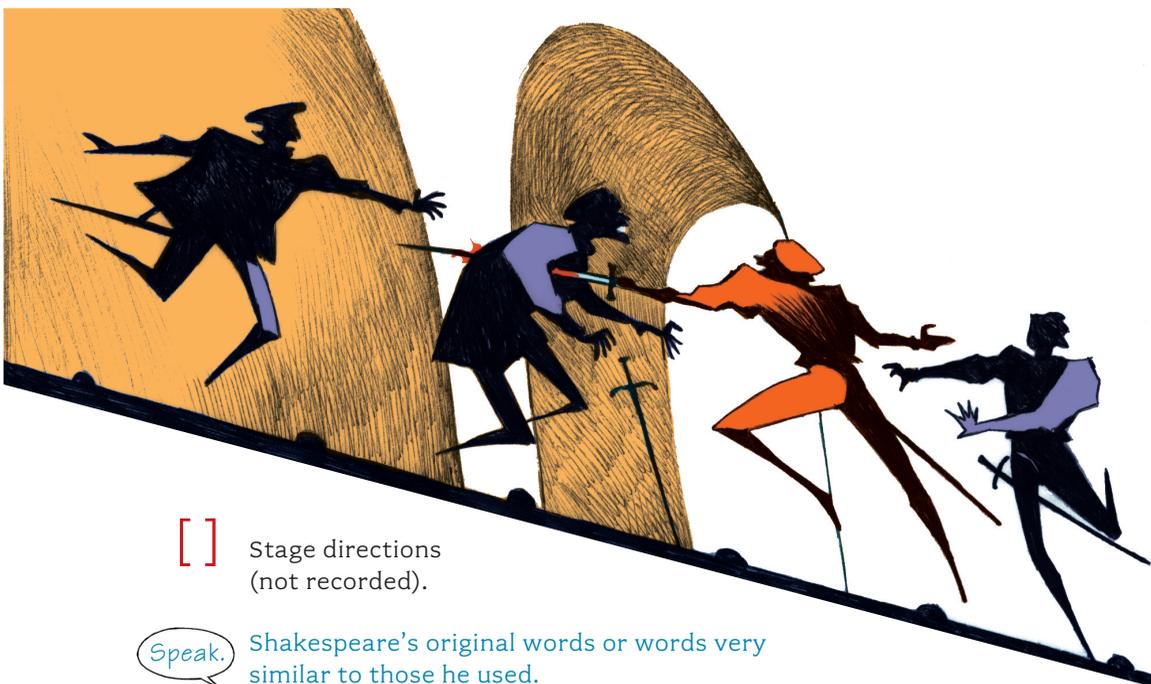
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**[ ]** Stage directions  
(not recorded).

