ROMEO
&
JULIET

A FREE VERSION OF THE SHAKESPEARE TRAGEDY

CLASSROOM MATERIAL

THE STORY AND THE CHARACTERS

Exercise 1: Read the information on the STORY and the CHARACTERS and then answer the questions.

The Background: This modern tale is set[1] in the fictitious country of Belrania. The capital city, Belrane, has been the victim of a series of terrorist attacks committed[2] by the VIRONIA LIBERATION ORGANISATION or VLO (OLV in Spanish), an illegal separatist group seeking autonomy for the territory called Vironia. The VLO is also fighting[3] to legalise the use of Spanish – it is prohibited to speak this language in Belrania, the official language being English. People found speaking Spanish are arrested and put into prison.

WHO IS WHO ?

There are two main groups of characters: **The Capulets** and the **Montagues**. For centuries, these two families have hated each other and there has always been violence between them. Please study this diagram: -

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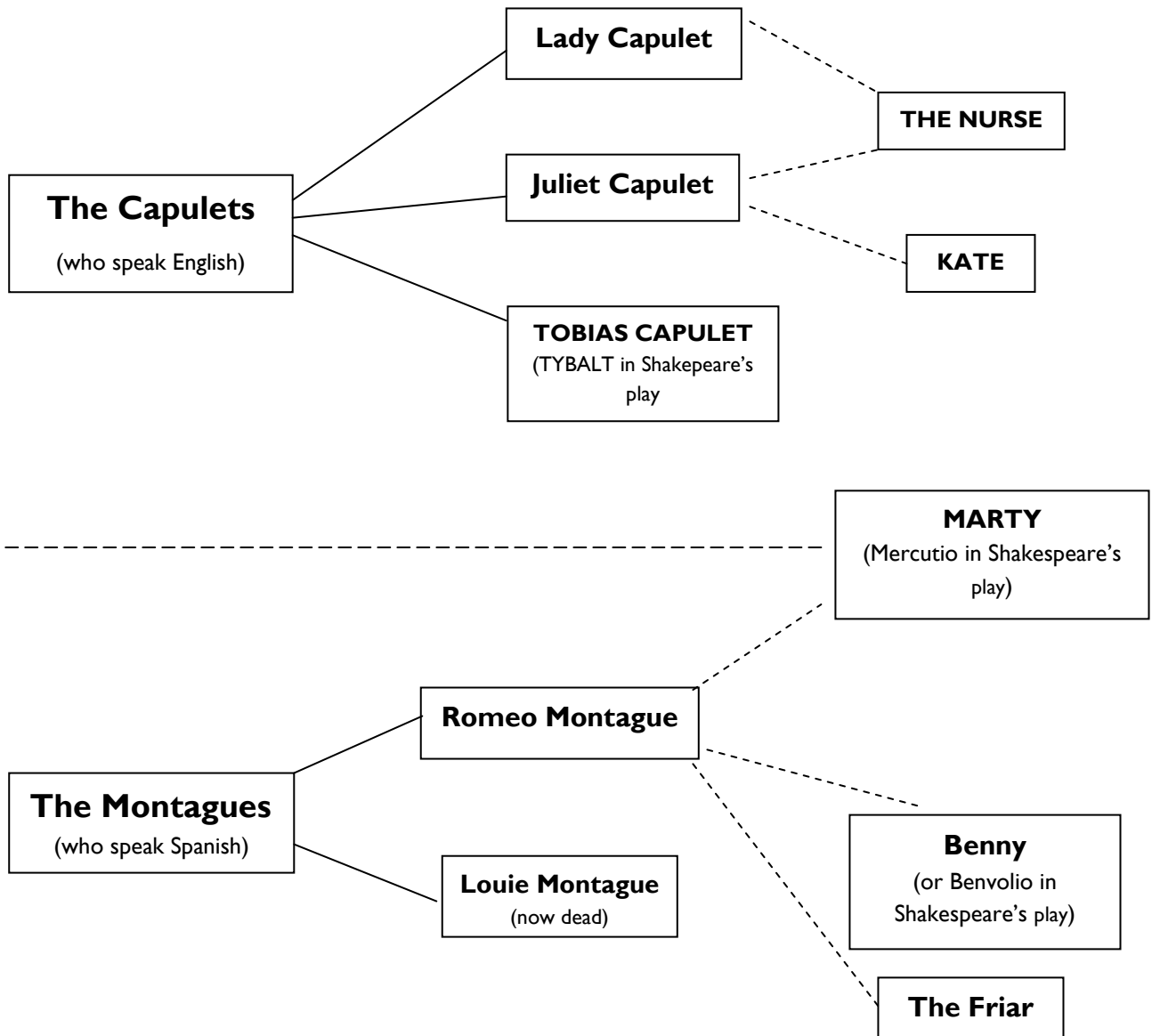
[1] set = *ambientado*
[2] committed = *perpetrado*
[3] to fight = *luchar*

Romeo Montague is a 17-year-old Spanish-speaking student who hates violence. His brother, Louie (a VLO sympathiser), was killed during a police interrogation six months ago.

Benny is Romeo's close friend, whose first language is also Spanish. A passionate supporter of the outlawed VLO movement, he believes that violence is the only way to achieve autonomy for Vironia and the freedom to speak Spanish.

Marty (based on Mercutio in the original version) is an 18-year-old female philosophy student and a good friend to both Romeo and Benny. She is a native English speaker with a very strong personality. She is intelligent, independent and very cynical about romance, politics and religion.

Juliet is the 17-year-old daughter of the influential and wealthy Lord and Lady Capulet. Her parents have strong connections with the one-party government. She, however, is not interested in politics.

Tobias (or Tybalt in the original version) is Juliet's cousin. He lives with the Capulet family because he is an orphan: his mother died when he was very young and his father, a member of parliament, was killed by a VLO bomb two years ago. This is why he hates Spanish speakers and VLO sympathisers.

