

SHAKESPEARE DIDN'T COME UP WITH ROMEO & JULIET ON HIS OWN..

The **MAIN SOURCE** is *The Tragicall Historie of Romeus and Juliet*—a narrative poem Arthur Brooke translated from an Italian story. We think that Shakespeare's version was probably written around 1591-1595.

He also drew from the medieval legend of *Tristan and Isolde* along with *Pyramus and Thisbe* from Ovid's



PROSE is written or spoken language in its ordinary form, without metrical structure. It's origin is Latin *prosa (oratio)* lit. 'straightforward (discourse)'. In other words, natural language as we speak it.

POETRY is written in **VERSE**, writing arranged in a metrical rhythm and typically has a rhyme. The meter and rhythm can vary depending on the type of poetry.

SHAKESPEARE USES BOTH PROSE AND VERSE (POETRY) IN HIS PLAYS..

We can further divide his use of **VERSE** two ways:

BLANK VERSE are metered lines that don't rhyme. Blank verse is usually used by more formal, educated characters (Lady Capulet speaks in verse)

RHYMED VERSE are metered lines that do rhyme. Rhymed verse tends to be more formal than blank verse.

PROSE in Shakespeare is usually used by common, lower class characters or tends to be informal.

MOST OF HIS VERSE IS IN IAMBIC PENTAMETER..

IAMBIC means a type of poetic verse that is made up of iambs. An **IAMB** is a pairing of an unaccented and accented syllable. Think of it like a heartbeat!

(baDUM) **IAMBS** can be single words or a more than one word:

-exist -away -the one -you know -belong -I can't

IAMBIC PENTAMETER means poetry metered with five lines.

(baDUMbaDUMbaDUMbaDUMbaDUM) See it here:

ROMEO: But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.