**Speak.** Shakespeare's original words or words very similar to those he used.

**[ ]** This symbol indicates the beginning of a recording and track number.

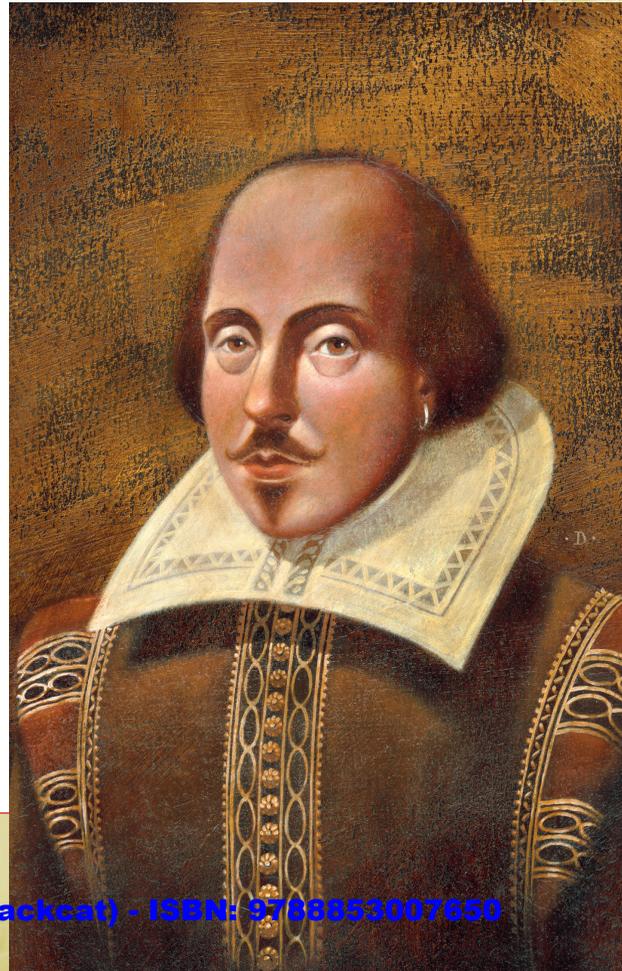


# *Romeo* and Juliet

**1** In Verona there are two families who hate each other: the Capulet family and the Montague family. Their fathers hated each other and their grandfathers hated each other. Nobody can remember why. When Juliet Capulet and Romeo Montague meet and fall in love the result is violence and death.

# *Shakespeare* 1564-1616

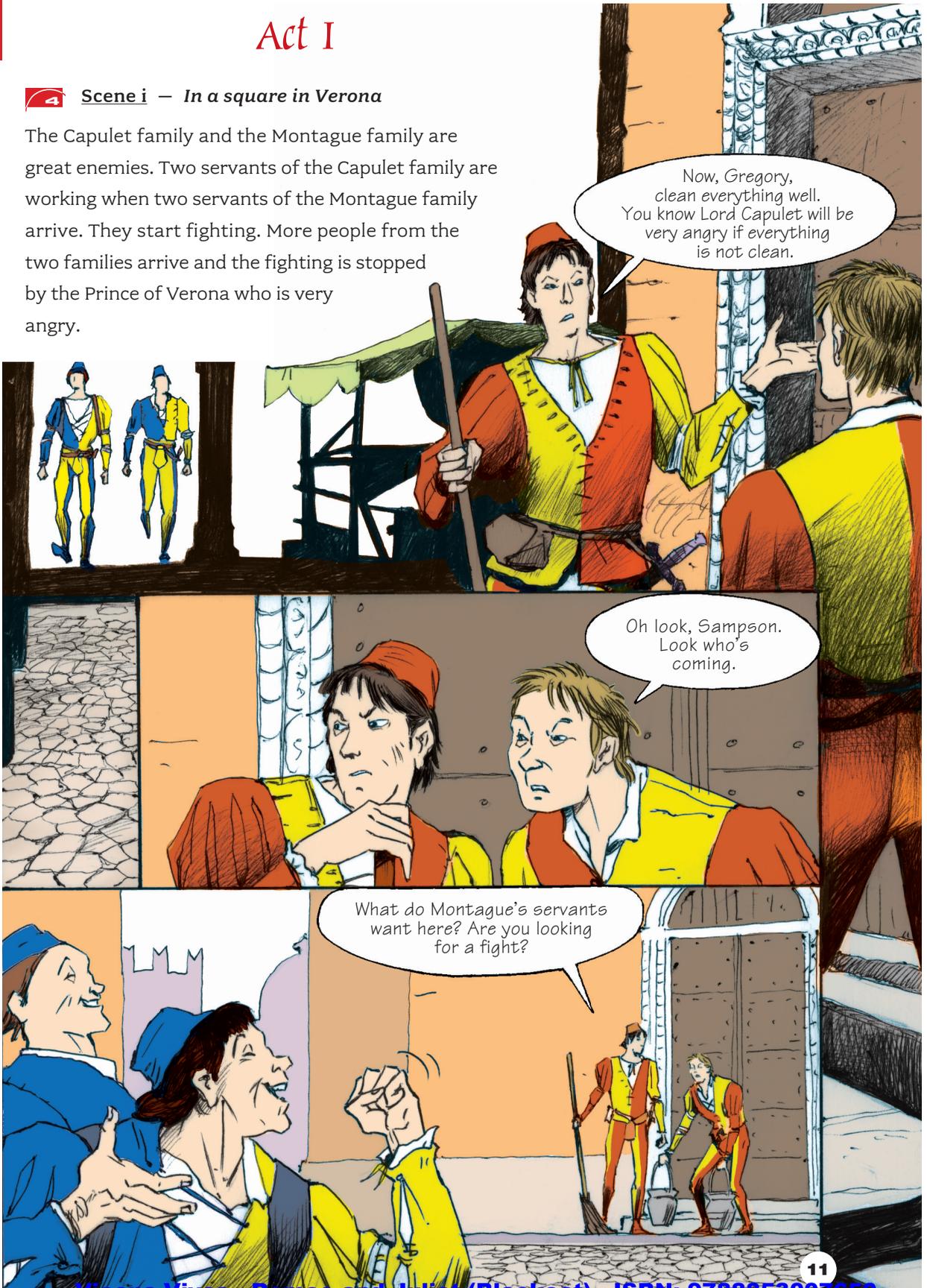
**2** Shakespeare was born and died on 23rd April in Stratford-upon-Avon. He got married when he was eighteen and had three children. When he was twenty-two he went to London to work as an actor. He published his first play when he was thirty and became England's most famous writer. He wrote and acted for Queen Elizabeth I and King James I. Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* around 1595. He didn't invent the story but he wrote the most popular version. Many stories from Shakespeare originally come from Italy. Now, after four hundred years, people still love to go to the theatre to see his plays.



