

**Task 4 – Reading and sequencing the main events in Romeo and Juliet**

Check your answers to Task 3:

The plot of Romeo and Juliet begins with a street fight in Verona between the servants of the Capulet family and the Montague family. The fighting between them has become quite bad. The Prince of Verona orders that anyone found fighting between the Montagues and the Capulets will be put to death. That evening the Capulet family is going to have a ball. It's an important event and all the leading family members will be there. Young Juliet, Lord Capulet's daughter, will also be there as will the man who wants to be her husband, Count Paris. Juliet's father has asked Paris to wait two years before he marries the girl, even though Juliet is not interested in Paris. Romeo, who is Lord Montague's son, decides to go to the Capulet ball to see a girl he thinks he's in love with. He goes in disguise so that nobody will know who is. At the party, when he sees Juliet for the first time, he immediately falls in love with her. As a Montague, Romeo shouldn't even be there. He gets caught and the Capulets want to kill him but his murder is stopped by Juliet's father, who won't have blood spilled in his house. Now that he is desperately in love with Juliet, Romeo calls up to her at her window in the night in what is known as 'the balcony scene'. Romeo uses a rope to climb up to her room. They promise to love each other despite the war between their two families. They are married the next day in secret by Friar Lawrence. The next day after the party, Romeo is confronted by Capulets from the night before, as they are still angry about his presence at a party. After a fight, Romeo's friend Mercutio is killed and to avenge him, Romeo kills a Capulet man. As punishment for killing the man, Romeo is now exiled from Verona, but he secretly visits Juliet and spends the night in her room, where they consummate their marriage. Meanwhile, Juliet's father, Lord Capulet, agrees to marry her to Count Paris. In a passionate speech, Juliet says that she will not. Juliet now visits Friar Lawrence for help. He gives her a special drug that will put her to sleep for two days and make her look as if she is dead. In this way, she can escape Verona. The Friar promises to send a messenger to inform Romeo and tell him about the plan. Juliet takes the drug and appears to die. Her body is put in the tomb. The letter from the Friar never reaches Romeo, and instead he

discovers that Juliet is dead through his friends. Romeo rushes to the tomb to see Juliet's body, not knowing about the Friar's plan. There, Romeo meets Count Paris and the two fight. Romeo kills Paris. Then, believing Juliet to be dead, he drinks poison and himself dies. Juliet then wakes and finds Romeo dead next to her. Full of grief, she stabs herself with his dagger. The two warring families of Capulet and Montague as well as the Prince of Verona, meet at the tomb to find all three dead. They have each lost one of their children and they all agree to stop fighting each other. As the Friar says: '...never was a story of more woe / than this of Juliet and her Romeo'.