

Romeo & Juliet

William Shakespeare

SEC



Introduction

"Love is heavy and light, bright and dark, hot and cold, sick and healthy, asleep and awake – it is everything except what it is!" (Romeo and Juliet, 1597)

For Romeo and Juliet, it was the moment their eyes met that sparked a love so intense, it felt destined. Romeo, a dreamy and passionate young man, and Juliet, a bright and innocent girl, were strangers until that night when their worlds collided. Their connection was instant, like the pull of a magnet, drawing them closer with every heartbeat. In Romeo's eyes, Juliet found a love that felt larger than life, and for Juliet, Romeo was the answer to a longing she hadn't even realized she had. The rush of first love — the butterflies, the nervous smiles, the giddy feeling in their chests; they may be too young to fully understand the weight of love or a mature relationship yet in a world divided by hatred, their love stood strong, innocent and magical.

To truly understand their "romantic relationship", we must step back and explore the world they lived in – the Montagues and Capulets, the city of Verona and the bitter rivalry that set the stage for this timeless tragedy play "Romeo and Juliet" by the legendary William Shakespeare.

Brief History

SETTING AND CONFLICT:

- Takes place in Verona, Italy.
- Feud between two powerful families: the Montagues and Capulets.
- Prince Escalus threatens death to anyone caught fighting.

JULIET AND PARIS:

- Count Paris wants to marry Juliet.
- Lord Capulet believes Juliet is too young and asks Paris to wait.
- Juliet's mother and Nurse encourage her to consider Paris.

ROMEO'S HEARTBREAK AND THE CAPULET BALL:

- Romeo is heartbroken over Rosaline.
- His friends Benvolio and Mercutio persuade him to attend the Capulet ball to forget Rosaline.

ROMEO AND JULIET MEET:

- At the ball, Romeo and Juliet fall instantly in love.
- They discover they belong to rival families.

BALCONY SCENE AND SECRET MARRIAGE:

- Romeo sneaks into Juliet's garden, overhears her confessing love.
- They agree to marry in secret with the help of Friar Laurence.

TYBALT AND MERCUTIO'S DEATHS:

- Tybalt challenges Romeo; Romeo refuses due to his secret marriage.
- Mercutio fights Tybalt and is killed.
- Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge and is banished.

ROMEO'S BANISHMENT AND JULIET'S DILEMMA:

- Romeo and Juliet spend a night together before he is banished.
- Juliet's family pressures her to marry Paris, unaware of her secret marriage.

JULIET'S DESPERATE PLAN:

- Friar Laurence gives Juliet a potion to fake her death.
- The plan goes awry when Romeo, unaware of the scheme, believes Juliet is truly dead.

TRAGIC ENDING:

- Romeo buys poison, kills Paris, and takes his own life at Juliet's tomb.
- Juliet wakes, finds Romeo dead, and stabs herself.

AFTERMATH:

- The Montagues and Capulets are devastated by their children's deaths.
- They reconcile and end their feud.

Type of Relationship

STERNBERG'S TRIANGULAR THEORY OF LOVE:
Romantic relationships include passion, intimacy, and commitment.
"Romeo and Juliet" may fall under romantic love (passion and intimacy) but lacks long-term commitment.

NEUROSCIENCE OF LOVE:
Love triggers the brain's reward system, releasing chemicals like dopamine and oxytocin.
Early love is obsessive, linked to lower serotonin levels, which explains Romeo and Juliet's fixation on each other.
Over time, love may shift from obsession to deeper, calmer affection.

ADDICTION TO LOVE:
Love operates like an addiction, as humans seek to replicate the rewarding feelings it produces.
Romeo and Juliet's relationship may reflect this addictive early-stage passion.

LOVE AND JUDGMENT:
Falling in love turns off the brain's judgment centers, making people overlook flaws.
Romeo and Juliet's blind love, despite family conflict, may stem from this.

IMPACT OF FAMILY LOYALTY:
The intense family feud heightens Romeo and Juliet's relationship.
Family approval mattered more in Shakespeare's time, while modern love is more individualistic.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT:
Romeo and Juliet experience immediate attraction.
Today, love at first sight is often viewed as infatuation rather than true love.

