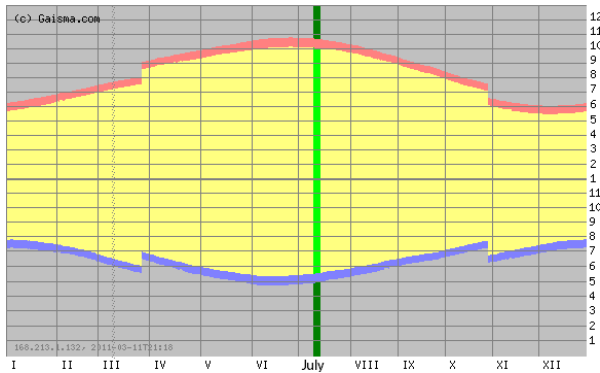


While reminiscing about Juliet’s childhood, her nurse mentions that “eleven years” had passed “since the earthquake” (I.iii.23). She is likely referring to “the severe earthquake of ... 1580,” which would have been a pretty recent event in the minds of Shakespeare’s audience (Harris 203). By this theory, we could date the events of the play to 1591. In this same scene, Lady Capulet states that it is “a fortnight [or so]” until “Lammas Eve [July 31st],” Juliet’s fourteenth birthday (I.iii. 15, 17).

July 1591

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



The next day, when Lord Capulet hastily decides to set a date for Juliet’s wedding to Paris, Paris mentions that it is “Monday” night (III.iv.18). It is obvious that the events of the play up to that point have panned out in only two short, eventful days’ time. Juliet’s discussion with her mother about “[her] disposition to be married” occurs the day before on the same day of the “[third] civil brawl” in the morning and the party on Sunday night (I.iii.65, I.i.90). A quick glance at an archival Julian calendar informs us that “this same ancient feast of Capulet’s” must then have fallen on July 11th (I.ii.85). From this, we can even determine fairly precise times for sunrise, around 5:30 am, and sunset, about 9:00 pm, for this time of the year in Verona, Italy (Tukiainen, Gaisma.com).

Your assignment is to neatly and carefully outline all of the key events occurring and referenced in Romeo and Juliet from I.i through III.iv. It is important to be selective and to not go into a great deal of description when recording the events of the play since space on your Two Days handout, the back of this sheet, is limited.

Your grade will be based on three criteria: **neatness**, **accuracy**, and **thoroughness**. All of these are equally important.

Neatness (30 points)

Keep your writing small yet legible. Everything should be readable and tidy. You do *not* have to write in complete sentences. You may even abbreviate characters’ names if you would like to (e.g. R for Romeo, J for Juliet, etc.) It is in your best interest to include as much information as possible on the chart, but you must not sacrifice data for clarity.

Accuracy (30 points)

Don’t guess. Use the play itself as your guide. You do *not* need to use quotations from the play, but you must provide a citation for each event you include on the chart. Record your citation in the same format you see used in the first two paragraphs of this page. If you are missing citations, your recorded events will *not* be counted.

Thoroughness (30 points)

Since space is limited, be selective about what events you will include on your handout. While it may be important that Mercutio makes fun of Benvolio in III.i, you may want to focus on the other plot-shaking events in that scene. Aside from the more obvious key moments of the plot, there are a few other events which do not happen on stage yet are still directly referenced in the characters’ dialogue. Try to include as many of them as you can, as space allows. A few of these ‘unseen scenes’ are listed below (not in chronological order):

- Bitter over Romeo’s presence at the party, Tybalt sends a letter of challenge to Romeo’s house.
- Behind the abbey wall, Romeo’s man secretly brings Juliet’s nurse a rope ladder made of cords.
- Romeo climbs to Juliet’s bedroom window with the rope ladder; they do married people things.
- Prince Escalus meets privately with Montague to discuss his displeasure with the civil brawl.
- Romeo, depressed and beaten by love, flees from Benvolio near a grove of sycamore trees.

SUNDAY / JULY 11th, 1591

Verona, Italy

MONDAY / JULY 12th, 1591


1:00 AM

2:00 AM

3:00 AM

4:00 AM

5:00 AM

sunrise ↑  ↑

6:00 AM

7:00 AM

8:00 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

12:00 PM

1:00 PM

2:00 PM

3:00 PM


4:00 PM

5:00 PM

6:00 PM

7:00 PM

8:00 PM

sunset ↓  ↓

9:00 PM

10:00 PM

11:00 PM

12:00 AM