

## Warmer – impossible love

A. Read the first text and talk about the questions with a partner.

Imagine that you have just met the most fabulous and wonderful person and, incredibly, fallen in love. You are absolutely sure that they are the person you want to spend the rest of your life with. The only problem is that their family is at war with your family and your parents would never allow you to see each other. What would you do and why?

- stop seeing this person so you don't upset your family
- tell your family about the situation and hope they understand
- see the person in secret
- marry the person in secret
- move away to another place with the person

Is there anything else you could do?

B. Now read about Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.

### The world's favourite love story

*Romeo and Juliet* is probably the most famous romantic story in the world. There have been thousands of productions of the play and many different versions of the film. In the story, the two families of Capulet and Montague are at war with each other in the city of Verona in Italy. A Montague boy called Romeo and a Capulet girl called Juliet meet and fall in love – even though their families hate each other. The story is a tragedy and although Romeo and Juliet get married they do not live happily, after a bloody and complex story, they each take their own lives.

Right: Romeo climbs on to Juliet's balcony  
Painting by Ford Madox Brown (1821-1893)  
Delaware Art Museum, USA



**Task 1 – The main characters in Romeo and Juliet**

Put the phrases in order to make descriptions of the main characters.

1. who is / a young / Montague man / distracted by love. / Romeo is
2. who falls / Capulet girl / Juliet is a / in love / wrong person. / with the
3. is / Mercutio / Romeo's / he is / the Capulets. / friend and / killed by
4. Friar Lawrence / in secret. / marries / Romeo and Juliet / is a priest who
5. marry / Juliet / Count Paris / wants to / love him. / but she / doesn't
6. The Montagues / at war / with / the Capulets. / are
7. don't want / Juliet / a Montague boy. / The Capulets / to marry

**Task 2 – Props and themes in Romeo and Juliet**

A. Match the things to their descriptions:

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. A balcony   | a. you could use this to stop someone recognising you         |
| 2. A dagger    | b. you could write a message on this                          |
| 3. A letter    | c. you could use this to stab someone                         |
| 4. A rope      | d. you could look out over the city from this                 |
| 5. Some poison | e. you could use this to climb up a wall                      |
| 6. A disguise  | f. you could use this to get married                          |
| 7. A ring      | g. you want this if someone does something bad to you         |
| 8. revenge     | h. you could use this liquid to kill someone.                 |
| 9. passion     | i. you feel this when you love someone or something very much |