

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Prologue Close Reading Activity

### *Romeo and Juliet* Act 1 Prologue

Enter **Chorus**

**Chorus** 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.  
5 From forth the fatal loins of these two foes  
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.  
The fearful passage of their death-marked love  
And the continuance of the parents' rage,  
10 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.

*[Exit]*

1. Re-read the prologue silently to yourself once.
2. Re-read the prologue with your partner out loud, trading off every other line (ex. person A read line 1, person B read line 2, person A read line 3, etc.).
3. The setting of the play is \_\_\_\_\_. **Draw a box around this word.**
4. What is the relationship between the 2 households? **\*Star the lines that tell us that these two families don't get along. Next to these lines, explain them in your own words.**
5. What do you think Shakespeare means by "fatal loins" (5)? You may need to look up these words in the dictionary. Include your definition and explanation next to line 5 above.

6. What does Shakespeare mean by “star-crossed lovers”?
  
7. What happens to the lovers? Underline the lines that give away the death of Romeo and Juliet.
  
8. How do their parents impact their relationship? See lines 8-12.
  
9. Put (parentheses) around the lines that explain why the feud between these two families ends. Next to these lines, explain them in your own words.
  
10. What does the chorus ask the audience to do in the last 2 lines? Why? -->**Draw an arrow next to the lines that tell the playgoers that what they missed in the Prologue, they can find out later in the play.**