

# 威廉·莎士比亞

William Shakespeare (1564~1616)



The world-famous playwright **William Shakespeare** was born of a middle class family in England. Since his family was rich, his childhood was very comfortable. However, he could not attend a university because his family lost its wealth when he was thirteen years old.

At the age of eighteen he married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older than him, and later had three children with her. It is believed that Shakespeare began to write as a playwright around 1590. In the beginning of his writing career, he was just practicing and copying ideas from other authors. However, he worked hard and kept getting more and more popular. Finally, he achieved some success as an actor and a playwright and in 1594 became a leading member of the King's official playwright company, where he continued to write until his death.

He wrote thirty-seven plays, and his writings are generally divided up into four periods: historic plays, "joyous" comedies, tragedies, and tragic romantic comedies. His four well-known great tragedies include: *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*. They were written during the Period of Tragedies. The sonnets in his plays established his reputation as the best poet and the greatest dramatist the world has ever known.

He died on his fifty-second birthday on April 23, 1616 in Stratford-Upon-Avon, which was his birthplace. The people there still annually celebrate his death.

## *Romeo and Juliet*

The setting is the beautiful city of Verona in Italy. There has been a long-running feud between the two main families: the Montagues and the Capulets.

One day, Romeo, the only son of the Montagues, sneaks into a ball being held by the Capulets. There, he meets Juliet, the daughter of the Capulets. They fall in love at first sight. Although they know their families are enemies, they cannot help but love each other. The next day they go to a monastery and get secretly married.

Meanwhile, Juliet's cousin Tybalt is furious that Romeo was present at the ball. He challenges Romeo to a duel. While traveling after the wedding, Romeo is confronted by Tybalt.

Now considering Tybalt his kinsman, Romeo refuses to fight. However, Tybalt fatally wounded Mercutio, a friend of Romeo. Grief-stricken, Romeo manages to kill Tybalt.

*Romeo and Juliet* was a drama covering 5 acts and 24 scenes and was written in the middle of 1590. The magnificent poetic lines in the drama and the fate of two young lovers victimized by the feuds combine to make

*Romeo and Juliet* one of Shakespeare's finest works as well as one of his most frequently performed plays.



# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

## 本書使用說明

Romeo threw more stones into the fountain. "Out!" Benvolio wasn't sure what he meant. Was he telling him to go? "I don't understand, Romeo."

**1** "Out," he repeated. "I'm not in love, but out of love. The one I love does not love me, therefore I'm out of love."

Benvolio slightly<sup>1</sup> chuckled<sup>2</sup> at what he thought was a joke, but Romeo had not been joking.

"Don't laugh at me!" he stared at<sup>3</sup> Benvolio. "No, no," Benvolio said. "It's just that..." Romeo raised his hand. "Forgive me," he said. "I haven't slept in a day because I've been thinking so much."

Then he noticed the blood on Benvolio's face. "I didn't even notice that you have been injured<sup>4</sup>."

"It's nothing," said Benvolio. "Just the usual fight with the Capulets."


Chapter One  
The Feud

"I should have<sup>5</sup> been with you. Maybe I couldn't help, but perhaps one of the Capulets would have stabbed<sup>6</sup> me and put me out of my misery<sup>7</sup>."

"You aren't serious."

But something in Romeo's eyes said he was. "I hate to see you like this."

"Hate?" Romeo yelled, grabbing Benvolio. **3** "Hate to see me in love? Then you hate me!" He shook his cousin. "Maybe you would rather see me in hate? Is that it? Montagues love to hate, fight, and kill. But whether we love to hate or love to love doesn't matter. It's all the same passion<sup>8</sup>, and it will kill us all the same."