IMPULSIVENESS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP:
They fall in love, marry, and sacrifice themselves within days, reflecting youthful impulsiveness.
Modern relationships are more cautious and focus on long-term compatibility.

EXTREME SACRIFICE:
Romeo and Juliet's love involves giving up everything, including their lives.
In modern relationships, love is balanced with personal well-being, making such extreme sacrifice less common.

FATE VS. CHOICE:
Romeo and Juliet's relationship is shaped by fate ("star-crossed lovers").
Contemporary views on love emphasize choice rather than destiny.

YOUTH AND NAIVETY:
Their love is intense and rash, influenced by their teenage inexperience.
Today, young people receive more guidance and are expected to mature before major commitments like marriage.



Juliet's traits

Passionate

Determined

Courageous

Independent

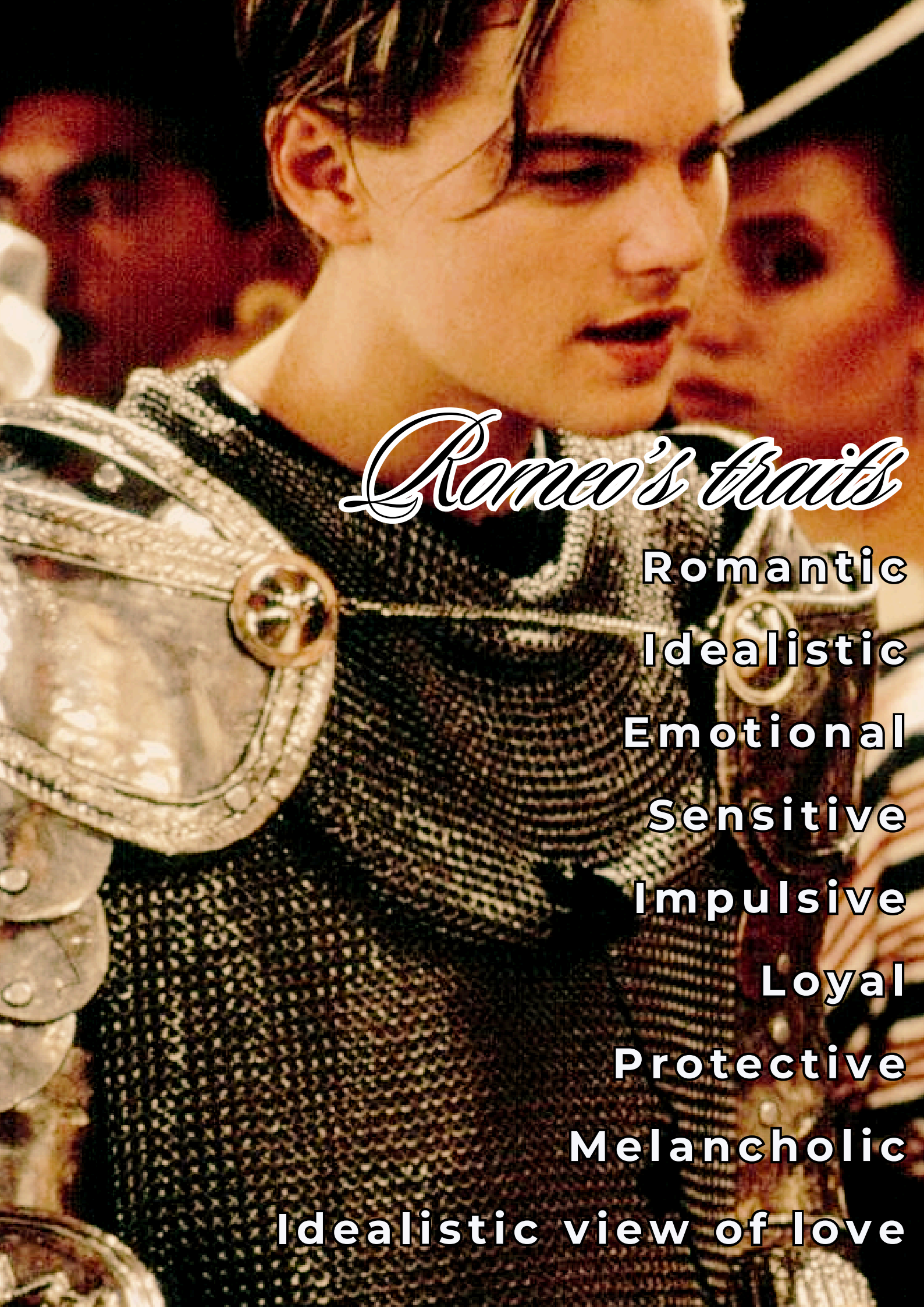
Clever

Resourceful

Optimistic

Hopeful

Emotionally intelligent



Romeo's traits

Romantic

Idealistic

Emotional

Sensitive

Impulsive

Loyal

Protective

Melancholic

Idealistic view of love

Communication Style

POETIC AND IMAGERY-DRIVEN COMMUNICATION:

Romeo and Juliet express their love through poetic language, using deep imagery, like comparing Juliet to a shrine and their kiss to a pilgrim's touch during their first meeting.

BALCONY SCENE AND OPEN CONFESSION:

Juliet speaks openly to herself on the balcony, unaware that Romeo is listening. Their conversation flows naturally, becoming one of the most romantic exchanges in the play.

MISCOMMUNICATION VIA THE NURSE:

The Nurse's messages between Romeo and Juliet lack urgency and clarity, leading to confusion and complications in their plans.

TRAGIC MISCOMMUNICATION:

The greatest miscommunication occurs when Romeo doesn't receive Friar Laurence's letter about Juliet's fake death, leading to their tragic end.

OBSTACLES TO COMMUNICATION:

Although they communicate openly at times, their love is often disrupted by secrecy, interference from others, and fate itself, contributing to the tragic conclusion.

Relationship Stages

STAGE	ROMEO AND JULIET'S RELATIONSHIP
Initiating	Romeo and Juliet meet at the Capulet party, where Romeo is instantly captivated by Juliet.
Experimenting	They skip small talk and go straight into declarations of love, exploring the possibility of being together despite their family feud.
Intensifying	Romeo sneaks into Juliet's garden to confess his love, and they quickly plan to marry, sharing their deepest emotions and desires.
