

## **The Character of Romeo - Transcript**

**Juliet:** 'Romeo, doff thy name,  
And for that name,  
which is no part of thee  
Take all myself.'

**Romeo:** 'Call me but love, and I'll be new baptized.  
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.'

**Presenter:** Naive young Romeo declares to Juliet that, for their love, he is prepared to renounce his family name of Montague - despite the fierce conflict between his house and hers - the Capulets.

But Romeo is embarking on a romance that is ultimately doomed.

Romeo actually begins the play with a 'soul of lead', pining for another: Rosaline.

He's shown to have a changeable nature because, upon meeting Juliet, his attention quickly turns.

His passionate nature is shown through dialogue that revolves around the semantic field of light...

'Juliet is the sun', he claims, with bright cheeks that 'would shame those stars' - and the pair arrange a secret wedding for the very next day.

But Romeo's presence at the Capulet ball, where he met Juliet, has enraged her family.

Tensions escalate and ultimately lead to the death of Romeo's friend Mercutio in a duel with Juliet's cousin, Tybalt.

This family feud mirrors conflicts happening in the Elizabethan era - a time of religious clashes between groups of Protestants and Catholics.

Following Mercutio's death, Romeo's headstrong nature leads him to seek revenge, pursuing Tybalt...

**Romeo:** 'Fire-eyed fury be my conduct now.'

**Presenter:** ...and killing him... before being cast out from Verona.

But that very headstrong nature sees our naive youth become a tragic hero... because - impulsive to the end - he swiftly chooses to join Juliet in what he believes to be her death...

Romeo: 'Thus with a kiss I die.'

Presenter: ...unaware she is only soundly sleeping.

Romeo describes himself as 'fortune's fool' - a product of ill fate - but is his character arc really a result of a cruel fortune, or is Shakespeare warning the audience about where impulsiveness and violence can lead?