

GCSE Shakespeare Coursework Assignment.

'Romeo and Juliet' is a play about contrasts: discuss.

INTRODUCTION

- Christened William Shakespeare on 26 April 1564
- Third child of John and Mary who were landowners
- Was educated at local grammar school
- 1582 was married to Anne Hathaway
- they had 2 girls & 1 boy
- 1585 left Stratford for London where started writing plays and acting

NEXT

- After Plague in 1593, when all theatres were closed, Shake. Was a member of Lord Chamberlain's Company. Brought him great wealth.
- Shake. Was a good businessman. When he retired to Stratford in 1611, aged 47, he was a shareholder in 2 theatres: The globe & The Blackfriars.
- Shake. was a dramatist, but his poems included 'The Rape of Lucrece' & 'Venus & Adonis.'
- Most of his plays were written for performance
- He wrote comedies, histories & tragedies
- Died in Stratford-Upon-Avon in 1616

NEXT

- 'R & J' based on 2 Italian families : the Montecchi & Capelletti
- Story of 2 young lovers from opposing families was popular in Italy & France at the time
- A major contrast in the play is between LOVE & HATE
- Hate is shown many times. Example: it starts the play with the Monts. & Caps. Fighting with & insulting each other. This has gone on for years.
- Act One. Scene one.' A dog of the house of Montague moves me.' A Capulet servant says this.

NEXT

- Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, especially hates the Montagues and Romeo in particular.
- Shows his hatred of Romeo at the Capulet party- masked ball.
- Tybalt is outraged & wants to fight but Capulet stops him.' This by his voice should be a Montague. Fetch me my rapier boy.' (Act 1. Scene 5)
- Tybalt also shows his hatred for Rom. (Act 3. Scene 1) Here Rom. kills Tybalt because Tybalt killed Rom's best friend, Mercutio.' Thou wretched boy, that didst consort him here, shall with him hence.'