**4** Romeo wishes he had been with Benvolio because

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**Notes**

1 I haven't slept in a day because I've been thinking so much.  
我因為想太多，已經一天沒睡了。

have + 動詞過去分詞 + 現在完成式：表示從事某動作一段時間。

2 I have lived in Taipei for three years.  
我已經住在台北三年了。

**2** slightly ['slaitli] (adv) 稍微地、輕微地

**2** chuckle ['tʃʌkl] (v) 輕聲笑、咯咯地笑

**3** stare at 瞪視、凝視

**4** injure ['ɪndʒə] (v) 受傷

**5** should have 應該……

**6** stab [stʌb] (v) 刺傷

**7** misery ['mɪəri] (n) 痛苦

**8** passion ['peɪʃn] (n) 激情

**22** Romeo and Juliet

### 1 Original English texts      3 Response notes

It is easy to understand the meaning of the text, because the text is rewritten according to the levels of the readers.

Spaces are included in the book so you can take notes about what you don't understand or what you want to remember.

### 2 Explanation of the vocabulary      4 One point lesson

The words and expressions that include vocabulary above the elementary level are clearly defined.

In-depth analyses of major grammar points and expressions help you to understand sentences with difficult grammar.

The page is framed by a border of J.M.W. Turner's painting 'Rain, Steam, and Great Bridge' at the top and bottom, and 'The Starry Night' on the right side. The main content area is a light beige rectangle with a thin gold border on the right and bottom.

## **Audio Recording**

In the audio recording, native speakers narrate the texts in standard American English. By combining the written words and the audio recording, you can listen to English with great ease.

Audio books have been popular in Britain and America for many decades. They allow the listener to experience the proper word pronunciation and sentence intonation that add important meaning and drama to spoken English. Students will benefit from listening to the recording twenty or more times.

After you are familiar with the text and recording, listen once more with your eyes closed to check your listening comprehension. Finally, after you can listen with your eyes closed and understand every word and every sentence, you are then ready to mimic the native speaker.

Then you should make a recording by reading the text yourself. Then play both recordings to compare your oral skills with those of a native speaker.



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# Before You Read

## Romeo



I live for the love of a woman, and Juliet is her name. There have been other women, but the memory of them has faded<sup>1</sup> from my mind. She is the one true love for me. Although I am a Montague, and she a Capulet, our love will overcome<sup>2</sup> the war between our families. Love is the most important thing in my life—actually, love is more important than life itself.

## Juliet



Oh Romeo, Romeo, where are you Romeo? It seems that Fate<sup>3</sup> is designed to<sup>4</sup> keep me from my one and only true love. My father, Lord<sup>5</sup> Capulet, wants me to marry noble<sup>6</sup> Paris, but I cannot. As soon as I first saw him, I knew Romeo was the only man for me. I love Romeo more than my own life!

1. **fade** [feɪd] (v.) 退去；消失

2. **overcome** [ˌoʊvərˈkʌm] (v.) 克服

3. **fate** [feɪt] (n.) 命運

4. **be designed to** 計畫將……

5. **lord** [lɔːrd] (n.) 勳爵；領主

6. **noble** ['nəʊbəl] (n.) 貴族

7. **friar** ['fraɪr] (n.) (天主教) 修士

8. **get married** 結婚



## Friar<sup>7</sup> Lawrence

Children these days think too much about romance. Romeo and Juliet want to get married<sup>8</sup>? They are too young! Their fathers hate each other! But maybe, just maybe, their marriage<sup>9</sup> may end the hate between their families.



## Juliet's Nurse

I have cared for<sup>10</sup> Juliet for so long, that she is like a daughter to me. I must protect<sup>11</sup> her from Romeo, if he is not sincere in his love. However, if he is, he would make a fine husband for Juliet. He is the most handsome man I have ever seen!



## Benvolio

I have many worries these days. It seems like fighting will break out<sup>12</sup> any day between my family, the Montagues, and my enemy<sup>13</sup>, the Capulets. I am also worried about my cousin<sup>14</sup>, Romeo. He is in love, and this has made him very sad. I will help him in any way to find his happiness.