Kate is Juliet's best friend.

Lady Capulet is Juliet's mother. She is a refined, wealthy and domineering woman.

The Nurse is Juliet's maid or "criada". However, she is more like a mother to her than Juliet's real mother.

The Friar is the Catholic priest in whom Romeo often confides. He is very close to Romeo, and is keen to give him advice where necessary.

THE STORY

It's Saturday night. Romeo and Benny argue[1] about a violent VLO demonstration[2] which has taken place in Belrane. Romeo is against[3] the use of violence, but Benny thinks it is necessary. They meet Marty who invites them to a "masquerade", a party with masks, at the house of a very rich family, the Capulets. Benny feels nervous about going because there will be secret police and government people there (Benny has connections with the VLO and Romeo's brother was killed by the state police six months ago). Marty persuades them to go but before they leave, Romeo tells them about some strange dreams[4] he has been having: dreams set in the 16th century about a beautiful girl called Juliet. In fact, Romeo has fallen in love[5] with the girl in his dreams and can't stop thinking about her. Marty makes fun of[6] Romeo for being such a romantic.

      At the party, Romeo is shocked to meet the girl in his dreams. Juliet actually exists in real life and is not a figment of his imagination[7]. After the party, Romeo secretly visits Juliet outside her bedroom window. They immediately fall in love. The problem is her parents and her cousin[8], Tobias, detest all "Spanish speakers" and anyone connected with the VLO. If they suspected that she was seeing Romeo, they would severely punish[9] her.

      The next morning, Romeo visits the Friar and tells him about Juliet. The Friar tells Romeo that this relationship could be extremely dangerous. Nonetheless, Romeo convinces the Friar to join them

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[1] to argue = *discutir*
[2] demonstration = *manifestación*
[3] to be against = *estar en contra*
[4] dreams = *sueños*
[5] to fall in love = *enamorarse*
[6] to make fun of = *tomar el pelo de*
[7] figment of the imagination = *una fantasía*
[8] cousin = *primo*
[9] to punish = *castigar*

in marriage[1]. The Friar changes his mind[2] because, he thinks, a matrimonial union could pave the way[3] for a better understanding between the enemies. At the same time, Juliet confides in her best friend, Kate, about her love for Romeo, but Kate refuses to listen and does not help her friend. For his part, Tobias suspects that Juliet is in love with a Montague and warns[4] his cousin that he will kill Romeo if she sees him again. Juliet is now more determined[5] to marry Romeo and that same day, they secretly get married[6].

However, their happiness does not last long. Soon after their marriage, Tobias looks for Romeo and starts a fight[7]. Marty intervenes and defends Romeo but Tobias murders[8] her. In anger, Romeo seeks revenge[9] and kills Tobias. Romeo is now a criminal and must go into hiding. First, he secretly meets his wife, Juliet, and they plan their escape together...

QUESTIONS AND LANGUAGE PRACTICE ON THE STORY

1. What happens to you if you are discovered speaking Spanish in Belrania?

2. When did Romeo's brother die? How did he die?

3. Name TWO rights (derechos) the VLO is fighting for. What does VLO mean?

4. Why does Tobias live with his aunt and uncle, Lord and Lady Capulet?

5. Who often gives Romeo advice?

6. What happened in the capital, Belrane, earlier in the day?

7. What does Benny think about the demonstrations? And Romeo?

8. Who invited them to a party? What was special about this party?

9. Why was Romeo so shocked to meet Juliet at the party? Had he met her before?

10. Why did the Friar, or priest, decide to marry Romeo and Juliet?

11. What did Tobias say he would do if Juliet saw Romeo again?

12. Why did Romeo murder Tobias?

LANGUAGE PRACTICE Put these sentences into the <u>CORRECT</u> order. We have given you an example...

SHAKESPEARE JULIET IS BY A CLASSIC AND LOVE WILLIAM ROMEO STORY
<u>ANSWER:</u> *Romeo and Juliet is a classic love story by William Shakespeare*

1. IN JULIET THAT LOVE TOBIAS WITH ROMEO SUSPECTS IS

2. TO PROHIBITED IS SPEAK IN IT BELRANIA SPANISH

3. WAS POLICE THE BROTHER LOUIE ROMEO'S KILLED BY

4. VLO OF AND BY BENNY ROMEO THE ABOUT USE VIOLENCE DISAGREE THE

5. FRIENDS MASQUERADE MARTY HER TO A INVITES

6. BEEN ROMEO DREAMS HAVING HAS STRANGE

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[1] marriage = *matrimonio*
[2] to change his mind = *cambiar de idea*
[3] pave the way = *allanar el camino*
[4] to warn = *avisar*
[5] to be determined = *estar resuelto, decidido*
[6] to get married = *casarse*
[7] a fight = *una pelea*
[8] to murder = *asesinar*
[9] to seek revenge = *buscar venganza*

Exercise 2:   **AN EXTRACT FROM THE PLAY**

Read the following extract in which Juliet is talking to her mother, Lady Capulet, shortly after Romeo killed her cousin, Tobias. Some of the words are missing. Choose the correct words from the list below and complete the dialogue.   *Lee este extracto en la cual Juliet habla con su madre, Lady Capulet, poco después del asesinato de Tobias a manos de Romeo. Faltan algunas de las palabras. ¿Puedes encontrar las palabras correctas indicadas abajo y ponerlas en los espacios adecuados?*

LADY C: Juliet. Are you up? Feeling any **1** _____?

JULIET: Yes, a little.

LADY C: It's not like you, going to your bed in the middle of the day.

JULIET: I know, but I've got this terrible **2** _____.

LADY C: I'm sorry. Is it Tobias, dear? This must be very difficult for you. I know I'm **3**_ _____.
I have something very important to say to you Juliet. You've heard about all these kidnappings by those VLO terrorists?

JULIET: Yes.

LADY C: Your father received some **4** _____ information from the police today. They're planning to **5** _____ you, Juliet.

