Romeo and Juliet

Plot Summary

Act I

Rising Action:

1. Capulet and Montague servants fight in the streets of Verona.
2. Benvolio tries to stop them.
3. Tybalt arrives and provokes Benvolio to fight.
4. The Prince arrives and declares that anyone else caught fighting in the streets will be executed.
5. Romeo reveals to Benvolio that he is in love with Rosaline.
6. Paris meets with Lord Capulet about marrying Juliet.
7. Romeo and Benvolio are mistakenly invited to the Capulet masquerade ball and decide to attend.
8. Lady Capulet meets with Juliet and the Nurse to discuss Paris’ marriage proposal; Juliet agrees to think about it.
9. Romeo, Benvolio and Mercutio arrive at the ball.

Climax:

1. Romeo and Juliet fall in love at first sight and share their first kiss.

Falling Action:

1. Tybalt recognizes Romeo and vows to get revenge on him for crashing the party.
2. Romeo and Juliet discover that they are sworn enemies.

Act II

Rising Action:

1. Instead of leaving the party with Benvolio and Mercutio, Romeo jumps the wall to try and find Juliet.
2. Romeo sees Juliet on her balcony and listens to her as she thinks out loud.
3. Romeo reveals himself; Romeo and Juliet profess their love for each other.
4. Before Romeo leaves, Juliet plans to send her nurse to meet Romeo the next day.
5. Romeo seeks out Friar Lawrence and asks him to marry Juliet and Romeo.
6. Friar Lawrence sees an opportunity to end the feud between the Capulets and the Montagues and agrees.
7. Romeo reunites with Benvolio and Mercutio and they tease him about Rosaline.
8. Juliet’s nurse arrives and Romeo tells her that Friar Lawrence will marry the couple that very afternoon.
9. The nurse returns to Juliet and tells her of Romeo’s plan.

Climax:

1. Juliet meets Romeo and Friar Lawrence; they are married.

Act III

Rising Action:

1. Mercutio and Benvolio encounter Tybalt and a group of Capulets in the streets.
2. Romeo appears but refuses to fight Tybalt, claiming to love the Capulet family.
3. Mercutio fights Tybalt.
4. Romeo tries to stop the fight and inadvertently causes Mercutio’s death at the hands of Tybalt.
5. Romeo fights and kills Tybalt.
6. The nurse brings Juliet news that Romeo killed Tybalt.
7. Juliet begs her Nurse to find Romeo and tell him to come to her room that night to consummate the marriage.
8. Friar Lawrence advises Romeo to spend the night with Juliet and then flee to Mantua. When enough time has passed, they plan to reveal their marriage to their families and beg for the Prince’s forgiveness.
9. Lord Capulet decides Juliet will marry Paris.
10. Romeo and Juliet wake up together but are not able to spend any time together since Romeo must flee Verona to save his life.

Climax:

1. Juliet’s mother visits her and reveals she is to marry Paris in three days.

Falling Action:

1. Juliet’s Nurse advises Juliet to forget Romeo and marry Paris.
2. Juliet decides not to trust her Nurse anymore and goes to see Friar Lawrence.

Act IV

Rising Action:

1. Paris is meeting with Father Lawrence to plan his wedding when Juliet arrives.
2. Juliet threatens to kill herself but Friar Lawrence comes up with a plan.
3. Juliet will take a potion to make her appear dead for 42 hours so she doesn’t have to marry Paris.
4. Friar Lawrence will send word to Romeo of the plan so that they can be together when Juliet wakes up.
5. Juliet returns home and acts obedient, agreeing to marry Paris. Lord Capulet is so excited he moves the wedding up by one day.

Climax:

1. The night before the wedding, Juliet takes the potion.

Falling Action:

1. The next morning, Juliet is found “dead” and the Capulets begin to plan her funeral.

Act V

Rising Action:

1. Balthasar arrives in Mantua and tells Romeo that Juliet is dead.
2. Romeo visits an apothecary and buys poison.
3. Friar John returns to say he never met Romeo to tell him the plan; Friar Lawrence runs off to Juliet’s tomb.
4. Romeo arrives at Juliet’s tomb and fights Paris. Paris dies.
5. Romeo finds Juliet, kisses her, takes the poison and dies.

Climax:

1. Juliet awakens to find Paris and Romeo dead. She takes Romeo’s dagger and kills herself.

Falling Action:

1. The Prince, Capulets and Montagues enter the tomb.
2. Friar Lawrence explains everything that happened.
3. The Capulets and Montagues end their feud.