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In Romeo And Juliet, Shakespeare Creates A Violent World, In Which Two Young People Fall In Love It Is Not Simply That Their Families Disapprove The Montagues And The Capulets Are Engaged In A Blood Feud In This Death Filled Setting, The Movement From Love At First Sight To The Lovers Final Union In Death Seems Almost Inevitable And Yet, This Play Set In An Extraordinary World Has Become The Quintessential Story Of Young Love In Part Because Of Its Exquisite Language, It Is Easy To Respond As If It Were About All Young Lovers The Authoritative Edition Of Romeo And Juliet From The Folger Shakespeare Library, The Trusted And Widely Used Shakespeare Series For Students And General Readers, Includes Freshly Edited Text Based On The Best Early Printed Version Of The Play Newly Revised Explanatory Notes Conveniently Placed On Pages Facing The Text Of The Play Scene By Scene Plot Summaries A Key To The Play S Famous Lines And Phrases An Introduction To Reading Shakespeare S Language An Essay By A Leading Shakespeare Scholar Providing A Modern Perspective On The Play Fresh Images From The Folger Shakespeare Library S Vast Holdings Of Rare Books An Up To Date Annotated Guide To Further Reading The people who dislike this play are the ones who view common sense over being rational, and prefer to view the world in a structured way One of the main arguments that come across is the meeting, falling in love, and

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dying all in a weekend when Juliet is but 13 We all must die in the end, so wouldn't you want to die in the name of love than of an awful disease Perhaps the two lovers weren't truly in love, but their last living moments were spent believing so, so what does it matter How can one truly know if one is in love Is it a feeling In that case, what is a feeling If you believe you are in love, then you may as well be, contrary to what others might say. The argument with the weak plot Shakespeare didn't invent Romeo and Juliet It was in fact a poem which is constantly being adapted over time Shakespeare did add in some aspects but the meeting in the ballroom, Tybalt's death, the sleeping draught and such were already in the poem. I personally love this play, purely because it's an escape from this modern world I'm not saying I like the treatment of women, nor the fighting, but it's like a different world that I'm never going to experience, and reading it through Shakespeare's gorgeous writing makes Verona seem all the more romantic. THIS This is what happens when you jump into a Rebound Relationship. So, when the story opens, Romeo is desperately in love with Rosaline But since she won't give up the booty has sworn to remain chaste, he's all depressed and heartbroken Annoying emo style His friends, tired of his constant whining, give him a Beyoncé mixtape He takes her words to heart, and her lyrics begin to mend his broken soul His boys drag his sad ass to a party, and across a crowded room, Romeo spies his next victim, his really really for real this time True Love. Meet 13 year old Juliet Who is 13. And how old is Romeo Well, he's old enough to kill Juliet's cousin in a sword fight, so yeah Probably not 13 But since he's such a punk little pussy what with the whining, sobbing, and spouting off crap poetry I'm going to assume he's not much older than she is and say 15 or 16 If I'm wrong, don't correct me It'll help me sleep tonight. Tragically, Juliet is a Hatfield, and Romeo is a McCoy Their families have been feuding over a McCoy pig that was killed during a Hatfield moonshine run decades ago Totally true I swear. Needless to say, tensions are still running high So Shhhhh. They gotta keep their love on the down low. And it is love, dammit I mean, they've stared at each other a whole bunch, and had, like, two conversations This time around, Romeo isn't going to make the same mistake as before, and let the new girl of his dreams slip through his fingers Fuck, yeah Time to get married Because