JULIET: You're kidding.

LADY C: I wish I was. We've already made the 6 _____ and you're leaving for the United States on the 10 o'clock **7** _____ tomorrow morning. We can't **8** _____ any sort of risks. Don't look at me like that, Juliet. You can finish school in New York and then you could go to one of those marvellous universities: Harvard, Princeton. It'll only be for a few years, dear.

JULIET: Mum, I can't go!

LADY C: We will not discuss this any further. Your father is **9** _____ you're going.

JULIET: But, Mother, it's just a **10** _____. I won't go! I can't leave just like that, in the middle of exams, without saying goodbye to my friends! How can you be so insensitive?

LADY C: Your life is in **11** _____ and you call me insensitive? Don't be so stupid, child!

JULIET: I'm not a child! And I can decide my future for myself. I'm not **12** _____ !

LADY C: *(She slaps Juliet)* I'll be back later tonight to make sure you're packed. I'll send the Nurse to help you…   *(Exits)*

FLIGHT	DEVASTATED	RELIABLE	BETTER	GOING
HEADACHE	DETERMINED	TAKE	ARRANGEMENTS	
RUMOUR		KIDNAP	DANGER	

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:

devastated - **asolado/a**   kidnapping - **secuestro (**to kidnap - **secuestrar)**
You're kidding! - **¡Bromeas!**   arrangements - **planes;**
determined - **decidido, resuelto**   to take a risk - **arriesgar**
insensitive - **insensible**   reliable - **confiable, de confianza**

Exercise 3:   SHAKESPEARE'S "ROMEO & JULIET"

The following extract, which appears in THE LINGUA-ARTS' S version, is taken from **Act III, Scene I** of the original play. In it, Tybalt (Tobias) wants to pick a fight with Romeo. Mercutio (Marty) intervenes to save his friend, but instead is seriously wounded by Tybalt.

*El extracto siguiente, que aparece en nuestra versión de la obra, viene **del Acto Tercero, Primera Escena** de la obra origina. En esta escena, Teobaldo (Tobias) tiene ganas de pelea e intenta provocar a Romeo, pero Mercutio (Marty) se pone en medio en un intento de salvar a su amigo. Sin embargo, durante la pelea entre Mercutio y Teobaldo, el amigo de Romeo cae gravemente herido…*

Lee primero el extracto en ESPAÑOL ¿Puedes volver a escribirlo en un español moderno? Luego intenta escribirlo en un inglés moderno.

(Enter Tybalt)

TYBALT: Gentleman, good e'en. A word with you.

MERCUTIO: And but one word? Couple it with something. Make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT: You shall find me apt enough to that, an you will give me occasion.

MERCUTIO: Could you not take some occasion without giving?

TYBALT: Mercutio, thou consortest with Romeo.

MERCUTIO: Consort? What, dost thou make us minstrels? Here's my fiddlestick. Here's that shall make you dance. Zounds, consort!

(Enter Romeo)

TYBALT: Well, peace be with you. Here comes my man. Romeo, the love I bear thee can afford no better term than this: thou art a villain.

ROMEO: Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee doth much excuse the appertaining rage to such a greeting. Villain am I none.

TYBALT: Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries. That thou hast done me. Therefore turn and draw.

ROMEO: I do protest I never injured thee, but love thee better than thou canst devise.

MERCUTIO: *(draws)* Tybalt, you ratcatcher, will you walk?

TYBALT: What wouldst thou have with me?

MERCUTIO: Good King of Cats, nothing but one of your nine lives.

TYBALT: *(draws)* I am for you.

(Entra Teobaldo)

TEOBALDO: Caballero, buenas tardes. Una palabra con Usted.

MERCUCIO: ¿Sólo una palabra? Venga, acompañada de algo más. Sea palabra y golpe.

TEOBALDO: Caballero, a eso me veréis dispuesto si me dan motivo.

MERCUCIO: ¿Y no sabéis hallar motivo sin que os lo den?

TEOBALDO: Mercutio, vos y Romeo concertados….

MERCUCIO: ¡Concertados! -- Nos creéis músicos? Aquí está mi arco de violín que os hará bailar. ¡Voto va! ¡Concertados!!

(Entra Romeo)

TEOBALDO: Quedad, señor, con Dios. He aquí mi mozo. Romeo, el odio que me anima admite esta frase mi más: Un vil tú eres.

ROMEO: Teobaldo, los motivos que me inducen a quererte, la rabia disimulan de tal saludo. Vil jamás he sido.

TEOBALDO: ¡Imberbe! No así excuses las ofensas que me hiciste. Detente, y ponte en guardia.

ROMEO: No te ofendí jamás. Yo te lo juro; al contrario, te aprecio como nunca podrás imaginar.

MERCUCIO *(saca su espada)* Teobaldo, mata-ratas, ¿paseamos?

TEOBALDO ¿Qué queréis vos conmigo?

MERCUCIO: ¡Noble Rey de gatos!, sólo una de vuestras siete vidas.

TEOBALDO: Estoy pronto. *(saca su espada)*

Exercise 4:   SCENE 3 (Act 1, Scene 3 of original play.)

Read this extract in which Juliet's mother, Lady Capulet, informs her daughter that she is to marry a stranger, Paris. Then answer the TRUE/FALSE questions below:-

LADY C: Nurse, where's my daughter? Call her forth to me.
NURSE: Now by my maidenhood at twelve year old
               I bade her come. What, lamb! What ladybird! -
               God forbid! - Where's this girl? What, Juliet?

