



Excellence & Opportunity

# Year 9 to KS4 Transition Support

## English Literature



### Transition Project

In preparation for the start of your course in September, you need to consolidate your work on *Romeo and Juliet* by completing the following tasks:

#### Week 1: Social and Historical Context

As you know from your previous lessons social and historical context is important as you need to understand the world in which the play is written to help make sense of characters and action.

'*Romeo and Juliet*' is viewed as a tragedy because it is generally accepted that responsibility for their downfall lies outside the characters- in the workings of so-called Fate. It is the family feud rather than any moral weakness that leads to the deaths of the lovers.

#### Task 1: Find the answers to the following questions.

Shakespeare wrote three different types of play: comedies, tragedies and histories.

1. Name one comedy:
2. Name one tragedy:
3. Name one history:

*Shakespeare also wrote poetry.*

4. What is a sonnet?
5. Name one of Shakespeare's sonnets:

*Shakespeare created a wide range of characters in his plays.*

6. Find two characters in love:
7. Find two characters who argue:
8. Find one villain:
9. Find three characters that die:

#### Task 2: Comprehension Questions (AO1)

Answer in full sentences that make sense on their own.

1. What rights did women have in Elizabethan times?
2. Which religion was predominant within England at the time?
3. Why was the construction of the Theatre met with disapproval?
4. What are the ingredients of a tragedy and how does *Romeo and Juliet* fit these?
5. Why did Shakespeare write the play?



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Week 2:

## Suggested Reading or Viewing:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/nofear/shakespeare/romeojuliet/>

[http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo\\_juliet/full.html](http://shakespeare.mit.edu/romeo_juliet/full.html)

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