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marriage will solve all your problems No, really. Pinkie promise
And we all know what happened next, right Wellsh. You know,
I can't help but wonder what that first encounter would've been
like if they'd met when they were older Romeo Hey baby,
Heaven must be missing an angel Mind if I crawl up to your
balcony tonight Juliet The fucktaser crackles Romeo screams
Anyhoo, this isn't a romance, it's a cautionary tale And a pretty
funny one at that I originally gave it 3 stars, but I had to bump it
up for making me giggle so much Between Romeo Juliet both
crying, moping, and twirling around like a tweenage girls and
the rest of the cast flailing around to accommodate these idiots,
this was waaaaay better than I remembered it. I listened to this
on Playaway, so I got to have the audio version with a full cast
of characters, sound effects, and music Loved it Totally
recommend going this way if you're planning on trying out
Shakespeare. Two things struck me during this re-reading 1
From the first scene of the play, the sexual puns are drenched
in metaphorical violence drawing your weapon, laying knife
aboard, forcing women to the wall, etc, creating a stark
contrast with the purity of Romeo and Juliet's love and
language, and 2 Mercutio, the Nurse and Old Capulet are
something totally new both in Shakespeare and also in English
drama, that is, characters who are not only realistic but whose
language completely reflects their thought processes to the
point where they take on a life of their own Shakespeare would
create many other such characters, but these three are the
first. Why didn't they just run away together It would have
saved a lot of heart ache. Romeo and Juliet The Tragedy of
Romeo and Juliet, William Shakespeare Romeo and Juliet is a
tragedy, written by William Shakespeare early in his career,
about two young star-crossed lovers, whose deaths ultimately
reconcile their feuding families It was among Shakespeare's
most popular plays, during his lifetime, and along with Hamlet,
is one of his most frequently performed plays Today, the title
characters are regarded as archetypal young lovers. Romeo
and Juliet belongs to a tradition of tragic romances stretching
back to antiquity The plot is based on an Italian tale translated
into verse as The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet by
Arthur Brooke in 1562 and retold in prose in Palace of Pleasure
by William Painter in 1567 Shakespeare borrowed heavily from
both but expanded the plot by developing a number of

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supporting characters, particularly Mercutio and Paris. Believed to have been written between 1591 and 1595, the play was first published in a quarto version in 1597. The text of the first quarto version was of poor quality, however, and later editions corrected the text to conform closely with Shakespeare's original.

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Happy 2018, everyone! I thought I would get the year off on the right track by reading my first book for classics bingo in the group: catching up on classics and lots. One of the squares on this year's board is to read a book published before the 18th century, and, because *Romeo and Juliet* is one of this month's group reads, I decided to mark off this square early. Way back in ninth grade, I read *Romeo and Juliet*. I happened to have a teacher who assigned us outside-of-the-box assignments such as writing letters between the primary characters or keeping Juliet's diary. Thus, this Shakespearean tragedy remains memorable to me more than some of the other dramas I have read over the years. Yet, the play still warranted a reread through adult eyes, so here I am, beginning 2018 by reading Shakespeare. I will be the first to admit that I, although I enjoy reading through modern drama, usually Pulitzer winners, Shakespeare is tough for me. The language I am able to slog through; however, most plots are dull and leave me with much to be desired. The only dramas I enjoy enough to want to reread are *The Merchant of Venice* and *Macbeth* for their strong, female protagonists. Which brings me back to *Romeo and Juliet*. Most people know the basis of the story, one that has been retold so many times that it is part of western vernacular. My favorite version of *Romeo and Juliet* is the musical *Westside Story*. The song that begins when you're a Jet, you're a Jet all the way sets the tone for the entire musical: the Jets and Sharks just flat out don't like each other, but they are loyal to members of their own gang until their last dying day. This plot comes right out of *Romeo and Juliet*, which features the Montagues and Capulets of Verona who have been feuding for time eternal. Like its modern counterpart, the Montagues and Capulets just flat out don't like one another, no matter the circumstances. It has always been thus, and no member of the

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leadership of either family has done anything to lessen the feud. All these feelings of ill will change on one special night when young Romeo Montague is smitten with Juliet Capulet at a masked ball. The two instantly fall in love and do everything in their power to hide their romance from their feuding family members, parents included. I can understand why this is the play often assigned to fourteen year olds because what young teenager has not been smitten and thinks that he/she is in love. Combine this with the aspect of star crossed lovers who are going against the prevailing trends of society, and there are many directions that a teacher can go in while discussing this with students. Boys will like enjoy the dueling between members of the Montagues and Capulets and perhaps also the innuendo imagery that Romeo uses to describe Juliet whereas, perhaps, girls will swoon over the descriptions of Romeo and how he does everything in his power to marry and be with Juliet for all eternity. Reading through adult eyes and admittedly 21st century eyes, I enjoyed the plot myself as well as descriptions of Juliet. The star crossed lover unique aspect of this play allowed me to read it quicker than I would with other Shakespearean drama that I find tedious to get through at best. Despite the imagery and the storyline, Shakespeare's language was still a bore for me to read. The planning and plotting and long soliloquies made for heavy reading. The story of star crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet and the consequences of their relationship could be completed in one to two acts. Yet, then the story would not be a Shakespearean five act timeless classic. Perhaps because I am reading this drama during the 21st century where people need information before it happens makes plays with speaking than action too slow at times for modern readers. Even with modern literature, unless it is quality literary fiction, I find it sluggish to get through slow moving novels with little plot movement, and prefer those novels with shorter chapters. After rereading a number of Shakespearean plays over the past few years I have come to realize that unless there is a lot of plot development feuding, fighting, falling in love, illicit marriage, fighting that it is a challenge for me to get through the text. Lucky for me that Romeo and Juliet contains the elements of a quality story so it is only the text that challenges me, not the story itself. Shakespeare's story of star crossed lovers remains timeless classic that has been redone.

