‘Romeo and Juliet’: Foundation Homework tasks

Here are some options for homework tasks for each of the lessons in this unit of work.

You do not need to use all of these tasks and you do not need to set homework every lesson.

Please refer to your school and department homework policy when setting and marking homework tasks.

1	**Research:** Italy wasn't one unified country, but a number of small independent city-states. Find out more about Italian city states and when they unified. **Writing:** Choose a modern tragedy and identify five things that make it a tragedy.
2	**Research:** Find three other prologues. Do they all follow the same pattern that Shakespeare used in ‘Romeo and Juliet’? **Writing:** Write another paragraph answering the question “What makes ‘Romeo and Juliet’ a tragedy?”
3	**Memorising:** memorise the Prologue of ‘Romeo and Juliet’. **Writing:** Find another sonnet by Shakespeare. Label it with the things that make it a sonnet (number of lines, rhyme schemes, sections) **Research:** A Prologue is an introduction to a book, film, or play. It comes from Greek, *prologos* (meaning: *pro* – before; *logos* – word). It is spoken by a Chorus (*kor – us*). Find 5 other commonly used Greek words in the English language.
4	**Spellings:** Learn how to spell: tragedy, tragic, Elizabethan, genre, Verona, city-state, Prologue, Chorus, feud, Montague, Capulet. **Research:** find out about feuds in recent news. Explain why they have occurred and who they are between. **Research:** Stage fighting is a skilled craft. Research how actors would fight on the Elizabethan stage.
5	**Writing:** Re-read the AC Bradley essay. Explain how Boxer from ‘Animal Farm’ might be described as a tragic hero. **Research:** Find a summary of ‘Macbeth’ or ‘Othello’ by Shakespeare. Explain why these two characters could be described as tragic heroes.

6	**Research:** Paris is not a member of the Montagues or the Capulets. He is a member of court. Find out what this means. **Re-drafting:** Redraft your response to the question you answered in class: "How does Shakespeare present Juliet in Act 1, Scene 3?"
7	**Research:** What is a masquerade ball? Find out more about them and make your own mask for the Capulet Ball. **Reading:** Romeo and Benvolio find out about the Capulet Ball from a servant who cannot read. Read Act 1, Scene 2 from line 38 to the end. Why does Romeo agree to go to the ball? **Re-drafting:** Redraft your paragraph on this question: How does Romeo describe Juliet's beauty at Capulet's ball?'
8	**Writing:** Find another sonnet by Shakespeare. Label it with the things that make it a sonnet (number of lines, rhyme schemes, sections) **Creative writing:** 'My only love sprung from my only hate!' This is a famous quotation from 'Romeo and Juliet'. Write down what Juliet is thinking and feeling at this moment in the play (she has just kissed Romeo and discovered he is a Montague).
9	**Writing:** Explain the events that made up the exposition of 'Animal Farm' or 'Jane Eyre'. **Spellings:** Learn how to spell these words: status quo, exposition, rising tension, catastrophe, tragedy, tragic, obedient, submissive, soliloquy, hyperbole.
10	**Writing:** 'What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet.' Juliet thinks that Romeo's name should not matter. Who he is and how she feels about him are most important. Do you think this is true? Can love overcome family feuds? Write two paragraphs that explore both sides of the argument. **Writing:** Write your own love poem that uses hyperbole (exaggeration). It must be 8 lines long and use this rhyme scheme: ABAB CDCD.
11	**Writing:** Write a paragraph answering the following question: *How has Romeo changed since the start of the play?* **Research:** Find out more about the traditions of Elizabethan marriage here. Write one paragraph that explains how Romeo and Juliet's marriage is different to tradition.

12	**Writing:** Is the Friar responsible for what happens to Romeo and Juliet? **Research:** What is a chapel? What are the main rooms and parts of a chapel? What part of the chapel does Romeo and Juliet's wedding take place?
13	**Writing:** Mercutio's dying words are, 'A plague o' both your houses!' What does Mercutio mean by this? How is his curse fulfilled? **Research:** Why does Romeo need to avenge Mercutio's death?
14	**Writing:** Redraft your paragraph answering, "How does Shakespeare present Lord Capulet in 'Romeo and Juliet'?" Remember to discuss the historical context of the time. **Writing:** Compare Juliet to Jane Eyre. How are they similar? How are they different? **Research:** Elizabeth I was the 'Virgin Queen'. Conduct research on her role as a woman and a queen – why did she decide to not marry? How did she change attitudes to women during and after her reign?
15	**Writing:** Choose three metaphors from Act 3 Scene 5 and annotate them with the ground, tenor and vehicle. **Writing:** Find three examples of foreshadowing from the Prologue to Romeo and Juliet. Write one paragraph on this question: *How does Shakespeare use foreshadowing in the Prologue?* **Research:** RSC Director Neil Bartlett wrote about foreshadowing in the Prologue in this essay. Read his essay and then write a paragraph on this question: *Why does Shakespeare foreshadow the deaths of Romeo and Juliet in the Prologue?*
16	**Writing:** Write a diary entry from Juliet's perspective. How does she feel towards Romeo, her father, her mother, and about her own situation? What should she do in the dilemma? **Writing:** How has Juliet's character changed since the start of the play? Provide evidence to support your answer. Write two paragraphs.
17	**Writing:** 'Desperate times call for desperate measures'. In what ways do the characters of 'Romeo and Juliet' exhibit desperation? **Writing:** Imagine you are Friar Lawrence. Write his letter to Romeo explaining his 'solution' to the problem.

18	**Reading:** Read Act 5, Scene 1. Explain how this scene adds to the tragedy of the play. **Writing:** A student has begun their paragraph with this view: "Romeo is an immature fool. His immaturity led to his death; he does not deserve pity." Finish their paragraph presenting two views and using evidence to support your views.
19	**Revision:** Make sure that your tragedy resource is fully completed. Begin revising the key components of tragedy for your assessment. **Writing:** Shakespeare made Romeo and Juliet kiss each other on their first and last meeting. How is this an example of tragic foreshadowing? Refer to their dialogue in Act 1.
20	**Writing:** Return to the Prologue of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Which events from the play relate to the Prologue? **Writing:** The play closes with these words from Prince Escales: 'For never was a story of more woe / Than this of Juliet and her Romeo' (5.3.309-10). List the ways 'Romeo and Juliet' is a story of "woe".
21	**Assessment preparation** What to revise: ✓ The characters in the play: ✓ Who they are ✓ Which family they are a member of ✓ How they change throughout the play ✓ The plot of the play: ✓ The main events ✓ The sequence of events in the play ✓ What makes 'Romeo and Juliet' a tragedy ✓ The key words we have studied this term ✓ Important quotations from throughout the play
22	**Research:** Explore Renaissance views of dreams and how they impacted daily life. **Writing:** Write your own modern-day Queen Mab speech. Add relevant detail so that it can be performed as a monologue.