WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:

✓ actor

✓ playwriter (=scrittore di opere teatrali)

✓ he acted (= ha recitato) in different companies (= compagnie teatrali)

- He created many famous **characters** (= personaggi)

    Romeo and Juliet   Hamlet   Macbeth
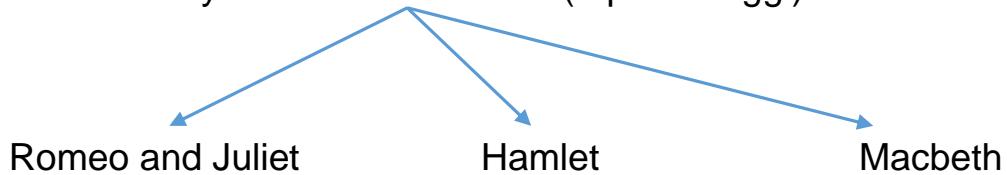
- Shakespeare's characters ⟶ are **real** people

    they are like us (= come noi),

    they aren't perfect and

    they **make mistakes** (= fanno errori)
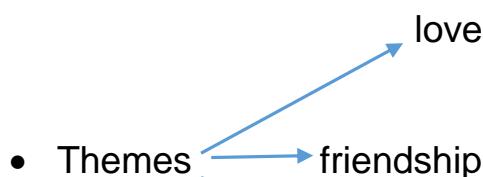
            love

- Themes → friendship (=amicizia)

   vengeance (=vendetta)

SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE

- He was born in Stratford-upon-Avon (= dal nome del fiume) in 1564
- He married (= ha sposato) Anne Hathaway when he was 18 and they had three children
- By (=entro il) 1592 he worked as (=come) an actor in London and then he started writing plays (=opere teatrali)

- He wrote (= ha scritto)
  - comedies (= have a happy ending)
  - tragedies (= have a sad ending)
  - historical plays
  - poems
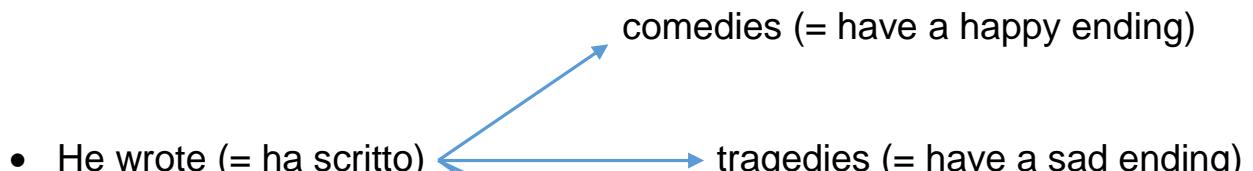
- Ex. of comedies = *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (= Sogno di una notte di mezza estate); *the Merchant of Venice* (= il mercante di Venezia);
- Ex. of tragedies = *Hamlet*; Romeo and Juliet;
- Ex. of historical plays = *King Lear*; *Macbeth*;
- Ex. of poems (= poesie): *the Sonnets*

about love and women

- He built (= ha costruito) *The Globe Theatre* in London in 1599

- He died (= è morto) in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1616

ROMEO AND JULIET (1594-1596)

- ✓ Verona (= place)
- ✓ Shakespeare (= author)
- ✓ Love story between two young people

tragedy

CHARACTERS

- Prince Escalus (= principe della Scala): Prince of Verona

- Montagues (= Montecchi): Lord and Lady Montague are Romeo's parents
- Mercutio = best friend's Romeo
- Benvolio = Romeo's cousin
- Friar (= frate) Lawrence

- Capulets (= Capuleti): Lord and Lady Capulet are Juliet's parents

- Tybalt (= Tebaldo) = Juliet's cousin

- Juliet's nurse (= balia, nutrice)

- Paris (= Paride) = Juliet's fiancé (= fidanzato)

PLOT (=TRAMA)

- The Capulets and the Montagues are two powerful families in Verona

they hate each other (= si odiano a vicenda) and always fight (= combattono)

- One day Lord Capulet plans (= organizza) a party ⟶ he hopes (= spera) that Count Paris (= il conte Paride) will marry (= sposerà) Juliet
- Romeo goes to the party with his cousin, Benvolio, and his best friend, Mercutio, wearing (= indossando) masks

WHY?

Romeo wants to see Rosaline ⟶ a girl he is in love with (= una ragazza di cui è innamorato)

- But when Romeo goes to the party, he sees (= vede) Juliet for the first time

they fall in love each other

(= s'innamorano l'uno dell'altra)

- At the party Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, sees Romeo and promise to get revenge (= di vendicarsi)

- At the end of the party Juliet finds out (= scopre) **Romeo** is a **Montague** and Romeo finds out **Juliet** is a **Capulet** ⟶ they are both sad (= entrambi tristi).

