



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

Subject – English

Year 9 Terms 3 & 4: Romeo and Juliet

What I need to know

- The key themes, characters and plot points in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*
- Key details relating to the political/social/historical context of the play
- Key dramatic and theatrical devices, and how these can be used for effect
- How language/form and structure can be used to present ideas and achieve purpose
- How to construct a conceptual and effective analytical argument
- How to embed relevant contextual details within analysis to support an argument

Key Vocabulary

- Courtly love, Unrequited love
- Catharsis, Hamartia, Hubris, Tragic downfall
- Fate and Destiny
- Feud, Duelling, Honour
- Masculinity, Patricachal power
- War of the Roses
- Soliloquy, Aside, Prologue
- Allusion

Student reference point

- Read the text and write/ discuss my thoughts and opinions about it
- Study key characters and events in the play by having detailed mind maps or notes
- Explore the context of Elizabethan society by reading about: social hierarchy, treatment of women, courtly love, political unrest
- Closely analyse key extracts from the play, focusing on a Shakespeare's use of language/form/structure. PETER paragraphs will be evident in my book
- Study theatrical and dramatic devices and consider how these apply to *Romeo and Juliet*. Be able to list theatrical devices and communicate how they create meaning in the play
- Plan and write analytical essays. Practice writing PETER paragraphs with increasing detail from the text and analysis of devices. Green pen work on assessments will show improvements in my analysis.

Challenge question

- Research and explain how *Romeo and Juliet* may be seen as a comment on 'The War of The Roses'
- Use youtube to watch two versions of Act 1 Scene 1 of the play. Write two paragraphs explaining how the directors' choices for this scene influence the impact each version has on the audience.
- *Romeo and Juliet* is a play about true love. To what extent do you agree?

Suggested reading

Top Reads:

- *Hamlet*, Shakespeare
- *Macbeth*, Shakespeare
- *Warm Bodies*, Isac Marion
- *Romeo's Ex*, Lisa Fiedler
- *The Juliet Club*, Suzanne Harper

