

Retelling Shakespeare

Examples from:
Romeo & Juliet
Hamlet

CLASSICS | UNFOLDED



ROMEO
AND
JULIET

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

RETOLD IN PICTURES
BY TEREZA BRATISLAVSKA





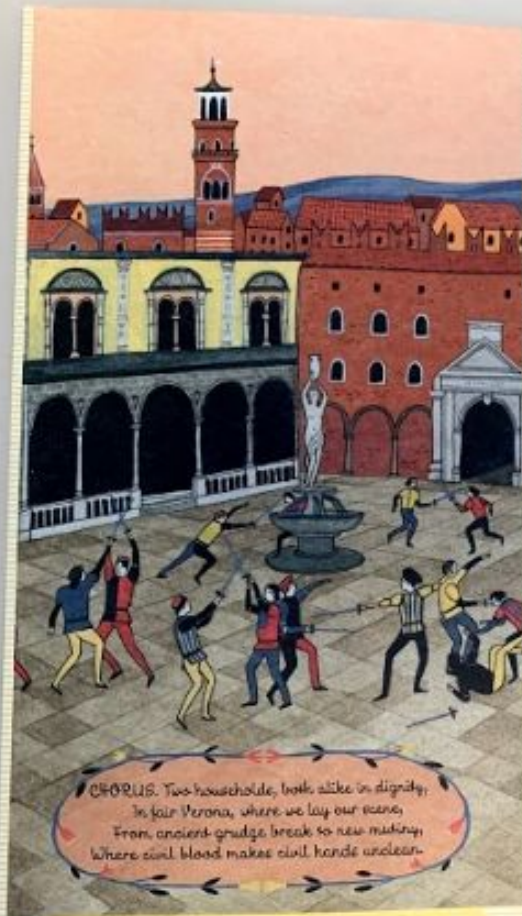
ROMEO. Alone in triumph, and Mercutio slain?
Away to heaven, respective lenity,
And fire-ey'd fury be my conduct now!

Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge. Benvolio, another friend, defends Romeo's actions to the Prince, who agrees to only exile him, rather than have him executed.



ROMEO. 'Tis but a shaft that hurts
yonder window breaks?
It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!

Juliet's nurse helps Romeo and Juliet be together again for their wedding night. Morning comes, and he must flee, or face punishment for breaking his exile.



CHORUS. Two households, both alike in dignity,
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

In the streets of fair Verona, another violent fight breaks out between the feuding families of Montague and Capulet.



PRINCE. If ever you disturb our streets again,
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.

Sick of the bloodshed, Prince Escalus—the ruler of Verona—decrees that whoever brawls again will be put to death.



JULIET.
O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name!
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

Despite having learned that they are sworn enemies, Romeo goes back to the Capulet house to find Juliet. They exchange vows of love.



JULIET. What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.

Friar Lawrence, a friend of Romeo's, marries the lovers in the hope that their union will bring peace to Verona.



SERVANT. My master is the great rich Capulet
and if you be not of the house of Montague,
I pray come and crush a cup of wine.

Some time later, a group of Montagues, including a young man called Romeo, are mistakenly given an invitation to Lord Capulet's ball.



ROMEO. Did my heart love till now?
Forswear it, sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.

At the party, Romeo and Capulet's daughter, Juliet, see each other and instantly fall in love. Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, is enraged.

LITTLE MASTER SHAKESPEARE

romeo & juliet



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1

balcony



2

loves



3

people meet



4

roses



THAT WHICH WE CALL A ROSE
BY ANY OTHER NAME
WOULD SMELL AS SWEET

5

friends



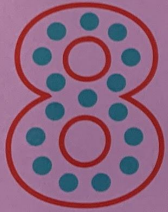


musicians



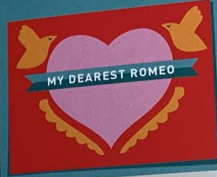
7 masks





love letters


FROM THE PALAZZO OF
Romeo Montague
ROMEO LOVES
JULIET FOREVER!



R 
J.C.

