

Name: _____

Romeo and Juliet
Introduction to The Prologue

Elizabethan Version (Bryant Translation) – Talk to the Text on the Prologue to discover what is happening.

Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-marked love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
 The which if you with patient ears attend,
 What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

1. What is the setting of the play?
2. What is the conflict?
3. What is the consequence of the conflict?
4. Can you think of any modern day feuds?

The Shakespearean sonnet (also called the *English sonnet*) has three four-line stanzas (**quatrains**) and a two-line unit called a **couplet**.

A couplet is always indented; both lines rhyme at the end.

The meter of Shakespeare's sonnets is **iambic pentameter**.

The rhyming lines in each stanza are the first and third and the second and fourth. In the couplet ending the poem, both lines rhyme. All of Shakespeare's sonnets follow the same rhyming pattern.

The Shakespearean sonnet

4. Mark the rhyme scheme (abab cdcd efef gg).
5. Mark the three quatrains and final couplet.