

Romeo and Juliet

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-cross'd lovers take their life;
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,
And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, nought 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.

- 1) What does 'both alike in dignity' mean?
- 2) Where is the story set?
- 3) 'From ancient grudge break to new mutiny' - What do you think this line means?
- 4) Why does civil blood make civil hands unclean?
- 5) Why do both sets of parents stop fighting?
- 6) Define the word strife.
- 7) How do we know that their death was the only thing that could stop the fighting?
- 8) Find the line that shows it is a play.