- After (= dopo) the party, Romeo goes back to the Capulet house
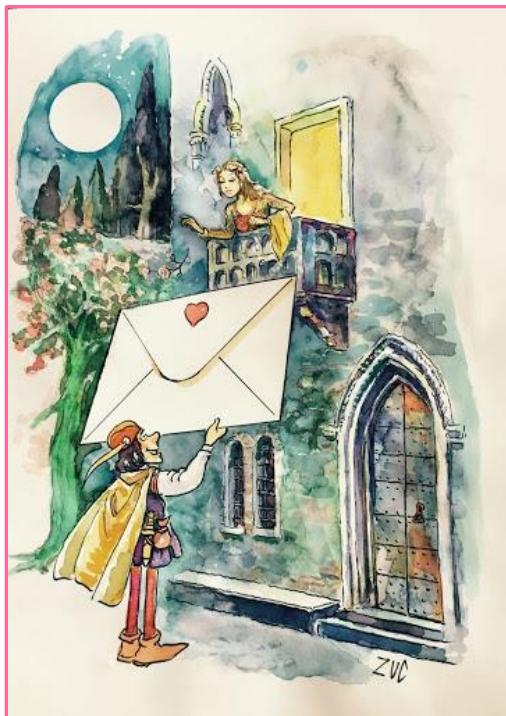
he talks to her from the balcony

and they decide to get married (= decidono di sposarsi)

- The next day Juliet's nurse (= la nutrice) helps her meet (= la aiuta ad incontrare) Romeo at church (= in chiesa).

- At the church Friar Lawrence (= frate Lorenzo)
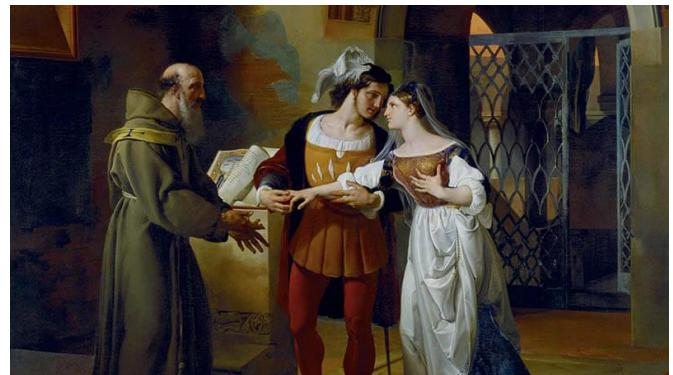
marries them in secret (= li sposa in segreto)

WHY?

he thinks (= crede) it would bring peace (= questo avrebbe portato la pace) to their town

- After the marriage (= dopo il matrimonio), Tybalt and Mercutio start a fight (= iniziano un duello) and Mercutio gets killed (= viene ucciso)

Romeo gets mad (= impazzisce) and
kills Tybalt (= uccide Tebaldo)

- The Prince banishes Romeo (= esilia Romeo) from Verona and he flees to Mantua (= fugge a Mantova)

Juliet cries a lot (= piange molto) ⟶ her parents think she's crying because her cousin Tybalt is dead (= i suoi genitori pensano che lei stia piangendo perché suo cugino Tebaldo è morto)

her parents plan Juliet's wedding to Paris (= i suoi genitori organizzano le nozze di Giulietta con Paride) in three days

- Juliet goes to Friar Lawrence for help (= per chiedergli aiuto)

he gives her (= le dà) medicine

that would make her look dead (= che l'avrebbe fatta sembrare morta)

- Friar Lawrence sends (= spedisce) a letter to Romeo so he would know Juliet is only pretending to be dead (= così lui avrebbe saputo che Giulietta sta solo fingendo di essere morta)

the letter gets lost

(= la lettera va perduta)

- Romeo thinks (= crede) Juliet is really dead (= è morta davvero)

so he buys poison (= compra del veleno)

to kill himself (= per uccidersi)

he goes to Juliet's tomb and

finds Juliet's body

he takes the poison and dies

- A few minutes after he dies (= alcuni minuti dopo essere morto), Juliet wakes up (= si sveglia) and sees (= vede) that Romeo is dead

she takes Romeo's knife (= prende il pugnale di Romeo) and kills herself

- Juliet's nurse and Friar Lawrence tell (= raccontano ai) the Montagues and the Capulets about the secret marriage (= del matrimonio segreto).

• The Montagues and the Capulets feel so bad (= si sentono così male) that they promise to always be nice to each other (= che promettono di essere sempre gentili l'uno con l'altro)