9. marriage ['mæɪɪdʒ] (n.) 婚姻

10. care for 照料 (願)

11. protect [prə'tekt] (v.) 保護

12. break out 爆發；突然發生

13. enemy ['enəmi] (n.) 敵人

14. cousin ['kʌzən] (n.) 堂兄弟



## Chapter One



# The Feud<sup>1</sup>

“I will not fight,” said Sampson, “but nobody should insult<sup>2</sup> me. If we see any Montagues, they had better be quiet.”

“Or what?” asked Gregory.

“I’ll kill them all.”

“All?” Gregory stopped walking and looked at his friend.

“Every one of them,” said Sampson. “If they are Montagues, then I’ll fight them if they say something to me.”

They began to walk on toward the square<sup>3</sup>.

1. **feud** [fju:d] (n.) 世仇

2. **insult** [ɪn'sʌlt] (v.) 侮辱

3. **square** [skwer] (n.) 廣場

4. **jokingly** ['dʒoʊkɪŋli] (adv.)  
玩笑似地

5. **enemy** ['enəmi] (n.) 敵人

6. **explain** [ɪk'spleɪn] (v.) 解釋

7. **beat** [bi:t] (v.) 打敗；勝過

8. **charm** [tʃɑ:rm] (v.)  
使陶醉；吸引

9. **be gone** 消失；不見

“But that’s not really showing them that you’re angry. Unless you think charming the women is the same as fighting the men.”

“Isn’t it?” Sampson answered. “Either<sup>1</sup> way, it’s about showing the Montagues who’s the boss<sup>2</sup>. I’ll beat the men with swords<sup>3</sup>, the women with smiles and pretty words. It’s all the same.”





“Kill the Capulets?”  
murmured<sup>1</sup> an old man  
who was walking out of<sup>2</sup> a  
nearby church.

It was Capulet, holding  
on to his young wife’s  
arm. “Give me my sword!”

“Sword?” his wife scolded<sup>3</sup>. “You need a  
cane<sup>4</sup>, not a sword.”

“I know it’s Capulet!” Another old man  
hobbled<sup>5</sup> across the square. It was Montague.  
“Lead me over to him.” he said.

“How can you fight? You can barely  
walk!” said Lady Montague.

Then the crowd went silent as some  
horses neared. Escalus, the Prince of Verona,  
and his soldiers rode toward them.  
He circled<sup>6</sup> Tybalt and Benvolio.  
The onlookers<sup>7</sup> hurried off<sup>8</sup>.

1. **murmur** [ˈmɜːrmər] (v.)  
低聲說

2. **out of** 從……出來

3. **scold** [skəʊld] (v.) 責罵

4. **cane** [keɪn] (n.) 拐杖

5. **hobble** [ˈhɒːbəl] (v.) 跛行

6. **circle** [ˈsɜːrkəl] (v.) 圍著

7. **onlooker** [ˈɔːn,lʊkər] (n.)  
旁觀者

8. **hurry off** 匆忙離去

9. **rebel** [ˈrebəl] (n.)  
反叛者；造反者

10. **roar** [rɔːr] (v.) 吼叫

11. **command** [kəˈmænd]  
(v.) 命令

12. **responsible** [rɪˈspɑːnsəbəl]  
(a.) 負責的

13. **be supposed to** 應該

“Rebels<sup>9</sup>!” roared<sup>10</sup> the prince. “Throw your weapons to the ground!”

Tybalt and Benvolio did as the prince commanded<sup>11</sup>.

“Now,” Escalus said, “where are the people responsible<sup>12</sup>? I’m talking about the two older men, Capulet and Montague.”

He searched the streets and found the two old men. “You, Capulet, and you, Montague, stand in front of me!”

The two old men came forward. “You are leaders in this city and are supposed to<sup>13</sup> be moral<sup>14</sup>. But instead of teaching the people how to be noble, you force them to participate in your pointless feud. Well, I’ve been patient for too long.”

He drew his sword. “If your feud ever disturbs<sup>15</sup> the streets again, you both will pay for<sup>16</sup> it with your lives! Do you understand?”

They both nodded<sup>17</sup>.



