

allusion - a reference to a historical or literary figure, event, or object. To be effective, an allusion must be recognized by the audience. (In Shakespeare's time, the Latin & Greek classics/mythology and the Bible were well-known works. The English are also pretty attuned to the history of their royals.)

foil - character who is a sharp contrast (the opposite) to another; in *R&J*, Mercutio is the foil to Romeo; Mercutio's ideas about love and masculinity emphasize how differently Romeo sees these concepts

Playing with words

innuendo [in-yoo-EN-doh] - an indirect or subtle reference, esp one made maliciously or indicating criticism or disapproval (see also **malapropism & pun**)

malapropism [MAL-uh-prop-iz-uh m] - the act or habit of misusing words, especially by the confusion of words that are similar in sound. Remember that Shakespeare liked to make up words? It was usually for a laugh. (see also **innuendo & pun**)

pun - play on words based on the similarity of sound between two words with different meanings - usually for a laugh.. (see also **innuendo & malapropism**)

oxymoron -(pl; oxymora) a figure of speech combining seemingly opposite elements, such as
jumbo shrimp *controlled chaos* *disorganized mess*

paradox - statement that seems to contradict itself. It seems absurd or impossible but is really founded in truth. For example, when Juliet looks forward to her wedding night with Romeo, she says...

*Come, civil night,
Thou sober-suited matron, all in black,
And learn me how to lose a winning match,*

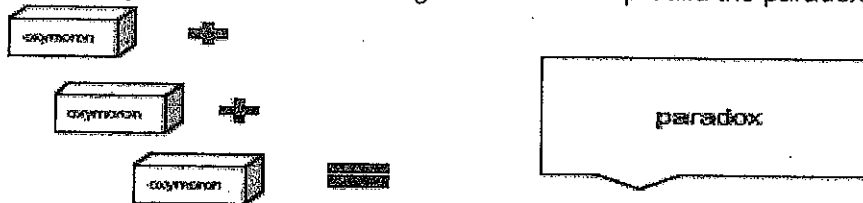
"learn me how to lose a winning match"

This is said by Juliet while waiting for her wedding night to begin. She is about to 'lose' her honor [she will no longer be a virgin] in order to begin her life-long 'match' [marriage]. The word 'match' in this instance also takes on the connotation of 'game' as in the *game of love* and the word 'lose' can be associated with *submission*. So, Juliet is saying that she will submit to her new husband and be successful in the game of love.

That's a lot of layers of meaning in one little line. Shakespeare tells good stories and he is a master Wordsmith!

Personification is another literary device being used in these lines because _____
(a thing that is not human) is being given the human characteristics of a

Think of oxymorons as the building blocks that help build the paradox.



One case where many oxymora are strung together is where Romeo declares:

*"O heavy lightness! Serious vanity!
Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms!
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!"*

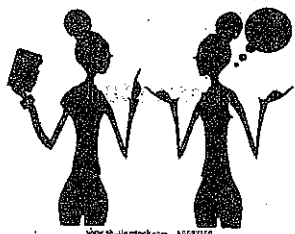
thou, thine, you & ye - all forms of "YOU"

- **thou & thine are informal**; used among friends, family, adult to child, to servant; enemies sometimes use "thou" to insult the other person
 - o thou = you
 - o thine = your
- **you is formal**; used with a stranger or to someone in a higher social position, a child to adult
- **ye is the plural form**



The man in this picture might say,
"How are _____ feeling today?"
because he is talking to a child.

A man in a business suit _____ is meeting a new business associate for the first time. He would probably say,
"How nice to meet _____. I look forward to working with _____ this week."



The two women in this picture are old friends. The woman on the right tells her friend, "_____ are wearing a cute shirt. Did you borrow it from _____ sister?"

