

**ROMEO AND JULIET
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 1
YEAR 3 AND 4**

Read each passage and answer the questions.

Once upon a time, far away in the city of Verona, in Italy, there lived two great families: the Capulets and the Montagues. Each family was rich, each family was powerful and each family had lived in that city for centuries. Sharing so much, you might think they should have been friends. If only they had been, then this would be a very different story - a happy one. But it isn't.

1. Where is the story set?

London Verona Venice India

2. What are the name of the two 'great families'?

3. 'Each family was rich, each family was powerful and each family had lived in that city for centuries.'

Underline the two adjectives that describe 'each family'

4. Were the two families friends?

YES NO

5. This story is a happy one

TRUE FALSE

It had happened so many years ago, that nobody could remember what the two families were fighting about, but everyone knew that there had been an argument. And everyone also knew that it was getting worse. Shouting insults had turned into spitting in faces. Spitting had led to slaps and punches, until swords were drawn and lives were lost. Young blood ran crimson in the streets, stained the steps of churches and blossomed on the paving stones of the markets. And where these bloody flowers bloomed, the people of the city fled, scared that they might end up victims too.

6. What were the two families fighting about?

The Capulets had stolen money from the Montagues

The Montagues had stolen money from the Capulets

Nobody could remember anymore

Lady Montague had lied.

7. *'Spitting had led to slaps and punches, till swords were drawn and lives were lost'*

Explain what *'and lives were lost'* means?

8. *'Young blood ran crimson in the street, stained the footsteps of churches and blossomed on the paving stones of the markets.'*

Which word is a synonym for 'crimson'?

(Remember, a synonym is a word that has a similar meaning to another word)

Blue

Yellow

Red

Green

One sunny morning in mid July the market square was full. Traders called out how fresh their fruit was, how delicious their vegetables; people hurried from stall to stall buying food for lunch before the day got too hot. All was just as it should be. And then, one by one, the traders stopped shouting. Silence fell and all turned.

9. What is the weather like that morning? Write one word.

10. What was happening in the market square? Write two things, using examples from the text.

11. *'And then, one by one, the traders stopped shouting. Silence fell and, as one, all turned.'*

A. What does 'Silence fell' mean?

It all went quiet in the market square

It got louder in the market square

The traders started shouting

A band started playing music

B. Why do you think the traders stopped shouting?