14. **moral** [ˈmɔːrəl] (a.)  
講道德的

15. **disturb** [dɪˈstɜːrb] (v.)  
擾亂

16. **pay for** 為……付出代價  
(pay-paid-paid)

17. **nod** [nɒːd] (v.) 點頭  
(nod-nodded-nodded)



“There’s Romeo, now, madam,” said Benvolio. “Should I talk to him again?”

“Please,” said Lady Montague. She patted<sup>5</sup> Benvolio’s wrist<sup>6</sup> and left with her husband.

“Good morning, cousin,” said Benvolio.

“Is it still morning?” said Romeo, tossing<sup>7</sup> a stone into the fountain<sup>8</sup>.

“It is only nine o’clock.”

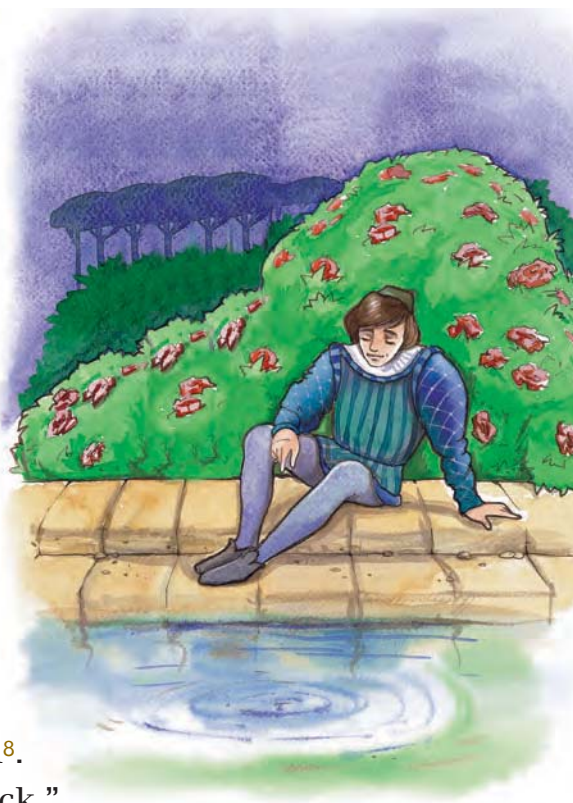
“Sad hours pass slowly.” Romeo threw another stone.

“Why do the hours seem so long?”

“I don’t have anything to make them short.”

“You mean love,” said Benvolio happily.

“I thought you might be in love!”



### ✓ Check Up

True or False.

- ☐ a Romeo ran away from his home. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ b Romeo seems to be very depressed these days. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ c Benvolio thinks Romeo is in love. \_\_\_\_\_