# Act I

## 4 Scene i — In a square in Verona

The Capulet family and the Montague family are great enemies. Two servants of the Capulet family are working when two servants of the Montague family arrive. They start fighting. More people from the two families arrive and the fighting is stopped by the Prince of Verona who is very angry.



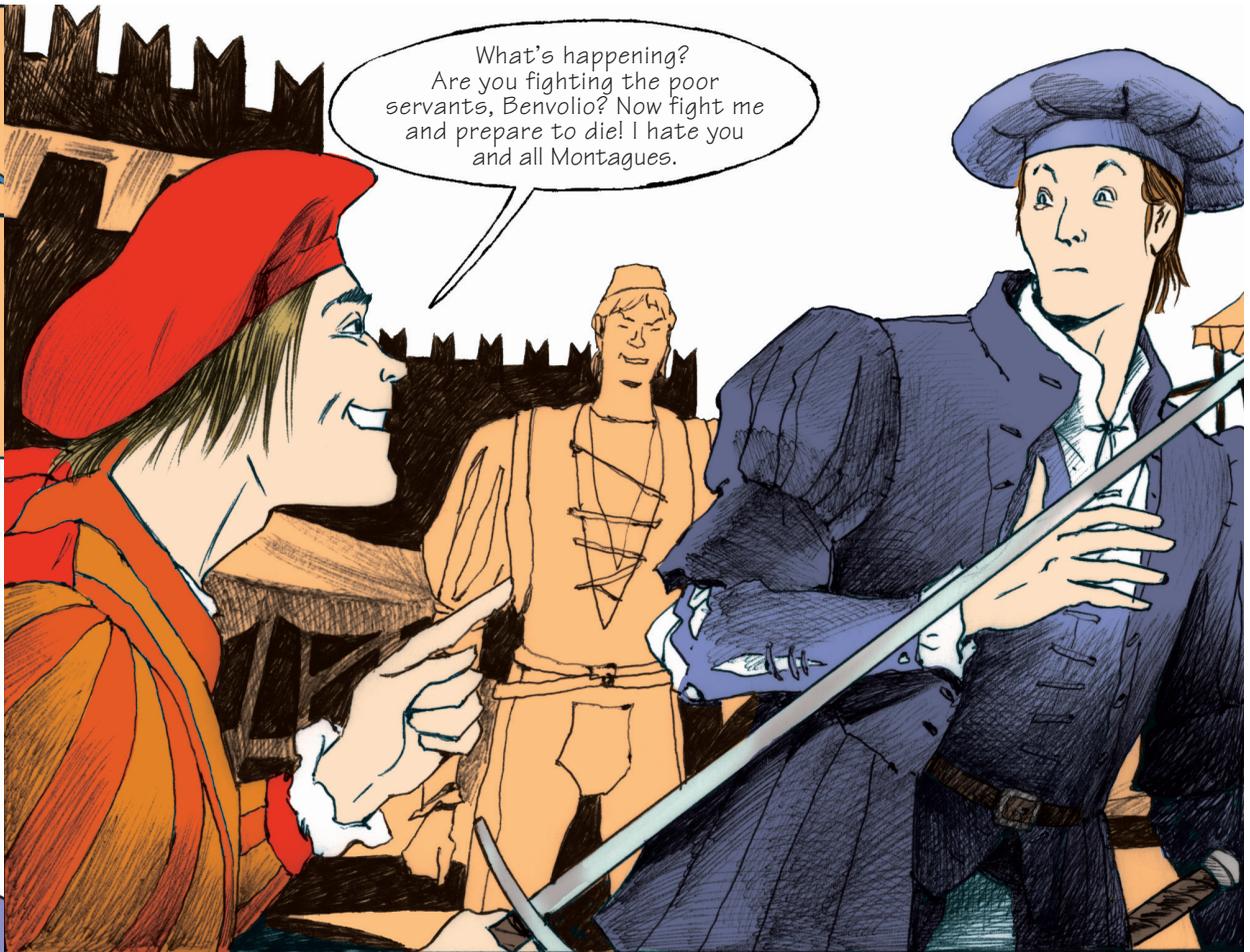


[ They start to fight. Benvolio arrives. He is one of the Montague family. ]



[ Benvolio separates them. Tybalt arrives. He is one of the Capulet family. ]





What's happening?  
Are you fighting the poor  
servants, Benvolio? Now fight me  
and prepare to die! I hate you  
and all Montagues.

[ Lord and Lady Montague arrive. ]





[ Lord and Lady Capulet arrive. ]

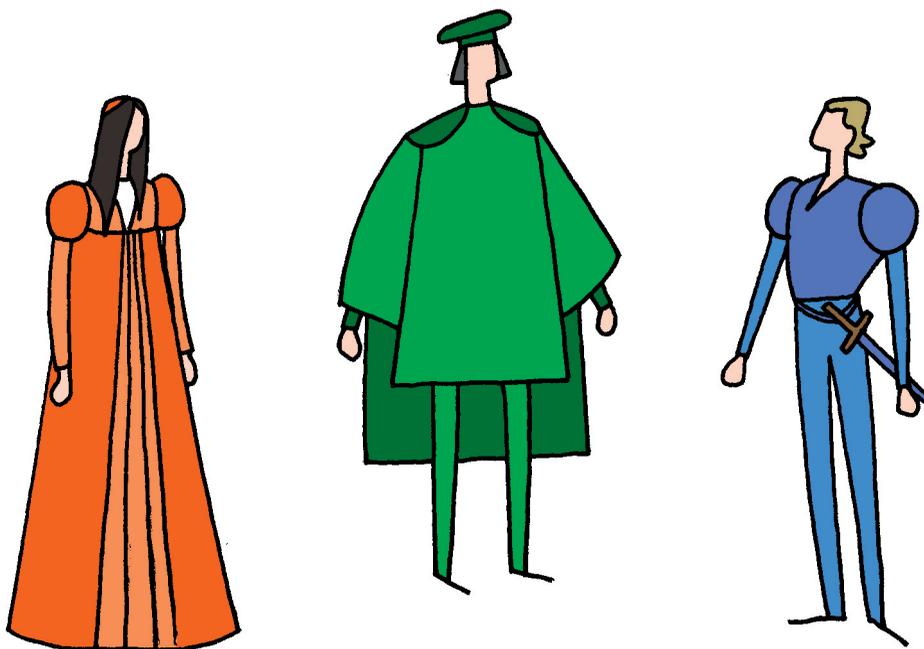


## Putting on the Show

### Act I Scene i

#### 1 Costumes

At the beginning it is difficult to remember the two different families. To help you, and to help the **audience**, choose two different colours and dress everyone from the same family in the same colour. Remember that the Prince is neutral and must have a different colour.

