

# Romeo and Juliet

Content Area: **English Language Arts**  
Course(s): **Language Arts Literacy I CP, Language Arts Literacy I**  
Time Period: **5 weeks**  
Length: **5-6 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## Unit Overview

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Read and analyze Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The students will explore elements of drama, Elizabethan vocabulary, complex characters and relationships between characters, plot, public speaking, close reading, through a variety of classroom activities.

## Transfer

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- Identify elements of drama.
- Identify elements of a tragedy.
- Read, analyze, and interpret Shakespeare's language.
- Understand the historical context of the play and relate to other texts.

## Meaning

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## Understandings

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Students will understand

- The importance of literary elements, such as dramatic irony and foreshadowing, affect the development of the play
- Themes of love, hate, fate and free will, family, and marriage.
- Shakespeare used particular techniques to develop characters and their relationships

## Essential Questions

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Students will considering

- How are the themes in literature relevant to today's society?
- How does reading enhance our perception and understanding of various cultures both past and present?
- In what ways do themes of love, hatred, and relationships affect the choices that one makes?

- Why is Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* a tragedy?

## **Application of Knowledge and Skill**

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### **Students will know...**

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Students will know...

- Historical context of play
- Plot details
- Character details & development
- Themes present in play

### **Students will be skilled at...**

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Students will be skilled at...

- Reading with fluency and comprehension.
- Identifying and examining literary and dramatic elements: plot, characterization, soliloquy, aside, etc.
- Deciphering Shakespearean language.
- Connecting main events and characters in the play to the development of theme.
- Defining vocabulary words and improving their understanding of the play through vocabulary lessons.

## **Academic Vocabulary**

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-Dramatic Irony

-Soliloquy

-Aside

-Tragic hero

-Star-crossed

- tragedy
- adversary
- foe
- dignity

## **Learning Goal**

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Through reading *Romeo and Juliet*, students analyze the development of the themes of relationships, love, hatred, and fate over the course of the play.

## **Objective 1--(Level 1)**

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SWBAT:

List facts about Shakespeare's life and discuss historical context of play and relate to text.

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| LA.RL.9-10.9 | Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from mythology or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare). |
| LA.RI.9-10.6 | Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetorical devices to advance that point of view or purpose.   |

## **Objective 2--(Levels 1 & 2)**

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SWBAT:

Identify and describe major characters, setting, plot development, and themes of play.

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| LA.RL.9-10.3 | Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. |
| LA.SL.9-10.6 | Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English.   |

## **Objective 3--(Levels 1 & 2)**

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SWBAT:

## Define unknown vocabulary words to apply to text

LA.RL.9-10.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).
LA.L.9-10.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.9-10.1.A	Use parallel structure.
LA.L.9-10.1.B	Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.
LA.L.9-10.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.9-10.4.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy).
LA.L.9-10.4.C	Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, or its etymology.
LA.L.9-10.4.D	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
LA.L.9-10.6	Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

## **Objective 4--(Levels 2 & 3)**

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### SWBAT:

Identify and discuss plot development and determine dramatic elements in plot.

LA.RL.9-10.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details and provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.9-10.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create specific effects (e.g., mystery, tension, or surprise).
LA.RI.9-10.3	Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.
LA.W.9-10.2.A	Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
LA.W.9-10.2.B	Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.
LA.W.9-10.2.C	Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create

	cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.
LA.W.9-10.2.D	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.
LA.W.9-10.2.E	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.W.9-10.2.F	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).
LA.W.9-10.3.A	Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
LA.W.9-10.3.B	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
LA.W.9-10.3.C	Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
LA.W.9-10.3.D	Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
LA.W.9-10.3.E	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.
LA.W.9-10.7	Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.W.9-10.9.A	Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work [e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid mythology or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare]”).
LA.W.9-10.9.B	Apply grades 9–10 Reading standards to nonfiction informational (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning”).
LA.W.9-10.10	Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.
LA.SL.9-10.1.A	Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.
LA.SL.9-10.1.C	Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions.
LA.SL.9-10.1.D	Respond thoughtfully to various perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and justify own views. Make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented.
LA.L.9-10.5.A	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.
LA.L.9-10.5.B	Analyze nuances in the meaning of words with similar denotations.