                                        (Enter Juliet)

JULIET: How now? Who calls?
NURSE: Your mother.
JULIET: Madam, I am here. What is your will?
LADY C: This is the matter…
               Thou knowest my daughter's of a pretty age.
NURSE: Faith I can tell her age unto an hour.
LADY C   She's not fourteen.
NURSE.   I'll lay fourteen of my teeth
               she's not fourteen. How long is it now
               to Lammastide?
LADY C: A fortnight and odd days.
NURSE: Even or odd, of all the days of the year,
               Come Lammas Eve at night shall she be fourteen.
               Susan and she - God rest all Christian souls! -
               Were of an age. Well, Susan is with God.
               She was too good for me. But, as I said,
               Come Lammas Eve at night shall she be fourteen…
LADY C: Enough of this. I pray thee hold thy peace.
NURSE: Peace, I have done. God mark thee to his grace!
               Thou wast the prettiest babe that e'er I nursed.
               And I might live to see thee married once,
               I have my wish.
LADY C: Marry, that 'marry' is the very theme
               I came to talk of. Tell me, daughter Juliet,
               How stands your dispositions to be married?
JULIET: It is an honour that I dream not of.
NURSE.   An honour! Were not I thine only nurse,
               I would say thou hadst sucked wisdom from thy teat.
LADY C: Well, think of marriage now, thus then in brief
               The valiant Paris seeks you for his love.
NURSE: A man, young lady ! Lady, such a man.
LADY C: What say you? Can you love this gentleman?
               This night you shall behold him at our feast.
               Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?
JULIET: I'll look to like, if looking liking move.

1. The Nurse has been looking for Juliet for a long time.   TRUE / FALSE
2. Juliet is already fourteen years old.   TRUE / FALSE
3. Lady Capulet thinks the Nurse talks too much.   TRUE / FALSE
4. The Nurse is happy about Lady Capulet's plans for Juliet to marry. TRUE / FALSE
5. The Nurse is a timid, introverted woman.   TRUE / FALSE
6. Juliet wants to make her mother happy.   TRUE / FALSE

DISCUSSION POINT   *Above, Lady Capulet tells Juliet that she has to marry Paris. Juliet has never met him before and he is twice her age. If a man and woman do not know each other before they marry, it is called an arranged marriage. What do you think of arranged marriages? In which parts of the world do you still find arranged marriages? What are the reasons for arranged marriages?*

Exercise 5   **RE-ARRANGING A CONVERSATION**

The following extract is a conversation between Juliet, and her cousin, Tobias. However, the conversation is **NOT** in order. Read it carefully, and then re-arrange the numbered sentences so that the conversation makes sense. (The first sentence is number **4** and the second is number **8.)**
*El extracto de la obra que sigue es una conversación entre Juliet, y su primo, Tobias. Sin embargo, el dialogo **NO** está en orden. Léelo con mucha atención y vuelve a escribirlo, pero cambiando el orden de las frases numeradas para que la conversación tenga sentido. Vamos a echaros una mano: la primera frase es la número **4**; la segunda es la número **8…***

(Juliet's bedroom. Enter Tobias)

1. JULIET: Sorry. I'll see you later, then… *(Tobias grabs her hair) W*hat are you doing? Let me go! You're hurting me!

2. JULIET: French.

3. TOBIAS: No, nothing. I saw you leave the house and I thought something might be up.

4. JULIET: Morning, Tobias

5. TOBIAS: So why did you get up and so early? It's not like you.

6. TOBIAS: Oh? Which one?

7. JULIET: Fine, fine.

8. TOBIAS: Good morning, cousin. And how are you, this morning?

9. JULIET: Very funny. So, anyway, I need to get some work done.

10. TOBIAS: You think I'm blind? And stupid? Stay away from Romeo Montegue. You see him again and he's dead, you understand? Remember what happened to his brother.   *(exits)*

11. JULIET: Did you want something, Tobias?

12. TOBIAS: Ah oui, le français. Juliet, ma belle cousine.

13. JULIET: No, nothing's wrong.

14. JULIET: I couldn't sleep, that's all. Anyway, I have to do some studying. I've got an exam tomorrow.

15. TOBIAS: Great. *(pause)*

16. TOBIAS: I can take a hint. You want me to leave, right?

IMPORTANT WORDS:

to take a hint **- comprender la indirecta;**   blind - **ciego**;

Is something up? - **¿Pasa algo?**   Great - **estupendo**   early - **temprano**   dead - **muerto**

Exercise 6:   TRANSLATION WORK

<u>SCENE 13</u>   *This is a radio newsflash which is heard after Romeo has killed Tobias. Read it carefully and then re-write it in SPANISH for the clandestine Vironian radio station which broadcasts secretly to Spanish-speaking listeners.*

NEWS: "We interrupt our normal broadcast with a news-flash. Violence hit the streets of Belrane again today with the tragic deaths of two young students: Marty Adams and Tobias Capulet were killed earlier this afternoon in a knife fight reportedly involving a third person. Police want to question 17 year-old Romeo Montesco, whom, according to eye witnesses, stabbed Tobias Capulet several times before fleeing. It is not known who was responsible for the death of Marty Adams, an 18 year-old philosophy student at the University of Belrane. Tobias Capulet was the son of Robert Capulet, the member of parliament killed two years ago by a VLO terrorist bomb. Today's deaths have come at a time of increased tension in the capital after a wave of VLO kidnappings of prominent Belrane citizens.

