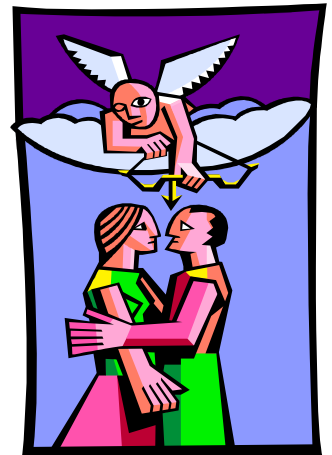


Task: Describe the cause of the main conflict. Give examples from the text.

Show how the setting impacted on the action in the story.

Give examples from the text. Student name withheld.

Shakespeare, W. 2004, *Romeo and Juliet*, Sterling Publishing Co, New York. (Retold version)



The cause of the main conflict was an old feud between two families, the Montagues and the Capulets. The cause of the feud was unknown as Lord Capulet quotes: "I think I've forgotten how it started." It began being small and as Lord Montague, Romeo's father, and Lord Capulet, Juliet's father, had children and servants etc., the people of each family were taught to hate the members of the other family and vice versa. This was what caused Romeo and Juliet's love to be forbidden because the parents would not accept two of their children from each family marrying.

An example of the feud causing conflict between the Montagues and the Capulets is when Romeo, who was a Montague, wore a mask to the ball at the Capulets' house and was discovered. The Capulets were angry to find that a person from their enemy's family had entered their house and there was a quarrel over the unwanted guest. Another example of this feud causing conflict is when Mercutio, who is a friend of the Capulets, is killed by Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, while defending Romeo. Romeo then kills Tybalt for murdering Mercutio and is banished from the city of Verona. Another cause of conflict for Juliet was Paris, Juliet's suitor, who loved her and wanted to marry her even though she did not return his love.

Not all members of the families wanted to be involved in the feud. For example, Romeo and Juliet hated that they belonged to families who were quarrelling, as it stopped them from getting married as their parents would refuse them permission. Another example of a character in the story disapproving of the feud was Friar Lawrence, a monk and close friend of Juliet, who agreed to marry them in secret because he thought it could put an end to the families' quarrel.

The story of Romeo and Juliet is set in medieval times when revenge and hatred due to family feuds were common and people didn't forgive one another easily. This resulted in a lot of killing and murder due to revenge attacks and many innocent people were probably killed. At this time, it was also common for wealthy people to hold masked balls where guests would wear an elaborate mask. This is why people did not immediately recognize Romeo and his masked companions when they showed up at the ball at the Capulet's house. Juliet was only thirteen years old, which in modern western society is considered a very young age to get married. At that time it was normal for a girl at her age to get married and it was usually to a man around ten years older than herself. She would have embarrassed her wealthy parents if she had not married a man of her father's choosing.