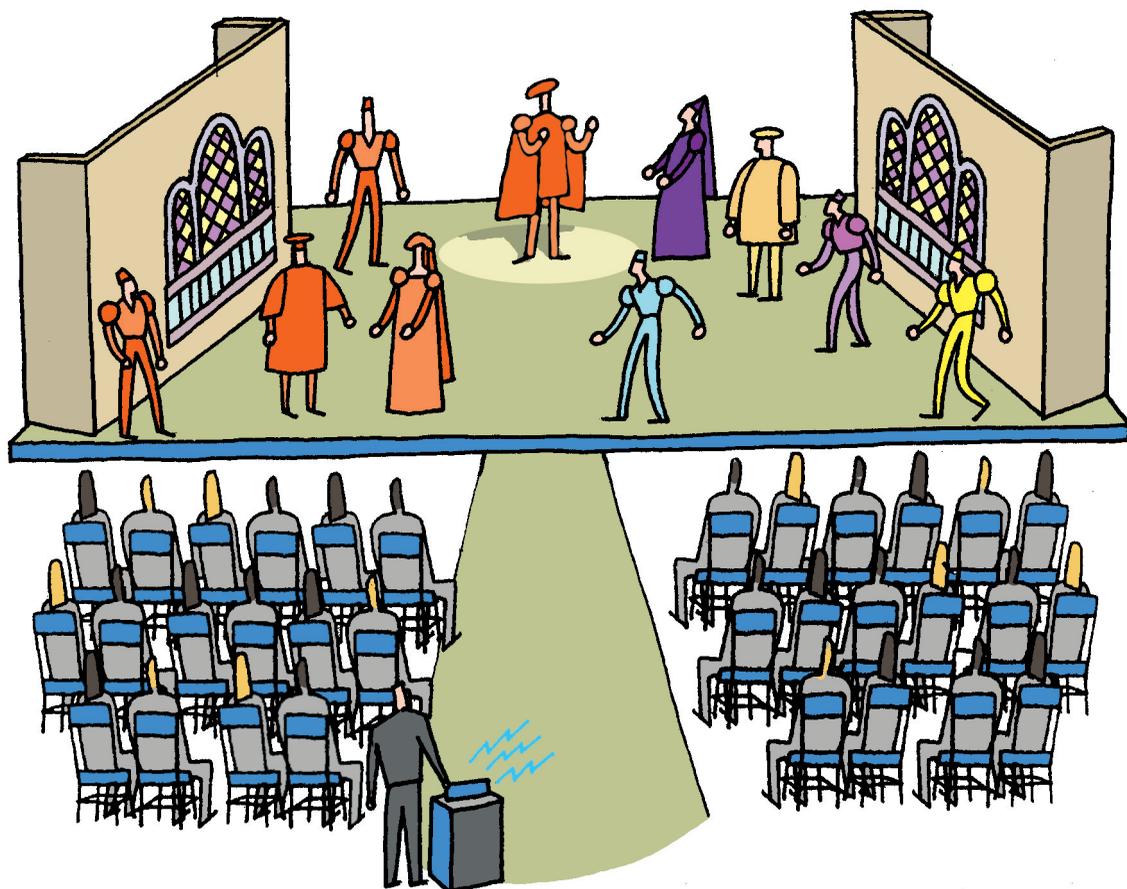


#### 2 Backstage

This is the space behind the **stage** which the **audience** never sees.

The actors who are waiting to go on **stage** must stay very quiet behind the **wings**. This is important for two reasons. Firstly, they must listen to the other actors to know when it's the right moment to enter. Secondly, they must stay silent so the **audience** can hear all the words the actors are saying.

## PERFORMING ACTIVITIES



### 3 Use all the stage

At the end of this scene there are a lot of people on the **stage**. It is important that the actors don't stand in front of other actors.

### 4 The auditorium

This is the place where the **audience** sits. It's important that everybody can see everything on the **stage**.