

**Astrology the Supernatural** – At the time of Shakespeare, the belief in both astronomy and the supernatural was far more preeminent than in society today. The reference to ‘star-cross’d lovers demonstrates the large role of astrology in being used to predict fate – an interest of Queen Elizabeth I. Also, Romeo and Juliet make reference to the fact that they feel they are being guided by a supernatural force (e.g. ‘fortune’s fool).

**Titl****e: Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* SOW:** AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 1 Section A  **Date:** Summer Y10/Autumn Y11

**Themes**

**LOVE:** relationships. friendships, family, loyalty, attraction, (un)requited

**CONFLICT:** violence, hatred, feud, fighting, disagreements, to disobey, internal-conflict, disorder, chaos, opposites

**DEATH:** revenge, accidental, by choice, threats, finality

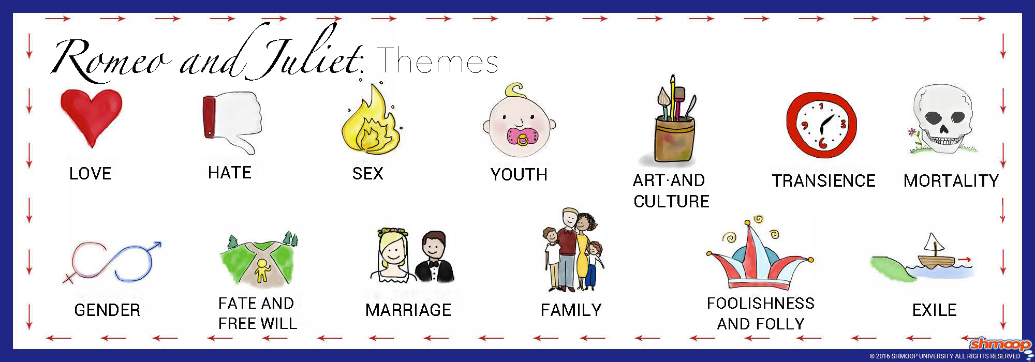
**FAMILY:** parents, close friends, confidantes, secrets, duty to obey, parental figures,

**OLD vs YOUNG:** traditional attitudes, immaturity, quick to anger, wisdom

**RELIGION:** rules, expectations, traditions, standards, respect

**FATE:** destiny,higher power, status

**FATE: pre-determined path, no control, inevitability,**



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| **Tier 3 Vocabulary** | |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Dramatic Irony** | When the audience has awareness of a situation which the characters do not. |
| **Soliloquy** | Passage in a drama in which a character expresses his thoughts or feelings aloud while alone upon the stage |
| **Climax** | The point at which the highest level of interest and emotional response is achieved. The peak of the drama. |
| **Iambic Pentameter** | A rhythm structure that combines five unstressed syllables and stressed syllables (an iamb) in one line of verse |
| **Shakespearean Sonnet** | A 14 line poem consisting of the rhyme scheme ABABCDCDEFEFGG |
| **Oxymoron** | Two words with opposite meaning, next to each other |
| **Tragedy** | These types of plays end on a tragic note and most likely a [character](https://literarydevices.net/character/)’s death. |
| **Masculinity** | Qualities or attributes regarded as characteristic of men. |
| **Femininity** | Qualities or attributes regarded as characteristic of women. |
| **Elizabethan Chain of Being** | A hierarchical structure thought to have been decreed by God. The chain begins with God and descends through angels, humans, animals and plants to minerals. |
| **Overzealous** | Too eager/too excited |
| **Fickle** | Quick to change your mind, therefore unreliable |
| **Patriarchy** | A system whereby the male gender has power and rule over society |
| **Hierarchy** | A ranking order, with the most powerful at the top |
| **Dominant** | Stronger (superior) and more powerful than those below |
| **Subordinate** | Weaker (inferior) and less powerful than those above |

**Key Characters**

**Romeo Montague:** Tragic Hero, Romantic, Hubristic, Fickle, Hyperbolic, Impulsive, Melancholic, Ardent, Obsessive, Foolish, Intense

**Juliet Capulet:** Idealistic, Innocent, Naïve, Victim, Rebellious, Unworldly, Resolute, Obsessive.

**Benvolio:** The Voice of Reason, Appeasing, Sincere, Loyal, Rational, Reliable

**Mercutio:** Comedic, Anarchic, Misogynistic, Chaotic, Precocious, Immature, Victim

**Tybalt:** Volatile, Tempestuous, Righteous, Aggressive, Challenging, Stubborn, Amoral

**Nurse:** Maternal, Submissive, Uncouth, Caring, Honest, Brave, Betrays Juliet

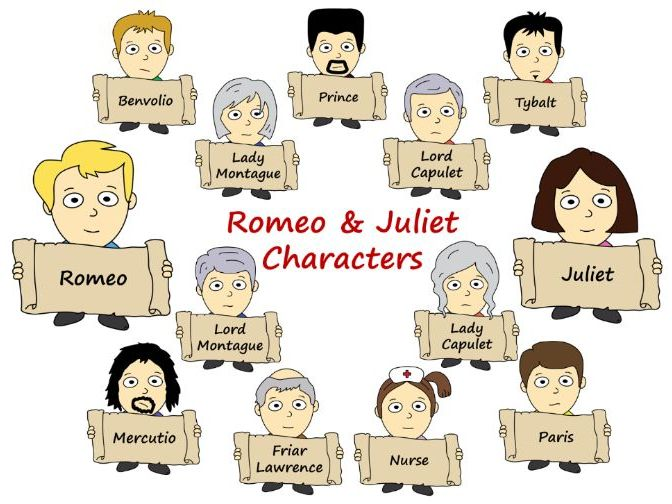
**Capulet:** Aggressive, Powerful, Controlling, Traditional, Foolish, Immature, Proud

**Lady Capulet:** Unmaternal, Traditional, Ruthless, Obedient, Disappointing

**Friar Lawrence:** Creative, Wise (to a degree), Foolish (to a degree), Sympathetic

**Prince Escalus:** Powerful, Intolerant (to a degree), Victim, Guilty, Ineffective, Proud

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**Features of Tragedy in Romeo and Juliet**

**Tragic Hero:** A character in a dramatic tragedy who has virtuous and sympathetic traits but ultimately meets with suffering or defeat.

**Fatal Flaw (Hamartia):**  a fault that leads to deadly consequences – Romeo’s fatal flaw is his impulsiveness.

**Hubris:** God-like arrogance, excessive pride.

**Catharsis:** the release of the audience’s emotions through empathy with the characters.

**Internal Conflict**: the struggle the hero engages in with his fatal flaw.

**Chaos -**  disorder ensues when the Tragic Hero has succumbed to their fatal flaw (hamartia) – impacts plot, character and setting.

