

Romeo and Juliet quotes, in plain words

Every big quote from the book. Who says it, where, and what it means. Start with the twenty marked with a dot.

[Download all of this as a PDF](#) · put it in your drive, print it, share it. No sign-up.

Learn these twenty first

Short. Easy to remember. Between them they cover every theme and every main character.

- **Two households, both alike in dignity**

Chorus · [Prologue](#) · [family](#) · [hate](#)

Two families, both important, both as good as each other. And they hate each other.

- **A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life**

Chorus · [Prologue](#) · [fate](#) · [death](#) · [love](#)

The stars are against them. The play tells you the ending before it starts.

- **Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.**

Romeo · [Act 1, Scene 5](#) · [love](#) · [light and dark](#) · [youth](#)

He sees Juliet and forgets Rosaline in one line. Love at first sight, and very fast.

- **My only love sprung from my only hate!**

Juliet · [Act 1, Scene 5](#) · [love](#) · [hate](#) · [fate](#)

Juliet finds out Romeo is a Montague. The one person she loves is from the one family she must hate.

- **O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?**

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [family](#)

Not where are you. Why are you Romeo, a Montague? Why the one name I cannot love?

- **That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet**

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [family](#)

A name is just a word. Romeo would be the same person with any other name.

- **My bounty is as boundless as the sea, My love as deep**

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#)

Her love has no bottom, like the sea. The more she gives, the more she has.

- **These violent delights have violent ends**

Friar Lawrence · [Act 2, Scene 6](#) · [fate](#) · [love](#) · [death](#)

Love this wild ends badly. The Friar says it and then marries them anyway.

- **A plague o' both your houses.**

Mercutio · [Act 3, Scene 1](#) · [hate](#) · [death](#) · [family](#)

Dying, Mercutio curses both families. The feud killed him and he was not in it.

- **O, I am fortune's fool!**

Romeo · [Act 3, Scene 1](#) · [fate](#)

Romeo has just killed Tybalt. He blames fate. He also did it.

- **Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.**

Friar Lawrence · [Act 2, Scene 3](#) · [time](#) · [youth](#)

The Friar tells Romeo to slow down. Nobody in the play listens to this.

- **Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds**

Juliet · [Act 3, Scene 2](#) · [time](#) · [love](#) · [light and dark](#)

Juliet tells the sun's horses to hurry so night will come and Romeo with it.

- **O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!**

Juliet · [Act 3, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [hate](#)

Romeo killed her cousin. For a moment she sees him as a snake with a pretty face.

- **Then I defy you, stars!**

Romeo · [Act 5, Scene 1](#) · [fate](#) · [death](#)

He hears Juliet is dead. He will fight fate itself. He buys poison.

- **Thus with a kiss I die.**

Romeo · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [love](#) · [death](#)

Romeo's last words. He drinks the poison beside Juliet, who is about to wake.

- **O happy dagger**

Juliet · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [death](#) · [love](#)

She wakes, finds him dead, and uses his dagger. Happy because it lets her follow him.

- **For never was a story of more woe Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.**

Prince · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [death](#) · [love](#)

The last lines. The saddest story there is.

- **Is love a tender thing? It is too rough, Too rude, too boisterous; and it pricks like thorn.**

Romeo · [Act 1, Scene 4](#) · [love](#)

Before he meets Juliet, Romeo thinks love hurts. He is talking about a girl who does not want him.

- **My grave is like to be my wedding bed.**

Juliet · [Act 1, Scene 5](#) · [death](#) · [love](#) · [fate](#)

If she cannot marry him, she will die unmarried. It comes true in a way she does not mean.

Every quote, in order

All 44, in the order they happen.

Prologue 3 quotes

Act 1 9 quotes

Act 2 8 quotes

Act 3 14 quotes

Act 4 3 quotes

Act 5 7 quotes

Prologue

- **Two households, both alike in dignity**

Chorus · [Prologue](#) · [family](#) · [hate](#)

Two families, both important, both as good as each other. And they hate each other.

