

Romeo and Juliet : Prologue (Baz Luhrmann's Version)

Part 1: Comprehension (Text and Meaning)

1. The Prologue says: "*Two households, both alike in dignity.*" What does "households" mean here?
 - a) Houses
 - b) Families
 - c) Servants
 - d) Friends
2. Where does the story of *Romeo and Juliet* take place?
 - a) London
 - b) Verona
 - c) Venice
 - d) Florence
3. The phrase "*star-crossed lovers*" means:
 - a) Lovers who are lucky
 - b) Lovers who fight often
 - c) Lovers whose relationship is doomed by fate
 - d) Lovers who meet under the stars
4. According to the Prologue, what will end the families' conflict?
 - a) A wedding
 - b) The lovers' death
 - c) A peace treaty
 - d) Moving away

Part 2: Film (Baz Luhrmann's Version)

5. In Luhrmann's film, how is the Prologue first presented?
 - a) As a priest reading in church
 - b) As a TV news broadcast
 - c) As a voice in the background
 - d) As a written poem on the screen
6. The film shows "two households" as:
 - a) Two large mansions
 - b) Two skyscraper business empires
 - c) Two castles
 - d) Two gangs in the countryside
7. What effect does the newsreader give to the Prologue?
 - a) It makes it modern and realistic
 - b) It makes it confusing
 - c) It makes it funny
 - d) It makes it sound like a fairy tale

Part 3: Vocabulary in Context

8. Match the Shakespearean word with its modern meaning:

○ Foe →	a) Old
○ Dignity →	b) Respect / honor
○ Ancient →	c) Enemy

Here are the English and French versions of Shakespeare's Prologue in **Romeo & Juliet**.

1. Listen to the English version so that you can read Prologue's lines without making any mistakes.
2. Read carefully the French version. What do you think of the translation ?
3. Now, rewrite the opening lines of the play in modern English.

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.

*Deux puissantes maisons, d'égale dignité,
Dans la belle Vérone où se joue notre scène,
Font revivre une guerre où une ancienne haine
Souille à nouveau de sang les mains de la cité.
De ces deux ennemis aux fatales entrailles
Sont nés deux amoureux, deux étoiles filantes
Dont l'atroce destin menant aux funérailles
Va sceller au tombeau toutes les mésententes.
De l'amour à la mort, leur terrible passage,
Pendant que les parents attisent une rage
Qui ne s'apaisera qu'au trépas des enfants,
C'est l'objet du théâtre, en deux heures de temps.
Et si vous nous offrez des regards amicaux,
Nos efforts tenteront d'affaiblir nos défauts.*

Traduction de Pascal et Antoine COLLIN

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.