











Year 10 Romeo and Juliet

Plot and Structure				
<p>Act 1</p> <p>A small fight between the Montagues and the Capulets starts the play. We learn that Romeo is lovesick because Rosaline doesn't love him. Juliet's father wants Juliet to marry Paris. At a party, Juliet falls in love with Romeo.</p> <p>The play starts with servants starting the fight, which symbolises how the grudge impacts all. </p>	<p>Act 2</p> <p>Romeo sees Juliet on her balcony. They agree to get married. The Friar and the Nurse helps them get married in secret.</p> <p>The majority of Juliet's scenes are inside which symbolises how women had no freedom in Elizabethan society. </p>	<p>Act 3</p> <p>Tybalt threatens Romeo because he has shown him dishonour. A fight takes place and Mercutio is killed by accident. Romeo seeks revenge for the murder of his friend and kills Tybalt. He runs off. Romeo learns he is to be banished from Verona. Juliet's father decides to speed up her marriage to Paris, which she is not happy about.</p> <p>Act 1 and Act 3 mirror each other. It is as if the families are destined to repeat things until something major stops it – Romeo and Juliet's death. </p>	<p>Act 4</p> <p>Juliet seeks the Friar's help to fix the situation. He comes up with a plan to fake her death, so that she can run away with Romeo when she wakes up. She 'dies' and the family mourn her death.</p> <p>Fake deaths were common in Shakespeare's comedies. It allows for characters to be reborn again and they can die for their sins or someone else's. </p>	<p>Act 5</p> <p>Romeo doesn't get a note about Juliet's fake death. After killing Paris at Juliet's tomb, Romeo kills himself with poison. Juliet wakes to find him so she, in turn, kills herself with a dagger. The adults discover what has happened and the Montagues decide to build a statue of Juliet in gold.</p> <p>The play starts with sunshine and ends in darkness. The only bright thing is a statue made out of gold. </p>
Characters				
<p>Romeo</p> <p>Symbol of romantic love – Petrarchan lover Symbol of a sensitive male Symbol of heart dominating the feelings over logic  head – young Symbol of how quick people are Symbol of how flexible young people are to idea</p> <p><i>O sweet Juliet, Thy beauty hath made me effeminate And in my temper soften'd valour's steel.</i></p> <p>Fickle / Obsessive / Emotional / Quick to act / Romantic</p>	<p>Juliet</p> <p>Symbol of how a woman's role was reliant on marrying and having children Symbol of rebellion against parents  Symbol of a woman with voice in a patriarchal society Symbol of how women were controlled</p> <p><i>Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?</i></p> <p>Independent / Outspoken / Impulsive / Devoted / Dutiful / Rational</p>	<p>Capulet / Lady Capulet</p> <p>Symbol of how rigid and fixed adults are Symbol of how selfish parents  Symbol of how status is more important than people and feeling Symbol of a patriarchal society Symbol of the traditional view of marriage Voice of the adults / parents Symbol of how marriage is based on status not love Symbol of how adults are happy when they get their own way</p> <p><i>My child is yet a stranger in the world</i></p> <p>Cold / Domineering / Fiery / Abusive / Controlling / Self-centred</p>	<p>Mercutio / Tybalt</p> <p>Symbol of different kinds of men Symbol of how men become fixated on one thing – sex / revenge  Symbol of how passion dominates young people Symbol of the stereotype of young men Symbol of people being controlled by their emotions</p> <p><i>"Now by the stock and honour of my kin, To strike him dead I hold it not a sin." – Tybalt</i></p> <p>Fiery, Fixated, Obsessed, Challenging, Leading</p>	<p>Nurse / Friar</p> <p>Symbol of how broken relationships were in society Symbol of how young rely on substitute parents  Symbol of the caring nature of adults Symbol of the lower classes Symbol of what a parent should do – support/ guide</p> <p><i>These violent delights have violent ends And in their triumph die, like fire and powder, Which as they kiss consume.</i></p> <p>Honest, Knowledgeable, Supportive, Guiding</p>
<p>Context Phrases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabethan values The tradition of marriage The expectations of The duty of Patriarchal society The dominance of men The social classes affecting each other 	<p>Shakespeare's Intent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge the stereotypes – marriage / gender Attack attitudes towards love Reveal the lack of communication between young and old Explore the differences between young and older generations Explore the complexity of the issue 	<p>Themes – Big Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fate and destiny Duality Power of love Nature of tragedy Love – nature and different types Controlling emotions Rational vs irrational thought Nature vs nurture Individual vs society 	<p>Motifs – Running images / ideas in the story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Light and darkness Plants and gardens Birds Ships and seas Astrology – stars Religion 	<p>Other Minor Characters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benvolio – a good character like his name Prince – leader who struggles to control the conflicts Sampson / Gregory – crude servants who start the fight Apothecary – sells Romeo poison Paris – the perfect husband for Juliet