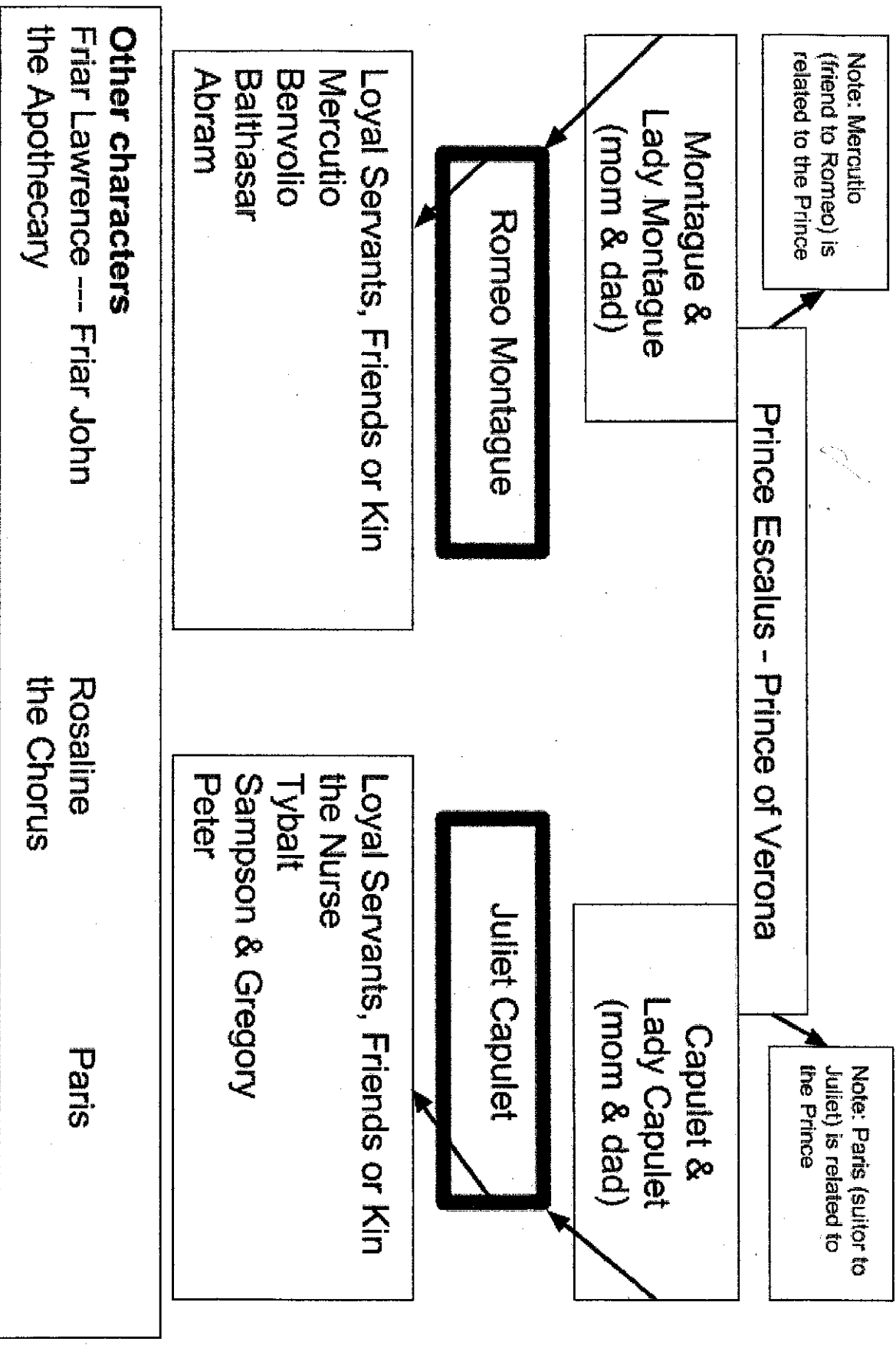
Juliet: O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name,
Or, it thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

Romeo: (*aside*) Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

Juliet is confessing her love for Romeo without knowing that he is watching & listening below her balcony.

Romeo is thinking aloud. He is letting the audience know that he is not sure if he should interrupt her or just stay quiet & listen.

Romeo & Juliet - character diagram



Note: Mercutio (friend to Romeo) is related to the Prince

Montague & Lady Montague (mom & dad)

Romeo Montague

Loyal Servants, Friends or Kin
Mercutio
Benvolio
Balthasar
Abram

Prince Escalus - Prince of Verona

Capulet & Lady Capulet (mom & dad)

Juliet Capulet

Loyal Servants, Friends or Kin the Nurse
Tybalt
Sampson & Gregory
Peter

Note: Paris (suitor to Juliet) is related to the Prince

Other characters
Friar Lawrence --- Friar John
the Apothecary
Rosaline
Paris

The Prologue

[Enter] Chorus.

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.
 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
 A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
 Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
 Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
 The fearful passage of their death-marked love,
 And the continuance of their parents' rage,
 Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
 Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
 The which if you with patient ears attend,
 What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

6
7
9
10
12
14

[Exit.]

*

Think of 'chorus' as a group of narrators.
 Extra info
 set up a scene
 recap a scene
 general background

social rank or power

good citizens
 doing bad things

believed we were ruled by fate

this play will take about 2 hrs

Setting

long-standing feud

feud so fierce only a tragedy could make it stop

Listen up! It's a good story.

stage directions - a direct instruction in a play that gives information about how characters move on the stage or about what tone or facial expression to use when speaking.

aside - part of an actor's lines supposedly *not* heard by others on the stage (but, of course, heard by the audience) Example: Act II, Scene ii, lines 33-37)

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.

Juliet is confessing her love for Romeo without knowing that he is watching & listening below her balcony.

Romeo: (aside) Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

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flourish or sennet - music (usually trumpet) to introduce a high status person entering a scene

exeunt - [eg-ZOONT] - plural form of exit; used when more than one person leaves the stage together