Ans: a | b | c

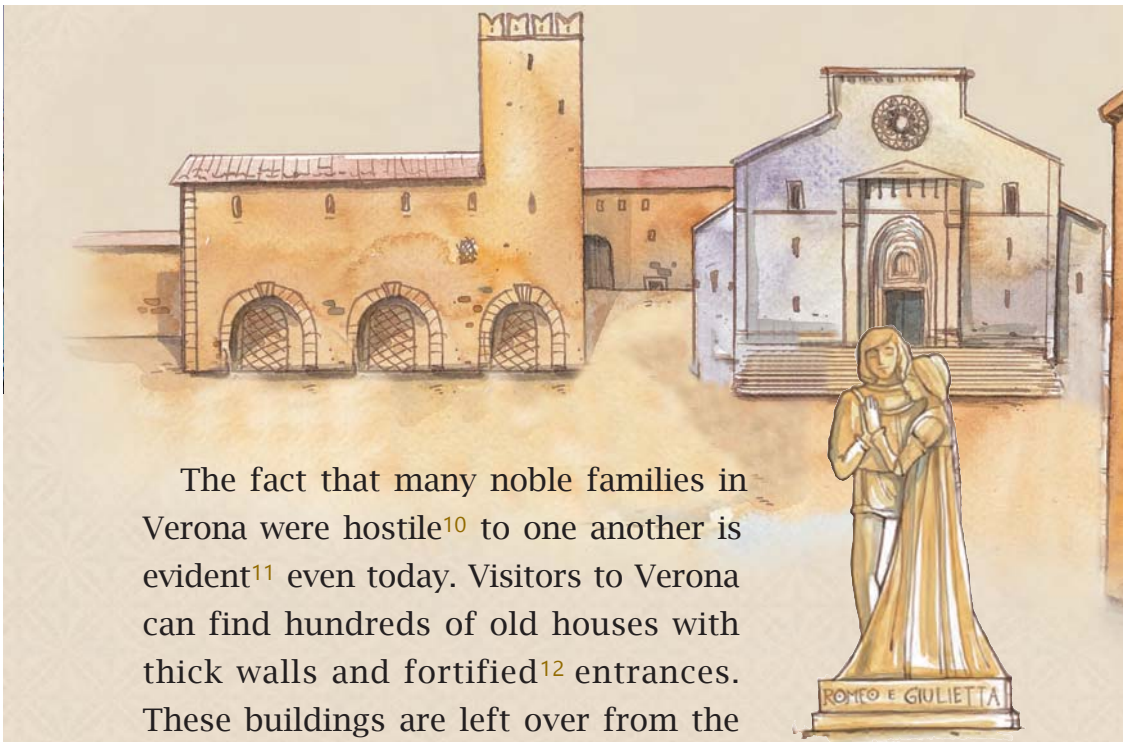
## *Understanding the Story*

# The Streets of Verona



In “Romeo and Juliet”, Shakespeare paints a picture of fourteenth century Verona as a city where armed<sup>1</sup> men fight old family feuds in the streets. True to this image, Verona was a town being torn apart<sup>2</sup> by politics<sup>3</sup> over centuries. In 1158, Verona was caught up in civil war<sup>4</sup>. Many noble<sup>5</sup> families in Verona were loyal to the Catholic<sup>6</sup> Pope<sup>7</sup>. However, many other nobles were loyal to the Holy Roman Emperor<sup>8</sup>, Freidrich Barbarossa.

Although the “ancient feud” between the Montagues and the Capulets is never explained in Shakespeare’s play, it probably dates back this conflict<sup>9</sup>, which was over 200 years old at the time of Romeo and Juliet. These feuds would involve not only the leaders, but the sons, daughters, cousins and even servants of each family.



The fact that many noble families in Verona were hostile<sup>10</sup> to one another is evident<sup>11</sup> even today. Visitors to Verona can find hundreds of old houses with thick walls and fortified<sup>12</sup> entrances. These buildings are left over from the time when armed men, similar to Tybalt and Mercutio, roamed<sup>13</sup> the streets of Verona.

It is romantic to think that the tragic love affair between Romeo and Juliet ended these feuds, but their story, unlike the historical background, is pure fiction<sup>14</sup>.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>armed</b> [ɑ:rmɪd] (a.) 武裝的       | 9. <b>conflict</b> ['kɒ:nflɪkt] (n.) 衝突       |
| 2. <b>torn apart</b> 不安                 | 10. <b>hostile</b> ['hɒ:stəl] (a.) 敵意的        |
| 3. <b>politics</b> ['pɒ:lətɪks] (n.) 政治 | 11. <b>evident</b> ['evɪdənt] (a.) 明顯的        |
| 4. <b>civil war</b> 內戰                  | 12. <b>fortified</b> ['fɔ:rtɪfaɪd] (a.) 加強防禦的 |
| 5. <b>noble</b> ['nəʊbəl] (a.) 貴族的      | 13. <b>roam</b> [roum] (v.) 漫步                |
| 6. <b>Catholic</b> ['kæθəlɪk] (a.) 天主教的 | 14. <b>fiction</b> ['fɪkʃən] (n.) 虛構          |
| 7. <b>Pope</b> [pəʊp] (n.) 羅馬天主教教皇      |   |
| 8. <b>emperor</b> ['empərə(r)] (n.) 皇帝  |   |