many times over Romeo and Juliet have made appearances in some form on Broadway plays to Hollywood movies including a modern version starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Romeo Without stretching one's imagination all that much, Romeo and Juliet even resurface in the Star Wars story during the prequel trilogy Their imagery is everywhere in modern society and by telling of two feuding groups as a backdrop, Shakespeare created a tale that could relate to people across many places and times, from school groups to rival governments Now that I got through my first book of the year I am excited to get a jump start on bingo and my other challenges, both in groups and personal ones Whether I read another Shakespeare remains to be seen because at the end of the day, if there are no feuds, fights, star crossed lovers, and other elements of a modern story, Shakespeare's long soliloquies are not really my taste.

3.75 stars Every emo fourteen year old's dream In bullet point form fall in love with hot boy girl delete as appropriate that parents can't stand tender words and some sex gotta find out what that's like major tragic incident that really wasn't your fault, you were provoked everyone's mad at you die beautiful death in loved one's arms parents finally understand how much they cared about you and are sorry they didn't treat you better when you were alive. So how did Shakespeare manage to turn this heap of crap, which even Zac Efron would think twice about, into one of the most moving stories of all time If you still need proof that he was a genius, look no further. I'm not sure what annoys me the play that elevated a story about two teenagers meeting at a ball and instantly falling in love then deciding to get married after knowing each other for one night into the most well known love story of all time, or the middle schools that feed this to kids of the same age group as the main characters to support their angst filled heads with the idea that yes, they really are in love with that guy/girl they met five minutes ago, and no one can stop them, especially not their meddling parents Keep in mind that Juliet was THIRTEEN YEARS OLD Her father states she hath not yet seen the change of fourteen years in 1.2.9 Even in Shakespeare's England, most women were at least 21 before they married and had children It's not clear how old Romeo is, but either he's also a stupid little kid who needs to be slapped, or he's a child molester, and neither one is a good thing. When I was in

middle school or high school, around the time we read this book, I remember a classmate saying in class that when her and her boyfriend's eyes met across the quad, they just knew they were meant to be together forever. How convenient that her soulmate happened to be an immensely popular and good looking football player, and his soulmate happened to be a gorgeous cheerleader. That's not love at first sight, that's lust at first sight. If they were really lucky, maybe as time went on they would also happen to click very well, that lust would develop into love. It didn't, and they would end up together forever. They didn't. But if they saw each other at a school dance, decided they were like, totally in love, and then the next day decided to run off and get married, we shouldn't encourage that as a romantic love story, we should slap the hell out of them both to wake them up to reality. For what it's worth, my cynicism doesn't come from any bitterness towards life or love. I met my wife when we were 17, and we've now been together almost 10 years, married for a little over 2. Fortunately for me, she turned out to be awesome. If we had decided the day after meeting each other that we were hopelessly in love and needed to get married immediately, we would have been idiots, and I hope someone who I trusted and respected would have slapped me, hard. If we were 13 at the time, that would be even worse. Enlightened adults injecting this into our youth as a classic love story for the generations, providing further support for their angst-filled false ideas of love and marriage, is probably worst of all.

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*Romeo &
Juliet*

WITH DETAILED NOTES
FROM THE WORLD'S
LEADING CENTER FOR
SHAKESPEARE STUDIES

EDITED BY BARBARA A. MOWAT
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