All events of Act 1

Prologue

Sonnet spoken by chorus

Outlines themes of play

Scene 1 - In Verona – a public place

1. Sampson and Gregory – servants of Capulet. Expressing toxic masculinity in a patriarchal society – misogynistic and subservient.
2. Abraham and Balthasar enter – servants of Capulet
3. Sampson bites his thumb at them, starting a fight
4. Benvolio enters to stop the fight
5. Tybalt enters and they all fight again
6. First citizen, Capulet and Lady Capulet enter, shorty followed by Montague and Lady Montague
7. The prince enters and has a long speech about the feud, telling everybody to leave at the end
8. Everybody leaves but Montague, Lady Montague and Benvolio
9. Benvolio, Montague and Lady Montague discuss where Romeo is and why he has been sad and not been around
10. Romeo enters and Montague and Lady Montague leave Benvolio to talk to him.
11. Romeo says, “is the day so young”. This suggests Romeo does not know what time it is.
12. Benvolio and Romeo talk about Rosaline and their unrequited love. Romeo is very sorry for himself. “Ay me!”, “O me!”
13. Romeo lists oxymorons of his Petrarchan love
14. After multiples monologues by Romeo, they both leave

Scene 2 - In a street

1. Capulet, Paris and servant
2. Discussing arranging Paris’ marriage with Juliet
3. Capulet says Juliet is only 14 and Paris should wait 2 more years to marry her, so she is “ripe to be a bride”, meaning ready to have children.
4. Paris says women younger than her are already getting married. “Younger than she are happy mothers made”
5. Capulet makes an important speech talking about their marriage. Capulet does not mention love or Juliet’s feelings once in this speech. “She is the hopeful lady of my earth” implies her only role is to be a mother
6. The servant is told to distribute invitations but cannot read
7. The servant asks Romeo to read the invitation when he is with Benvolio
8. Benvolio says the “admired beauties of Verona” will be there
9. Romeo agrees to go

Scene 3 – A room in Capulet’s house

1. Lady Capulet and Nurse call for Juliet
2. Juliet enters for the first time
3. Juliet is very formal with her mother and has a better maternal bond with nurse
4. This scene presents Juliet’s relationship with the Nurse