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## Learning Goal 2

Students will write grade-appropriate narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

## **Objective 5--(Level 3)**

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SWBAT:

Write a variety of pieces (narrative, compare/contrast, persuasive) using contextual evidence to support claims.

LA.RL.9-10.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.9-10.10a	By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.
LA.RL.9-10.10b	By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.
LA.RI.9-10.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.) and make relevant connections, to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferentially, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RI.9-10.7	Analyze various perspectives as presented in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.
LA.RI.9-10.10a	By the end of grade 9, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above with scaffolding as needed.
LA.RI.9-10.10b	By the end of grade 10, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above.
LA.W.9-10.1.B	Develop claim(s) and counterclaims avoiding common logical fallacies, propaganda devices, and using sound reasoning, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.
LA.W.9-10.1.C	Use transitions (e.g., words, phrases, clauses) to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s) and counterclaims.
LA.W.9-10.1.D	Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g., formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
LA.W.9-10.1.E	Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented.
LA.W.9-10.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.9-10.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.9-10.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information

and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

LA.SL.9-10.4

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically. The content, organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

LA.L.9-10.2

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

## **Summative Assessment**

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- Reading comprehension quizzes
- End of play test
- Project
- Essay
- Journal entries/free writes

## **21st Century Life and Careers**

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CRP.K-12.CRP4

Communicate clearly and effectively and with reason.

CRP.K-12.CRP5

Consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of decisions.

CRP.K-12.CRP8

Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

## **Formative Assessment and Performance Opportunities**

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- Class discussion
- Comprehension questions
- Journal entries/free writes
- Reading quizzes
- Teacher observation
- Vocabulary quizzes

## **Accommodations/Modifications**

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- Pre-teach historical context
- Pre-teach specific drama terms
- Provide adapted versions of the text

- Provide audio versions of the text
- Provide graphic organizers
- Provide plot summaries of acts, as well as individual scenes
- Provide study guide to assist in preparing for assessments
- Watch movie versions of specific scenes

## Interdisciplinary Connections

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- Research and discuss architecture of the Globe Theatre
- Research and discuss marriage laws
- Research and discuss Shakespeare's Life/History
- Research and discuss social class and structure
- Research and discuss the art of performing on stage

SOC.6.1.12	U.S. History: America in the World: All students will acquire the knowledge and skills to think analytically about how past and present interactions of people, cultures, and the environment shape the American heritage. Such knowledge and skills enable students to make informed decisions that reflect fundamental rights and core democratic values as productive citizens in local, national, and global communities.
SOC.6.1.12.A.1.b	Analyze how gender, property ownership, religion, and legal status affected political rights.
SOC.9-12.1.1.1	Compare present and past events to evaluate the consequences of past decisions and to apply lessons learned.
SOC.9-12.1.1.2	Analyze how change occurs through time due to shifting values and beliefs as well as technological advancements and changes in the political and economic landscape.
SOC.9-12.1.2.1	Construct various forms of geographic representations to show the spatial patterns of physical and human phenomena.
SOC.9-12.1.2.2	Relate current events to the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.
SOC.9-12.1.4.1	Take a position on a current public policy issue and support it with historical evidence, reasoning, and constitutional analysis in a written and/or oral format.
VPA.1.1.12.C.1	Analyze examples of theatre's influence on history and history's influence on theatre in Western and non-Western theatre traditions.
VPA.1.1.12.C.CS1	Theatre and the arts play a significant role in human history and culture.
VPA.1.1.12.C.CS2	Characters have physical, emotional, and social dimensions that can be communicated through the application of acting techniques.
VPA.1.1.12.C.CS3	Theatre production is an art, but it is also a science requiring knowledge of safety procedures, materials, technology, and construction techniques.

## Unit Resources

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- Background notes on Shakespeare
- Notes on dramatic elements
- Prentice Hall Literature textbook



- Romeo and Juliet movie (old & new versions)