

- *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- We will go through a Presentation, it is your job to take GOOD notes. Use your booklet.
- There will be a test on this! (you can use your notes)



- Everything you need, and all resources are on our class website, ENGLISHOUSNESS

<http://englishousness.weebly.com/romeo--juliet.html>

The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet
by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare wrote:

Comedies

Histories

Romances

Tragedies

- Tragedies are tragedies because....

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Written between 1594 and 1596.

Based on a story known to most.

Plays then are like movies or TV today.

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An overview:

The Setting

The Plot

The Characters



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The Setting:

Verona, Italy

(Shakespeare lived
and worked in
London, ENGLAND)

So why ITALY?



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The Setting:

Verona, Italy

Set in the late 1400s to early 1500s, though the date is never really stated.

So why set in past?

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The Plot Basics:

As fate has it, the Capulet daughter (Juliet) and the Montague son (Romeo) meet at a party and fall immediately in love.



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Knowing they cannot be together, they secretly make plans to marry.

People start to kill each other, and Romeo ends up kicked out of Verona.

Romeo and Juliet find a way to be together.

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The CHARACTERS:

Lord and Lady Capulet (parents of Juliet)

- Anxious to get their daughter married to a worthy gentleman (named Paris)
- In a long standing feud with the Montague
- A distinct parenting style...

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The CHARACTERS:

Juliet Capulet

- 13 years old
- To be wed to Paris any day...
- Has never been in love before

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The CHARACTERS:

The Nurse

- Has raised Juliet
- Has a PG-13/R-rated sense of humor, if you read carefully...
- Plays a crucial role in Juliet's happiness

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The CHARACTERS:

Tybalt Capulet

- Juliet's older cousin
- A chest-thumper
- A "saucy princox" if there ever was one

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The CHARACTERS:

Lord and Lady Montague

- Parents of Romeo
- Are in the feud with the Capulets
- Not major players in the drama

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The CHARACTERS:

Romeo Montague

- A boy of 16 or 17, sometimes 20s
- An emotional romantic
- Falls easily in and out of love

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The CHARACTERS:

The Friar Lawrence (spelling varies)

- The local religious leader
- Is tired of the feud between the families
- Plays a key role in the drama

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The CHARACTERS:

Benvolio Montague

- Romeo's cousin
- Level-headed and honest
- Cares for Romeo like his own brother

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The CHARACTERS:

Mercutio

- Romeo's best friend, related to Prince
- His name is based on the word "mercury" or "mercurial" which means volatile
- Watch out for his jokes...

What is Tragedy?

In Shakespeare, tragedy tends to follow five stages (five acts):