Exercise 7   THE CROSSWORD
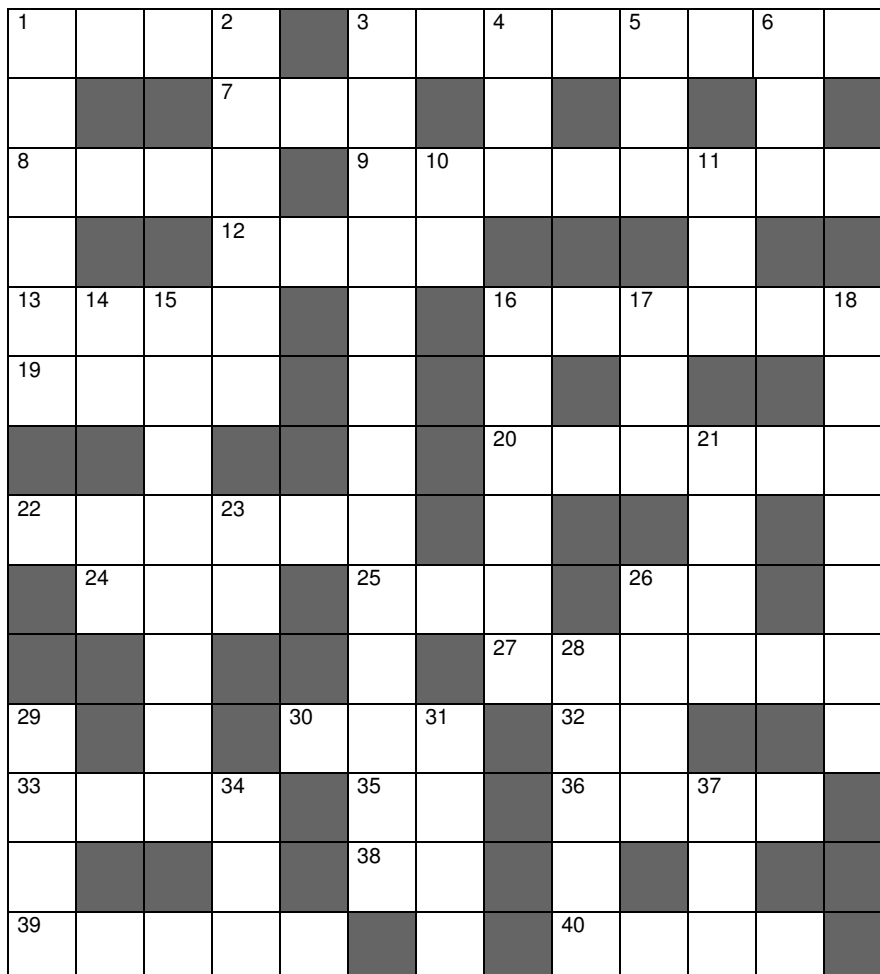
CLUES ACROSS

1. In our version of "Romeo & Juliet", Romeo takes a _____ before he dies. (4)
3. The Friar joins Romeo and Juliet in _____ (8)
7. A terrorist organisation in the north of Spain. (3)
8. A thought or notion. (4)
9. Rubbish! (or *tonterías* in Spanish) (8)
12. An adjective that could describe Tobias in the play (conceited, self-important). (4)
13. Romeo tries to _____ Marty life, but he fails. (4)
16. Romeo took his revenge and _____ Tobias. (6)
19. The opposite of "that". (4)
20. Romeo _____ about Juliet before he meets her in real life. (6)
22. Romeo is in love with her. (6)
24. You write with this. (3)
25. A Spanish girl's name. (3)
26. This means "faith" in Spanish. (2)
27. Romeo's brother, Louie, died in there. (6)
30. You can wear this around your neck. It also means "atar" in Spanish. (3)
32. What's going ___? What's happening? (2)
33. Another word for "poems" in English. (4)
35. Either Romeo stays in Belrane and dies, ___ he escapes with Juliet and lives. (2)
36. The past tense of "make". (4)
38. A negative (2)
39. At the end, Romeo and Juliet died, but whose _____ was it? Who was to blame? (5)
40. Where is my book? It's _____ there. (4)

CLUES DOWN

1. The Friar in "Romeo & Juliet" is one of these. (6)
2. Departs, goes. (6)
3. The Spanish word for "demonstration" or "protest rally". (13)
4. Romeo and Juliet want to _____ away or escape. (3)
5. As cold as _____ . (3)
6. Oxygen or Helium. (3)
10. The same as 32 across.
11. Zero or nothing. (3)
14. An exclamation in English. (2)
15. Murder, terrorist attacks, beatings, etc. are all acts of _____ . (8)
16. Juliet's mother thinks the VLO terrorist group are going to _____ her daughter. (6)
17. A "mentira" in English. (3)
18. It was Romeo and Juliet's _____ or "fate" to die. (7)
21. Where have you been? I haven't seen you for _____ . (4)
23. A simple preposition. (2)
26. Spanish for "refined" or "polite". (4)
28. Juliet is in love with him. (5)
29. In Shakespeare's play, Juliet says, "Romeo, _____ thy name", which means "throw away your name". (4)
31. In Greek mythology, he is Aphrodite's son and the God of Love. (4)
34. "Sun" in Spanish. (3)
37. Both Romeo & Juliet _____ at the end of the play. (3)

Exercise 8:

THE FINAL EXTRACT *Juliet visits the Friar. Desperate, she threatens to kill herself if she can't find a way to escape with Romeo. The Friar provides a possible solution, but a dangerous one. Answer the questions below.*
(Juliet's dialogue is in Shakesperean text, but we have adapted the Friar's dialogue to make it easier for you to understand.)

JULIET: Tell me not, Father, that thou hearest of this,
          Unless thou tell me how I may **prevent**[1] it.
          If in thy wisdom thou canst give no help,
          Do **thou**[2] but call my resolution **wise**[3]
          And with this **knife**[4] I'll help it presently.

FRIAR: Hold daughterl. I do spy a desperate hope.
          If, rather than to lose your Romeo,
          You have the **strength**[5] of mind to kill yourself,
          You too may have the strength to **feign**[6] a death.
          If you **darest**[7], I'll give you remedy.

JULIET: O bid me go into a new-made grave...

FRIAR: Hold, then. Go home and this night sleep alone.
          Let not the Nurse stay with you. Take this **vial**[8]
          And once in bed, drink all, then sleep will come.
          A **heaviness**[9] will run thoughout your veins.
          Your pulse will cease, you body turn to ice.
          And in this frozen state you will remain
          For four and twenty hours. And in the morn,
          When Nurse arrives to **rouse**[10] you from your bed.
          There you'll lie, "dead". So, as is the custom
          In a wooden **coffin**[11] you'll be carried
          To the mausoleum, where you'll stay alone
          Until you wake with Romeo by your side

JULIET: Give me, give me! O tell me not of fear.

