

## Y7 Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet

### Why?

Shakespeare is a legend of the literary canon whose works have inspired so many of the characters and plots which are still being created today. His complex language, themes and characterisation are what keep him relevant no matter the era or society in which they are performed. Shakespeare liked to focus on the human condition through exploration of emotion and self.

### Speak like a literary critic...

Adversary	An opponent or enemy.
Unrequited	A feeling not returned, usually love.
Patriarchal	A system or society controlled by men.
Tyrant	A cruel and oppressive leader.
Antagonist	A person who is actively hostile or opposes another.
Passionate	Showing strong feelings or beliefs.
Pernicious	Having a harmful damaging effect, especially in a gradual subtle way.
Pugnacious	Eager to argue or fight.
Impulsive	To make decisions or act without much thought.
Infatuated	To have an intense but short-lived admiration for someone.
Lament	A passionate expression of grief or sadness.
Banishment	The punishment of being sent away from a country or place.
Reconcile	To restore friendly relations.

### Key Concepts:

#### Patriarchal Society

*Patriarchal society is a society ruled by and/or dominated by men. Men have the power and women are seen as inferior and both physically and mentally weak. Women are objectified and often treated as possessions and expected to be subservient.*

#### Sonnet Form

*Sonnet form is used by Shakespeare both in the prologue and during the play. Sonnets are often associated with a positive declaration of love, leaving wondering why Shakespeare might choose to use it as a precursor to so much violence and hate?*

#### The Globe and Shakespearean Theatre

*The Globe Theatre is unique in more than just its cylindrical shape. The levels both on and off stage are integral to our understanding of his plays and Shakespearean society. It's position in London as the venue for some of the most famous plays in history cement its importance.*

#### Elizabethan/Jacobean Society

*Like us, Shakespeare was alive across the reign of two monarchs; Queen Elizabeth was succeeded by King James I, with whom Shakespeare was well acquainted. Renaissance society was very different to our own though, most predominantly through their patriarchal values and their devout belief in religion. It was also a time when people started to discover other countries and even explore ideas that there may be other planets. Science began to develop which meant commitment to religion was about to decline.*

#### Light and Darkness

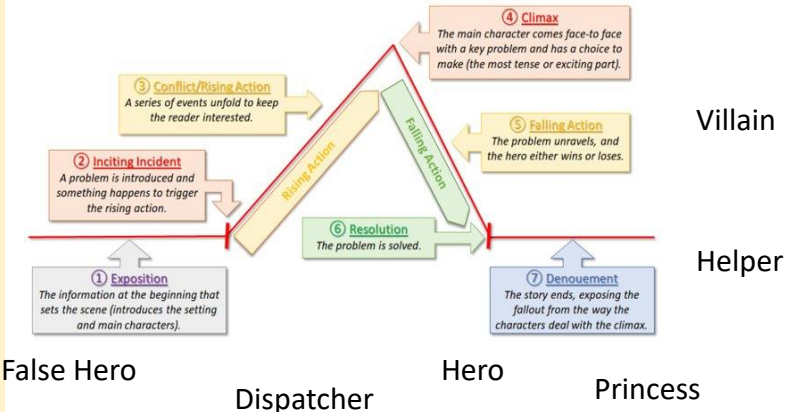
*These are symbolic concepts which are often contrasted together in literature and media. Light has connotations of innocence and purity, whereas darkness has connotations of fear and evil. Both hold their own religious connotations too – the light (heaven/God) is something to be coveted but the dark (hell/The Devil/ supernatural) is something to be feared and shunned.*

## Tier 3 Disciplinary Vocabulary

Prologue	An introductory section of a literary work which sometimes hints at the plot.
Soliloquy	Where a character speaks their thoughts aloud.
Motif	A repeated image or symbol in a literary work.
Stage Directions	Text in a play not intended to be read, but to assist the actors with emotion and direct props/lighting/sound etc.
Sonnet	A fourteen line poem with a formal rhyme scheme often associated with love.
Dramatic irony	A dramatic technique where the audience know information that the character does not.
Rhetorical question	A question posed for dramatic effect that is not intended to be answered.

### Recall and Embed: *The Narrative Arc and Propp's Character Theory*

#### Freytag's Pyramid of Dramatic Structure



**Does Shakespeare follow or subvert a traditional narrative arc? Which characters could we apply Propp's theory to?**