FROM THE PALAZZO OF
JULIET CAPUET
*Juliet loves
Romeo Forever!*

**LOVE
LETTER**


LOVE

Dear Romeo,
I love you.
xoxo,
Juliet



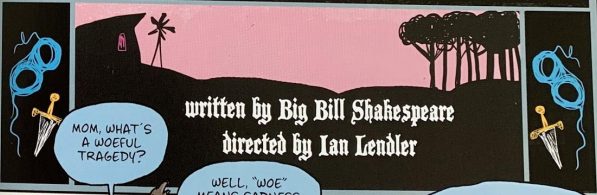


The Stratford Zoo Midnight Revue

presents:

Big Bill Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet

A most excellent and woeful tragedy!
A tale of ancient grudges and the true love of good friends!



MOM, WHAT'S
A WOEFUL
TRAGEDY?

written by Big Bill Shakespeare
directed by Ian Lendler

WELL, "WOE"
MEANS SADNESS,
AND A TRAGEDY
IS A SAD PLAY.

SERIOUSLY?!
A SAD PLAY FULL OF
SADNESS? THEY DID THAT
WITH MACBETH LAST WEEK!
THIS SHAKESPEARE GUY
MUST BE DEPRESSED
OR SOMETHING.





Elly Vanden (age 8)

As Francisco departed into the night,
 Barnardo began his tale of fright,
 "Last night before our watch was done,
 Just as the bell was tolling one..."
 But before Barnardo could further explain,
 Marcellus shrieked, "Look where it comes again!
 In flashing armour and with stately gait,
 The ghost moved towards them at a steady pace.
 Barnardo trembled, as he looked straight ahead.
 "In the same figure, like the King that's dead,
 Horatio did not leave his post,
 He was determined to confront the ghost.
 "What art thou, and who do you seek?
 By heaven, I charge thee, Speak!"
 But the shadowy figure would not obey.
 And with a glance, it turned away.

"Tis gone!" breathed Marcellus. "Horatio, you look pale.
 Is it not like the King in every detail?"
 "As thou art to thyself," Horatio spoke straight,
 "This bodes disaster for Denmark, our state.
 But behold. Look where it comes again!" he cried.
 It moved majestically, with arms open wide.
 Just then, the cock crowed to signify day.
 The spirit was startled and faded away.
 The guards decided to interfere,
 Each lunged at the phantom with his spear.
 "It's no use!" Marcellus cried, "for it is as the air.
 And will not listen to our futile prayer."
 Horatio knew what must be done.
 "We'll find Prince Hamlet. It will speak with its son."

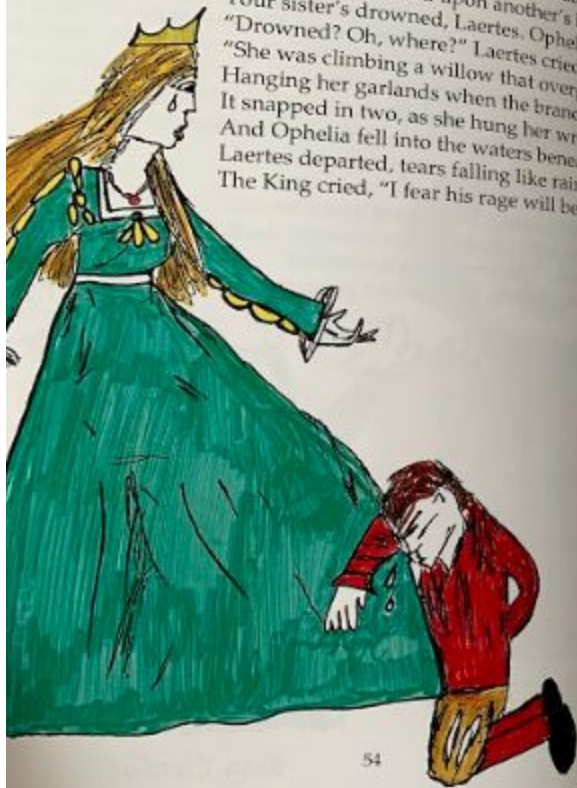
I stood my ground as a
 faint cry pierced the
 air. The ghostly figure
 could be seen so like the
 dead King. Its haunting
 red eyes glimmered
 unblinking. I shivered!
 Sweat poured from my
 brow. Fear hangs in the
 deepest part of my soul!
 Horatio

Story: Sean McGarry (age 7)
 Picture: Megan Verderksen (age 10)



Horatio

So it was concluded. Hamlet's fate was clear.
"But stay," Claudius muttered, "What's that, I hear?"
The Queen entered weeping, with sad news to reveal.
"One woe doth tread upon another's heel.
Your sister's drowned, Laertes. Ophelia is dead!"
"Drowned? Oh, where?" Laertes cried in dread.
"She was climbing a willow that overgrows the brook,
Hanging her garlands when the branch shook.
It snapped in two, as she hung her wreath,
And Ophelia fell into the waters beneath."
Laertes departed, tears falling like rain.
The King cried, "I fear his rage will begin again."