FRIAR: Hold. Get you gone. Be strong in this resolve.

ANSWER THESE MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.   <u>What is correct: **A, B** or **C?**</u>

1) Juliet threatens to kill herself by... **A)** jumping out the window **B)** taking poison **C)** stabbing herself

2) The Friar tells Juliet that she must be... **A)** weak **B)** stupid **C)** courageous ... if she wants to follow his advice.

3) The Friar tells Juliet to **spend the night**[12] with ... **A)** her mother **B)** no-one **C)** the Nurse.

4) The Friar asks Juliet to **A)** drink something... **B)** eat something **C)** wear something

5) He warns her that she will become ... **A)** very hot and heavy **B)** very cold and heavy **C)** very weak and light.

6) He says she will stay like this for... **A)** one day **B)** two days **C)** half a day

7) The Friar says that when the Nurse comes, she will think Juliet is... **A)** asleep **B)** drugged **C)** dead.

8) Afterwards, her family will take her to .. . **A)** the cemetery **B)** the castle **C)** the Friar's home.

9) Who will come to rescue her when Juliet wakes up? **A)** her mother **B)** her cousin **C)** her lover?

10) Juliet... **A)** refuses to follow the Friar's advice **B)** agrees to follow his advice **C)** is undecided.

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[1] to prevent - *impedir*
[2] thou = you
[3] wise – *sabio(a)*
[4] knife - *cuchillo*
[5] strength - *fortaleza*
[6] to feign (pronounced "fane") - *fingir*
[7] to dare – *atreverse*
[8] vial - *frasco*
[9] heaviness - *pesadez*
[10] to rouse from bed – *despertar a alguien*
[11] coffin - *ataúd*
[12] to spend the night – *pasar la noche*

Exercise 9   **THEMES**

Shakespeare's themes are still present today. One of the main themes is how **HATRED[1]** *can lead to* **VIOLENCE**…

In the original play, the hatred between the two families, the Capulets and the Montagues leads to the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. There are many examples in the 21st century of how HATRED between different groups – religious, political, racial, ethnic, etc – has caused violence and death. For example, we have the Israelis and the Palestinians. Read this newspaper article below and do the comprehension exercise. *(Este artículo resalta las dificultades vividos por los matrimonios mixtos (judío - musulmán) en Israel y Cisjordania. Léelo con atención y luego haz el ejercicio de comprensión)*

Israeli-Palestinian Couple Fight Israeli Restrictions

They have been called the **Romeo** and **Juliet** of the Middle East: Osama Zatar and Jasmin Avissar resemble the lovers in Shakespeare's play as they too have been separated, but this time not by their families but by a wall – the vast concrete wall that Israel has erected between their home towns.
Ms Avissar, an Israeli Jew, and Mr Zatar, a Palestinian Muslim, met while working together near the border between Jerusalem and Ramallah, the West Bank capital now totally closed off by a five-metre concrete wall, watchtowers and razor wire. She is a ballet dancer and he a sculptor. But although they married two years ago, he cannot travel to Israel to be with his wife. After a Supreme Court ruling[2] upheld a ban[3] on Palestinians living in the Jewish State with their Israeli spouses[4], Ms Avissar (25) is forbidden[5] to bring her husband to Israel to live as a couple. "We pray to God that it will work out but I have given up[6] hoping. I am leaving it to fate[7]," Mr Zatar said.
The court's decision, criticised as racist by human rights groups, allows only Palestinian women over 25 and men over 35 to join their spouses. Mr Zatar is 26. Although the couple's families support their rare cross-community marriage and she can travel into Ramallah on a temporary permit, their future is uncertain because her pass expires[8] in a month.
"All we want is the right to live together as a married couple," said Ms Avissar, who crosses an Israeli checkpoint almost daily to work as a waitress in a Jerusalem cafe, before returning to Ramallah in the evening. "After the Supreme Court's decision a lot of couples will have to move out of Israel altogether, or live apart."
Ms Avissar's father, Menachem (63) said: "I feel betrayed[9] by my country. It is cancelling a basic right[10] of a citizen to build a home and to create a family." (© The Times, London. 17 May, 2006)

COMPREHENSION CHECK - CHOOSE **A** or **B** (or **C**)

1. Israel and the West Bank are divided by **a)** an electrocuted fence OR **b**) a high concrete wall.

2. The Israeli law forbids Mr Zatar **a)** to live in Israel. OR **b)** to live in the Palestinian West Bank.

3. Ms Avissar, the Jewish wife, is currently **a)** living in Ramallah and working in Jerusalem OR **b)** living in Jerusalem and working Ramallah.

4. The young wife only has authorisation to stay with her husband **a)** for 1 month OR **b)** for 1 year.

5. Israeli law separates married couples who are **a)** both Israelis **b)** both Palestinians **c)** Israeli & Palestinian.

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[1] Hatred = **odio**

[2] a ruling = **fallo, decisión**

[3] ban = **prohibición**

[4] spouses = **esposos / esposas**

[5] to forbid = **prohibir**

[6] to give up = **dejar de**

[7] fate = **destino**

[8] to expire = **caducar**

[9] to betray = **traicionar**

[10] a right = **un derecho**

DISCUSSION
•   Why do you think the Israeli authorities built a wall between Jerusalem and Ramallah?
•   The two peoples (the Israeli Jews and the Muslim Palestinians) live very closely together but have been at war for many years. Do you think there is a chance of peace between them? If so, how will peace be established?
•   The strong love we observe between the young couple in the article gives us hope that their story will end happily and that they will be able to live together. Do you think that love can conquer all or do you think that, like Romeo and Juliet, their fate is decided and it can only end in tragedy?