- **A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life**

Chorus · [Prologue](#) · [fate](#) · [death](#) · [love](#)

The stars are against them. The play tells you the ending before it starts.

Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

Chorus · [Prologue](#) · [hate](#) · [family](#)

Neighbours killing neighbours. Their hands are dirty with their own city's blood.

Act 1

Do you bite your thumb at us, sir?

Abraham · [Act 1, Scene 1](#) · [hate](#) · [youth](#)

A rude gesture starts a street fight. The hate is so old it runs on nothing.

I hate the word As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee

Tybalt · [Act 1, Scene 1](#) · [hate](#)

Tybalt hates peace as much as he hates Montagues. He is the feud in one person.

Younger than she are happy mothers made.

Paris · [Act 1, Scene 2](#) · [youth](#) · [family](#)

Paris wants to marry Juliet at thirteen. Girls younger are already mothers, he says.

This precious book of love, this unbound lover

Lady Capulet · [Act 1, Scene 3](#) · [love](#) · [family](#)

Juliet's mother sells Paris to her like a beautiful book. Juliet has not even seen him.

● Is love a tender thing? It is too rough, Too rude, too boisterous; and it pricks like thorn.

Romeo · [Act 1, Scene 4](#) · [love](#)

Before he meets Juliet, Romeo thinks love hurts. He is talking about a girl who does not want him.

- **Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.**

Romeo · [Act 1, Scene 5](#) · [love](#) · [light and dark](#) · [youth](#)

He sees Juliet and forgets Rosaline in one line. Love at first sight, and very fast.

O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!

Romeo · [Act 1, Scene 5](#) · [light and dark](#) · [love](#)

Juliet is brighter than the torches. Romeo talks about her as light all through the play.

- **My only love sprung from my only hate!**

Juliet · [Act 1, Scene 5](#) · [love](#) · [hate](#) · [fate](#)

Juliet finds out Romeo is a Montague. The one person she loves is from the one family she must hate.

- **My grave is like to be my wedding bed.**

Juliet · [Act 1, Scene 5](#) · [death](#) · [love](#) · [fate](#)

If she cannot marry him, she will die unmarried. It comes true in a way she does not mean.

Act 2

**But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east,
and Juliet is the sun!**

Romeo · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [light and dark](#) · [love](#)

Juliet at her window. To Romeo she is the sun rising.

- **O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?**

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [family](#)

Not where are you. Why are you Romeo, a Montague? Why the one name I cannot love?

- **That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet**

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [family](#)

A name is just a word. Romeo would be the same person with any other name.

- **My bounty is as boundless as the sea, My love as deep**

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#)

Her love has no bottom, like the sea. The more she gives, the more she has.

It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [time](#) · [youth](#)

Even Juliet knows this is too fast. She says so. Then she goes ahead.

Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow

Juliet · [Act 2, Scene 2](#) · [love](#)

Saying goodbye hurts and feels good at the same time.

- **Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast.**

Friar Lawrence · [Act 2, Scene 3](#) · [time](#) · [youth](#)

The Friar tells Romeo to slow down. Nobody in the play listens to this.

- **These violent delights have violent ends**

Friar Lawrence · [Act 2, Scene 6](#) · [fate](#) · [love](#) · [death](#)

Love this wild ends badly. The Friar says it and then marries them anyway.

Act 3

- **A plague o' both your houses.**

Mercutio · [Act 3, Scene 1](#) · [hate](#) · [death](#) · [family](#)

Dying, Mercutio curses both families. The feud killed him and he was not in it.

Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man.

Mercutio · [Act 3, Scene 1](#) · [death](#)

Grave means serious, and a grave. He jokes as he dies.

- **O, I am fortune's fool!**

Romeo · [Act 3, Scene 1](#) · [fate](#)

Romeo has just killed Tybalt. He blames fate. He also did it.

