

Prologue Sections

The which if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,

Two household, both alike in dignity

In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,

Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.

Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.

From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;

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;

Introduction Cards

There were once two families, both of them similarly respectable.

They lived in the beautiful city of Verona, where our story takes place.

They had been enemies for a long time and now trouble was breaking out again.

These families, who were civilians not soldiers, had spilt each other's blood. Their hands were stained with the blood of one another.

Into these families came two, oh so unlucky, lovers.

Their terrible misfortune caused their death and ended the arguments between their families.

The story of their love, which was to end in death and the story of their parent's rage, which was only ended when their children died, is the story which will now be told. It will take two hours to tell.

If you listen carefully and patiently to this story, anything that you have missed in this introduction, we will work to explain.