

“But soft! What light through
yonder window breaks? It is
the east, and Juliet is the
sun.”

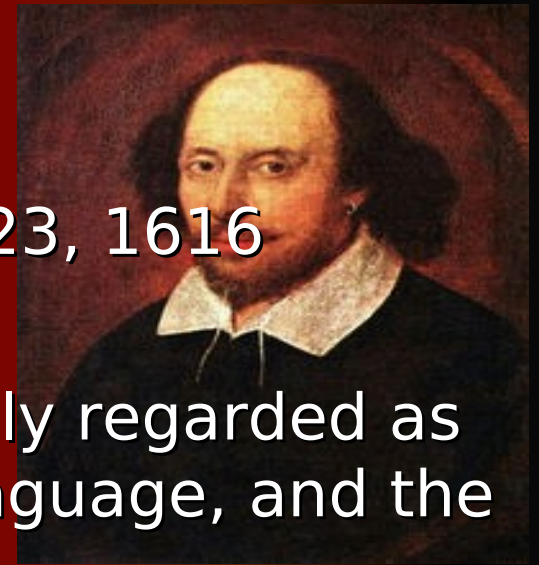
(Act II Scene I)

Introduction to *Romeo and
Juliet*

By William Shakespeare

Who is Shakespeare?

- Baptized April 26, 1564 – died April 23, 1616
- An English poet and playwright widely regarded as the greatest writer of the English language, and the world's preeminent dramatist.
- Wrote 38 plays and 154 sonnets, as well as a variety of other poems.
- Shakespeare produced most of his work between 1586 and 1612.
- He is counted among the very few playwrights who have excelled in both tragedy and comedy.



Shakespeare's Family

- Shakespeare (a minor) married Anne Hathaway (age 26 and already 7 months pregnant)
- Three Children:
 - Susanna, christened on May 26th, 1583
 - Twins: Hamnet and Judith in January, 1585
 - Hamnet Shakespeare died of an unknown cause on August 11, 1596, at the age of eleven
- Shakespeare's family lived in Stratford-upon-Avon while Shakespeare spent most of his time in London, England.

Shakespeare's Plays

- Shakespeare's writing can be divided into two time periods:
 - 1590/2- 1603: Elizabethan Period- Wrote mostly comedies and histories.
 - 1603- 1611/12: Jacobean Period- Wrote mostly tragedies and romances.
- 1585- 1592- "The Lost Years"
 - Scholars have no real idea where Shakespeare was or what he was doing.

Types of Shakespearean Drama:

- **Tragedy** -- In general, tragedy involves the ruin of the leading characters.
 - Must include death and the destruction of some noble person through a flaw in his character.
 - Modern tragedy often shows the tragedy not of the strong and noble but of the weak and mean.
- **Comedy** -- is lighter drama in which the leading characters overcome the difficulties which temporarily beset them. Usually ends in marriage.
- **History**-- The 1590's were the decade of history play.

Two types of History:

- Providential- History determined by God
- Machiavellian- History determined by the people in

The Globe Theatre

- Built in 1599 by Shakespeare's playing company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, and was destroyed by fire on 29 June 1613.
- A second Globe Theatre was rebuilt on the same site by June 1614 and closed in 1642.
- A modern reconstruction of the Globe, named "Shakespeare's Globe", opened in 1997. It is approximately 750 ft from the site of the original theatre.





Shakespeare's Language

- Shakespeare's plays are written in Early Modern English, which can be difficult to read.
- The pronouns usage is especially different. Some examples include
 - thou = you
 - thee/ ye = you
 - thy/ thine = your/ yours

Romeo and Juliet



1996: Claire Danes and Leonardo Di Caprio



Copyright © 1968 by Paramount Pictures Corporation. All Rights Reserved. Permission granted for newspaper and magazine reproduction. (Made in U.S.A.)

Technicolor®

Franco Zeffirelli's Production Of
"ROMEO & JULIET"

A Paramount Picture



Romeo & Juliet



WIDESCREEN

COLLECTION

History of the Play

- The story of *Romeo and Juliet* is an extremely old one that was originally written in an Italian novel by Bandello
- Shakespeare wrote the play based on Arthur Brookes' epic poem "The Tragical Historye of Romeus and Julieta".
- Shakespeare probably wrote his in 1594, the first published version appearing in 1597.

History of the Play

- The earliest performance of *Romeo and Juliet* actually documented was in 1662, staged by William Davenant
- The play has remained extremely popular throughout the centuries and in the nineteenth century, *Romeo and Juliet* was performed with relatively little dramatic alteration, and it became one of Shakespeare's most-produced plays and a mainstay of the English stage.
- With the advent of motion pictures the play reached mass audiences. More than eighteen film versions of *Romeo and Juliet* have been made.

THE END !!

This power point presentation was
created by:

Camile Betances

for use in English I Honors
2008-2009

My not be used without permission.

