

A Tragedy of Two Families.

Romeo and Juliet have been born into a world of violence and hate. As the only children of two powerful, constantly feuding families, they are caught up in a whirlwind of anger, insults, brawling and death. New acts of violence keep them apart, even after they have declared their love. What chance does secret love have set against organised hate? Romeo and Juliet are powerless. They are out numbered, out manoeuvred and 'out gunned'.

So the two young lovers can be together Friar Laurence comes up with a plan. Juliet is to drink a potion which will make her seem as though she is dead but really in a deep sleep. Her family will bury her in the family tomb where Romeo will find her. Then they can be together for ever! This seems like a good plan but communication lets them down and when Romeo finds her he thinks she is really dead and poisons himself. When she wakes from her deep sleep she finds her lover dead beside her. Distraught she takes his dagger from his belt and stabs herself to death.

In the end the play is a tragedy not just of two lovers but of also two great families. The outcome of years of feuding between the Montagues and the Capulets is that they have both lost their only child. Leaving a huge sense of waste. In the end they agree to end the violence and each family is to erect statues in memory of each others lost ones....

'A glooming peace this morning
with it brings:
The sun for sorrow will not show
his head....
For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.'

Exerts from Romeo and Juliet W Greenhill Heinemann