Integrating	They secretly marry the day after meeting, emotionally bonding and seeing themselves as one, though they keep their relationship hidden from their families.
Bonding	Their marriage remains secret, and they never get the chance to publicly declare their love due to the pressures of their families and the tragic events that unfold.
Differentiating	The family feud, Tybalt's death, and Romeo's banishment begin to pull them apart emotionally and physically, though their love still remains strong.
Circumscribing	Romeo and Juliet's time together is cut short by external pressures, with little opportunity to address their fears or challenges deeply.
Stagnating	They don't experience stagnation directly but are physically separated due to Romeo's banishment, halting their emotional growth as a couple.
Avoding	Romeo and Juliet never intentionally avoid one another, but the situation forces physical separation, contributing to the eventual breakdown.
Terminating	The tragic ending occurs when Romeo, believing Juliet is dead, takes his own life, followed by Juliet's suicide upon discovering Romeo's death. Their love ends in death.



Conclusion

Romeo and Juliet's relationship is often celebrated as the ultimate love story, but from a modern point of view, it can seem quite unhealthy. They go from being head over heels to making reckless choices—like getting married in secret and planning to run away together after knowing each other for only a few days. These are signs of immaturity more than true love.

Rather than facing challenges together and talking things through, they let outside forces, like their families' feud and societal expectations, control their actions. Instead of having honest conversations about their future, they take drastic steps—like planning to die together—as an escape from their problems. This rollercoaster of emotions and lack of trust damages the foundation of their relationship.

Romeo and Juliet did everything they could to keep their love alive amidst overwhelming challenges. We can only imagine how scared they must have felt, being young and facing immense pressure from their families and society, all while trying to hold on to the intense feelings that could have blossomed into something beautiful. Considering the time and environment they grew up in, their passion was both brave and desperate. Rather than critique their choices, we should honor their love story in its purest form, even if it was ultimately tragic.