MORE THEMES FOR DISCUSSION   (Teachers: best discussed AFTER seeing the play)

LOVE   There are different types of love present in the play…

•   LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. Romeo and Juliet fall in love immediately and they soon decide to marry.
Do you believe in love at first sight? Do you know of any examples?
•   TRAGIC LOVE. Romeo and Juliet are "star-crossed lovers"[1] and their love is destined to end in tragedy.
Can you give other examples of tragic love from real life, from fiction, film, television?
•   FORBIDDEN LOVE. Romeo and Juliet know that their love is forbidden. Perhaps it makes their love more passionate, stronger. Give more examples of forbidden love from film, music, TV, etc.
•   MATERNAL LOVE. In this play, the maternal love is expressed by the Nurse (who loves Juliet like a daughter) and not by Juliet's mother, who seems cold, distant and authoritative.

LOVE AND HATE   It has often been said that love and hate, although opposites, are also very closely related. Love can quickly turn to hate. Some say you can only hate the ones you love. Can love exist without hate? Can hate exist without love? Discuss.

TRAGEDY and FATE At the beginning of the play we learn that both Romeo and Juliet are going to die. Their **tragic fate** is a lesson Shakespeare wants to teach us. At the end of the original play when Lord Capulet and Lord Montague find the dead bodies of their children, the men shake hands and make peace *(LORD CAPULET: Oh brother Montague, give me thy hand)* finally understanding that violence is not the answer. Their children's deaths were a cruel lesson.

DISCUSSION
- Lingua-Arts' "Romeo & Juliet" is full of examples of violence: Benny is involved in violent demonstrations, Romeo's brother is killed by the police, Juliet's uncle is killed by a terrorist bomb, Tobias murders Marty, Romeo kills Tobias, and then the two young lovers kill themselves. From your own experience, can you give examples of religious, political, racial or ethnic violence?

- Shakespeare wrote about this kind of violence 400 years ago. Do you think things have changed since then? Has violence increased since Shakespeare's day? Are we more civilised than in Shakespeare's day? Does human nature progress?

- Who is to blame[2] for Romeo and Juliet's death? After you see the play, make your decision.

PARENTS and their CHILDREN We can see how Juliet's mother dominates and tries to control her daughter's life. In the original version, her parents want her to marry someone she does not know. In the Lingua-arts' version, her mother orders her to leave the country and study in the United States. These are big life decisions, but Juliet's mother does not ask her daughter's opinion.
Discuss the following:
•   Children are often victim of their parents' decisions.
•   Children do not always understand that they sometimes need parental advice and guidance.
•   Parents forget that they were young once too.

FRIENDSHIP Friendship is very important in this play. After you have seen it, list the numbers of friendships you see between the characters. Who do you see as true friends? Who do you see as friends who are not true?

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[1] star-crossed lovers = **son amantes cuyo destino ya esta marcado**

[2] to blame = **culpar**

ROMEO & JULIET IN OUR CULTURE TODAY

The story of Romeo and Juliet is everywhere in our culture. There are numerous references in the media and film, from Brazilian soap operas to American TV publicity. The term "Romeo" is a euphemism for a Don Juan or "ladies' man". It is also the name of David Beckham's younger son. The story of Romeo and Juliet has inspired the following:

- the stage name of teenage rap artist and actor, 'Lil Romeo (born August 1989)
- songs by Dire Straits, Bruce Springsteen, Rick Astley, Radiohead and Tom Waits, etc
- a ballet by Prokofiev
- a classical musical piece by Tchaikovsky
- a musical play for stage and film, "West Side Story"
- books such as Joan Lingard's "Across the Barricades", a 16-year old Protestant girl falls in love with a Catholic boy during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.
- two punk theatre versions: Punk Side Story is a mock musical soundtrack which adapts the songs of the original "West Side Story" into a punk rock style. "Tromeo and Juliet" (1995, Lloyd Kaufman) a violent movie with Lemmy from the band Motorhead as Narrator.
- Many films ...

> - William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet, directed by Baz Luhrmann (1998)
> - Romeo and Juliet, directed by Franco Zeffirelli (1968)
> - Romeo Must Die, directed by Andrej Barthowiak (2000)
> - Shakespeare in Love, directed by John Maddeck (1998)
> - Romeo is Bleeding, directed by Peter Medak (1993)
> - Mississippi Masala, directed by Mira Nair (1991)
> - Jungle Fever, directed by Spike Lee (1991)
> - Rooftops, directed by Robert Wise (1989)
> - China Girl, directed by Abel Ferrara (1987)
> - West Side Story, directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins (1961)

USING FILM:

TEACHERS: Two very good, yet very different, films to show your students are the versions by Luhrmann and Zeffirelli. (If you do not have time, show the films from the opening titles up the masked ball.) Ask students to make notes for each film about: Set/setting *(ambientación)* ; Music/soundtrack ; Costumes/clothes, Characters.

After they see our play, ask students to compare Lingua-Arts' stage version to other films. Ask why they think...
- there are fewer characters.
- some characters' names been changed.
- Mercutio becomes a girl (Marty) in our version.
- there are original extracts in old English mixed with modern scenes in modern English.
- Spanish is included.

If students were making their own film version of Romeo & Juliet, where and when would they set it? / How much of Shakespeare's text would they cut / keep? / How would they introduce us to the characters? / What difficulties are involved in updating a 400-year old play for today's audiences?

And finally, ask students to see if they can find references to Romeo and Juliet in:

> magazines / advertisements / TV commercials/ books / films / song lyrics, etc.

TEACHERS' ANSWERS TO THE EXERCISES.

