

Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare: The Prologue

Directions:

1. Mark the rhyme and meter.
2. Underline any words that have to do with love. Circle any words that have to do with fighting. Put a square around every example of the word “two”.
3. Summarize the prologue in the right hand margin.

**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-cross'd lovers take their life;
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.**

**The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, nought 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.**

OVER

Discussion Questions: Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare The Prologue

1. Are there more words about love or fighting? Why do you think that is?
2. What do you make of the emphasis on violence? How does this alter your expectations for the play?
3. Why is this word, “two”--the very first word of the play--so important here?
4. What is the importance of pairs in love and battle?