**from ROMEO AND JULIET**

**PROLOGUE**

Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,  
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Do with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,  
And the continuance of their parents' rage,  
Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,  
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

grudge= rancore

mutiny= disordine

fatal loins= lombi fatali

foes= nemici

star-crossed= avversati dalla fortuna

misadventured piteous overthrows= miserande pietose avventure

**1 - Read the prologue and answer:**

1)Where does the story take place?

2)What troubles the town?

3)Who are the two lovers?

4)What will happen to them?

5)How will their love affect their families?

6)How long is the play going to last?

**2 - Underline the words which emphasize the idea of symmetry in the story.**

**3 - What is the function of the prologue in your opinion?**

1) to introduce the characters 2) to engage the audience’s active cooperation in the drama 3) to introduce the story 4) to comment on the events objectively 5) to set the scene 6) to point out that the story does not belong to reality