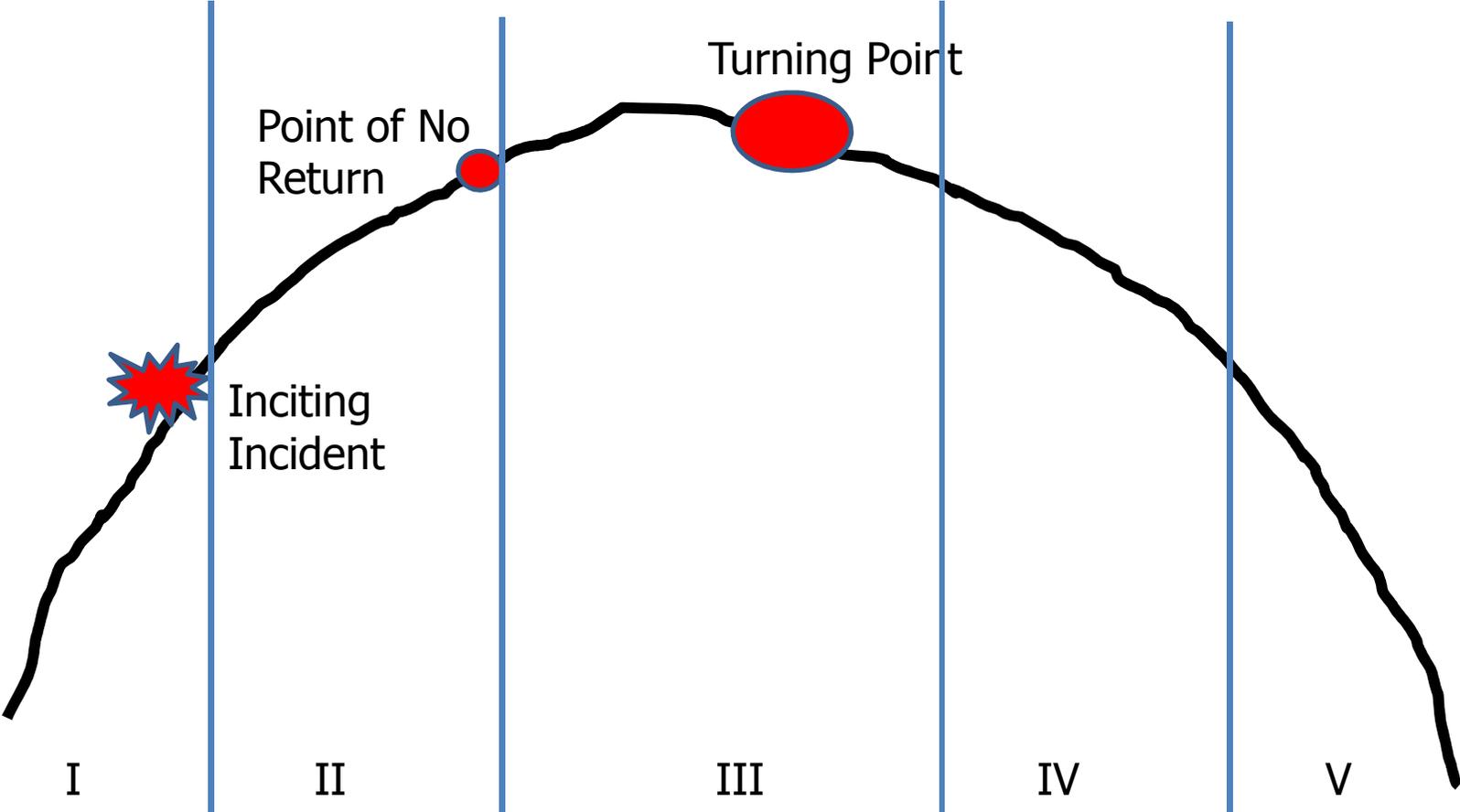
1. **Basic Situation**: establishment setting, characters, and conflict
“Inciting Incident.”

2. **Rising Action**: complications develop, culminating with a “point of no return” at which point some tragedy is all but guaranteed)

3. **Climax**: different than in stories; tragic climax marks the beginning of the tragic collapse

4. **Falling Action**: the chain of tragic events befalls the protagonist, gaining momentum and deepening the tragedy

5. **Catastrophe**: the fall to ruin is complete



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The FORM (1):

“iambic pentameter.”

- An **iamb** is a pair of unstressed and stressed syllables, like in the word *confused* (**con** FUSED).
- **Penta-** means “5.”
- **Meter** is a pattern of repeating “rhythm” that is present in poetry.

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The FORM:

Iambic pentameter=

- A line of **FIVE IAMBES** in a row
- Each line of verse has 10 syllables:

But soft! | what | light | through | yonder | window | breaks?

The FORM (2): Inverted Syntax

Grammar was often inverted in order to make the language fit the rhythm:

He found the dagger in the dark closet.

He found the dagger in the dark closet.

...becomes...

In closet dark did he the dagger find.

In closet dark did he the dagger find.

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The FORM:

When the lines rhyme, Shakespeare is trying to get the audience's attention:

- A major point has just been stated
- A character is leaving the scene

When the lines do not rhyme, the poetry is called **BLANK VERSE.**

The Language:

Contractions and Truncations

to match the rhythm of the line or to reflect speech patterns (to make fewer syllables):

- **Contractions:** apostrophe = missing letter

O'er (over)

Can't (cannot)

- **Truncations:** words shortened

Ope your eyes

The Language: Hither, thither, whither

Come hither! (hither = here)

Go thither! (thither = there)

To whither did she go? (whither = where)

**ither = **ere

The Language: It's what you do...

Didst = did

Doth = do

Doest = does

Hath = has

The Language: Pronouns

Thou (you, in the subject of the sentence)

Thou art a fool! ...you are a fool

Thee (you, as an object)

I love thee. ...I love you

Thine, thy (your)

In thy soul; in thine eyes

My heart is thine

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