- **Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds**

Juliet · [Act 3, Scene 2](#) · [time](#) · [love](#) · [light and dark](#)

Juliet tells the sun's horses to hurry so night will come and Romeo with it.

- **O serpent heart, hid with a flowering face!**

Juliet · [Act 3, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [hate](#)

Romeo killed her cousin. For a moment she sees him as a snake with a pretty face.

Romeo is banished

Nurse · [Act 3, Scene 2](#) · [fate](#) · [family](#)

The Nurse brings the news. To Juliet it is worse than ten thousand dead Tybalts.

Come gentle night, come loving black-brow'd night, Give me my Romeo

Juliet · [Act 3, Scene 2](#) · [love](#) · [light and dark](#) · [death](#)

Juliet wants the dark. Night is where love happens in this play, and where death does.

There is no world without Verona walls

Romeo · [Act 3, Scene 3](#) · [youth](#) · [love](#)

Banished from Verona is banished from life, Romeo says. The Friar tells him to stop being a child.

Art thou a man?

Friar Lawrence · [Act 3, Scene 3](#) · [youth](#)

Romeo is on the floor crying. The Friar asks him to act like a man.

It was the lark, the herald of the morn, No nightingale

Romeo · [Act 3, Scene 5](#) · [time](#) · [light and dark](#) · [love](#)

Morning has come. Romeo must leave or die. Juliet wants it to still be night.

O thinkest thou we shall ever meet again?

Juliet · [Act 3, Scene 5](#) · [fate](#) · [love](#)

Their last time together alive. She asks the question the play has already answered.

Out, you green-sickness carrion! Out, you baggage! You tallow-face!

Capulet · [Act 3, Scene 5](#) · [family](#) · [youth](#)

Juliet says no to marrying Paris. Her father screams insults at her.

I think it best you married with the County.

Nurse · [Act 3, Scene 5](#) · [family](#) · [love](#)

The Nurse tells Juliet to forget Romeo and marry Paris. Juliet never trusts her again.

If all else fail, myself have power to die.

Juliet · [Act 3, Scene 5](#) · [death](#) · [fate](#)

Alone now, Juliet says she can always kill herself. It is her plan of last resort.

Act 4

O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris, From off the battlements of yonder tower

Juliet · [Act 4, Scene 1](#) · [love](#) · [death](#) · [youth](#)

She would jump off a tower before marrying Paris. The Friar offers her a potion instead.

Romeo, Romeo, Romeo, here's drink! I drink to thee.

Juliet · [Act 4, Scene 3](#) · [love](#) · [death](#)

She drinks the potion alone, with his name.

Death lies on her like an untimely frost Upon the sweetest flower of all the field.

Capulet · [Act 4, Scene 5](#) · [death](#) · [family](#)

Her father finds her 'dead'. Frost on a flower. Too early.

Act 5

- Then I defy you, stars!

Romeo · [Act 5, Scene 1](#) · [fate](#) · [death](#)

He hears Juliet is dead. He will fight fate itself. He buys poison.

- Thus with a kiss I die.

Romeo · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [love](#) · [death](#)

Romeo's last words. He drinks the poison beside Juliet, who is about to wake.

- O happy dagger

Juliet · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [death](#) · [love](#)

She wakes, finds him dead, and uses his dagger. Happy because it lets her follow him.

All are punish'd.

Prince · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [hate](#) · [family](#) · [fate](#)

The Prince blames everyone. Both families lost children. So did he.

- **For never was a story of more woe Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.**

Prince · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [death](#) · [love](#)

The last lines. The saddest story there is.

O true apothecary! Thy drugs are quick.

Romeo · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [death](#)

The poison works fast. He has time for one more line.

O brother Montague, give me thy hand

Capulet · [Act 5, Scene 3](#) · [family](#) · [hate](#) · [death](#)

The fathers shake hands over their dead children. The feud ends too late.
