

Prologue

Chorus: Two households, both alike in dignity, *A*
In fair Verona where we lay our scene, *B*
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny, *A*
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean. *B*
5 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes *C*
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life, *D*
Whose misadventured, piteous overthrows *C*
Do with their death bury their parents' strife. *D*
The fearful passage of their death marked love, *E*
10 And the continuance of their parents' rage, *F*
Which but their children's end, naught could remove, *E*
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage; *F*
The which if you with patient ears attend, *G*
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend. *G*

Setting & feud

R & S suicide

deaths R & S will end feud

please listen

Questions

1. What is the place setting of the play?
Verona, Italy
2. What is the relationship between the two households?
2 families R feuding, and they are "alike" in wealth
3. What does Shakespeare mean by "star-crossed lovers"?
the lovers are doomed to die by fate or forces of the universe
4. What happens to the lovers?
they kill themselves as a result of both fate (& death-marked) & the feud
5. What is the subject matter for this play?
2 hours, death, suicide, love, feuding, suicide of the lovers & the result of those deaths on the 2 families
6. What does the chorus ask of the audience in the last two lines? Why?
listen patiently - Elizabethan audiences were restless & rowdy
7. What is the name of the poetic form which Shakespeare uses for the Prologue? How many lines are there? Mark the rhyming pattern.
Sh - sonnet, iambic pentameter rhyme scheme. 3 quatrains & a closing couplet