Outside, two gravediggers were singing with mirth,
And telling jokes as they dug holes in the earth.
"I have a riddle," one said in a tease.
"Who builds stronger than any of these?
The mason, the shipwright, or the carpenter?" he laughed.
"Oh come now, don't look so daft."
He continued to snicker, "'Tis a grave-maker, I say.
The houses he makes last till doomsday."
Hamlet and Horatio were passing near,
And heard the laughing and the cheer.
Hamlet saw the gravedigger hit a skull with his spade.
"That skull had a tongue in it," the Prince said, dismayed.
"It could sing once and speak words profound.
Look, how this knave heaves it to the ground."



Hamlet hurried to the Queen, as was her decree,
 "Mother, what's the matter? Why did you send for me?"
 "Hamlet, thou hast thy father much offended," she reported.
 "Mother, you have my father much offended," he retorted.
 "Come, come, you answer with an idle tongue!" she replied.
 "Go, go, you question with a wicked tongue!" Hamlet cried.
 This war of words continued, at a rapid pace.
 "Have you forgotten who I am? And your proper place?"
 "The Queen," hissed Hamlet. "Wife of your husband's brother.
 And, would it were not so, you are my mother.
 You shall not leave," he growled, "until I make you view
 The contents of your heart and the inmost part of you."
 He grabbed her by the arm. "I'll force you to look here!"
 "Will you murder me? Help! Help!" she screamed in fear.

Fire burned in Hamlet's eyes
 as he stumbled into the
 room. His mouth twisted in
 anger. His face was as red
 as lava and his unblinking
 blank stare hypnotized me
 in fear. He shoved me back
 into my chair, then mumbled
 some words I couldn't
 understand. I was horrified!
 Queen Gertrude

Stacy Brock Winford (age 8)
 Picture: Shannon Campbell (age 9)

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Polonius was hidden behind the curtain wall,
 and he heard Gertrude's frightened call.
 He was afraid that the Queen would come to harm.
 "Help, help, I say!" Polonius echoed in alarm.
 "A rash!" howled Hamlet, as he stabbed with his sword.
 "Dead for a ducat, dead!" the Prince roared.
 But when he moved the curtain asunder,
 Prince Hamlet realized his terrible blunder.
 "I mistook you for the King," he cried in dread.
 "Polonius, I never wanted to see you dead."
 For the Queen this sight was hard to dismiss,
 "Oh what a rash and bloody deed is this!"



Eily Vossler (age 9)

45

Within hours of the sighting on the platform that night,
The castle abounded with brightness and light.
For though King Hamlet was just two months dead,
His wife, Queen Gertrude, had once again wed,
Her dead husband's brother had asked for her hand,
And so Claudius became the king of the land.
Joy and happiness pervaded the air,
As the court celebrated the new royal pair.
Young Hamlet ached with shame and disgust.
He thought this marriage so unjust.
He missed his father and was horrified,
"How could my mother thrust him aside?
Now in his place stands a man I've despised.
To marry my uncle was ill-advised."



King Claudius

Elly Vosdren (age 8)

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Claudius smiled, as he looked at his wife.
He had achieved the goal of his life.
"We thank you for coming, each and every one!"
Then he saw Hamlet, "Come here, my son."
Hamlet cringed, in loathing and despair.
This was more than he could bear.
The King continued, "Why are you so blue?
How is it that the clouds still hang on you?"
"Good Hamlet," said the Queen as she drew nigh,
"Thou knowest 'tis common. All that lives must die."

My father is only two months dead yet people are dancing with joy!!!
Where does all this happiness come from?
My heart drifts in a sea of despair. My mother is swept in a whirling pool of lies. I hang my head and cry.
Hamlet

Story: Jody McKee (age 7)
Picture: Valerie Sprout (age 11)



Hamlet

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