PAGE 4. LANGUAGE PRACTICE
1. TOBIAS SUSPECTS THAT JULIET IS IN LOVE WITH ROMEO
2. IT IS PROHIBITED TO SPEAK SPANISH IN BELRANIA
3. ROMEO'S BROTHER, LOUIE, WAS KILLED BY THE POLICE
4. ROMEO AND BENNY DISAGREE ABOUT THE USE OF VIOLENCE BY THE VLO
5. MARTY INVITES HER FRIENDS TO A MASQUERADE
6. ROMEO HAS BEEN HAVING STRANGE DREAMS

Exercise 2:   PAGE 5
1. better 2. headache 3. devastated 4. reliable 5. kidnap 6. arrangements 7. flight
8. take 9. determined 10. rumour 11. danger 12. going

Exercise 4:   PAGE 7
1. TRUE 2. FALSE 3. TRUE 4. TRUE 5. FALSE 6. TRUE

Exercise 5:   PAGE 8
JULIET: Morning, Tobias.
TOBIAS: Good morning, cousin. And how are you, this morning?
JULIET: Fine, fine.
TOBIAS: Great. *(pause)*
JULIET: Did you want something?
TOBIAS: No, nothing. I saw you leave the house and I thought something might be wrong.
JULIET: No, nothing's wrong.
TOBIAS: So why did you get up so early? It's not like you.
JULIET: I couldn't sleep, that's all. Anyway, I have to do some studying. I've got an exam tomorrow.
TOBIAS: Oh? Which one?
JULIET: French.
TOBIAS: Ah, oui, le français. Juliet, ma belle cousine.
JULIET: Very funny, So anyway, I need to get some work done.
TOBIAS: I can take a hint. You want me to leave, right?
JULIET: Sorry. I'll see you later, then… *(Tobias grabs her hair)* Tobias, what are you doing? Let me go! You're hurting me!
TOBIAS: You think I'm blind? And stupid? Stay away from him Romeo Montague. You see him again and he's dead, you understand? Remember what happened to his brother.

Exercise 8: page 11 comprehension check 1. **C** 2. **C** 3. **B** 4. **A** 5. **B** 6. **A** 7. **C** 8. **A** 9. **C** 10. **B**

Exercise 9: page 12 comprehension check 1. **b)** 2. **a)** 3. **a)** 4. **a)** 5. **c)**

ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. PILL
3. MARRIAGE
7. ETA
8. IDEA
9. NONSENSE
12. VAIN
13. SAVE
16. KILLED
19. THIS
20. DREAMS
22. JULIET
24. PEN
25. ANA
26. FÉ

27. PRISON
30. TIE
32. ON
33. ODES
35. OR
36. MADE
38. NO
39. FAULT
40. OVER

DOWN
1. PRIEST
2. LEAVES
3. MANIFESTACIÓN
4. RUN
5. ICE

6. GAS
10. ON
11. NIL
14. AH
15. VIOLENCE
16. KIDNAP
17. LIE
18. DESTINY
21. AGES
23. IN
26. FINA
28. ROMEO
29. DOFF
31. EROS
34. SOL
37. DIE

GLOSSARY

(more words and phrases found in "Romeo & Juliet")

authorities - **autoridades**
awake - **despierto**
Be careful! - **¡Ten cuidado!**
bodyguard - **guardaespaldas**
boring - **aburrido**
brains - **cerebro**
broadcast - **emisión de radio o televisión**
cemetery - **cementerio**
citizen - **ciudadano**
condemned - **condenado**
crap - **basura, tonterías**
crazy - **loco**
danger - **peligro**
dangerous - **peligroso**
deaf - **sordo**
demonstration - **manifestación**
drugs - **drogas**
duty - **deber**
eye-witness - **testigo presencial**
fault - **culpa**
gentle - **tierno, dulce**
ghost - **fantasma**
Give it a rest! - **¡Corta el rollo!**
in cold blood - **en sangre fría**
independence - **independencia**
It's bound to… - **Es inevitable que**…
kidnapping - **secuestro**
knife fight - **pelea con cuchillos**
lips - **labios**
lover - **amante**
marriage - **matrimonio**
masks - **máscaras**
mausoleum - **mausoleo**
moron - **cretino**
news-flash - **noticia de última hora**
noise - **ruido**
plenty - **mucho(s), bastante(s)**
politics - **la política**
pretty - **guapa**
prison - **cárcel**
relative - **pariente**
religion - **la religión**
safe - **seguro**
saved - **salvado**
scene - **escenario**
separatist - **separatista**
serious - **grave, serio**
seriously - **gravemente**
tension - **nerviosismo**

to arrest - **arrestar**
to beat up - **dar una paliza**
to believe - **creer**
to belong - **pertenecer**
to catch - **coger, detener**
to die - **morir**
to disappear - **desaparecer**
to dream - **soñar**
to fail - **fracasar, no lograr**
to hang out with - **salir con** (amigos)
to hypnotise - **hipnotizar**
to incite - **incitar** (por ejemplo, la violencia)
to interrupt - **interrumpir**
to invite - **invitar**
to issue a statement - **hacer una declaración**
to kidnap - **secuestrar**
to kill - **matar**
to leave alone - **dejar en paz**
to lie - **mentir**
to question - **interrogar**
to stab - **apuñalar**
to throw - **tirar**
to torture - **torturar**
to wake up - **despertar**
to wound - **herir**
ugly – **feo**
wisdom - **sabiduría**

"ROMEO AND JULIET": NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

The LINGUA-ARTS THEATRE Company's version of one of Shakespeare's best known tragedies has been especially adapted for 4 actors. It is essentially a **MODERN** story told in contemporary 21st century English. The reasons for this are twofold: to make the English more accessible for the students and to highlight the relevance of its themes to young people today. The modern story is built around the original plot of Shakespeare's tragedy which is why we have included a few scenes from the original version in a bid to CONTRAST the contemporary with the old. In addition, the scenes in Shakespearean English have been specially adapted for young Spanish audiences.

BILINGUALISM: In our version of *"Romeo & Juliet",* the Montagues are bilingual, that is they speak both Spanish and English; the Capulets speak only English. The majority of the play is in English with about 20% of its contents in Spanish.

TEACHER'S PACK CONTENTS