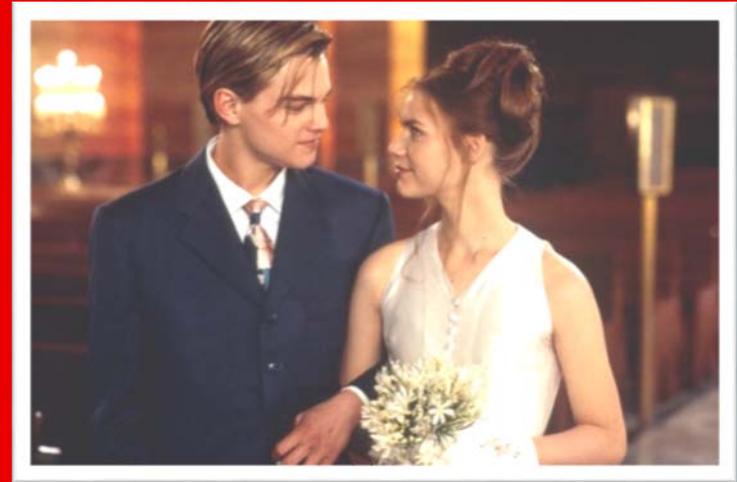


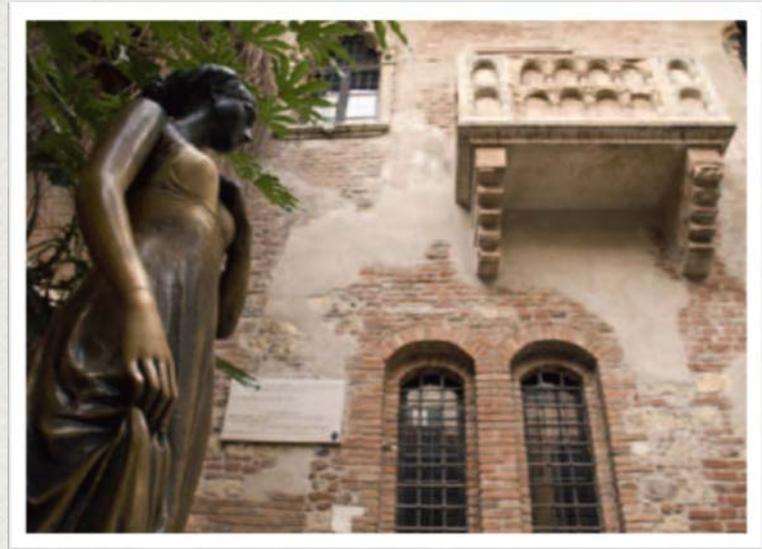
Romeo and Juliet



MONDADORI EDUCATION

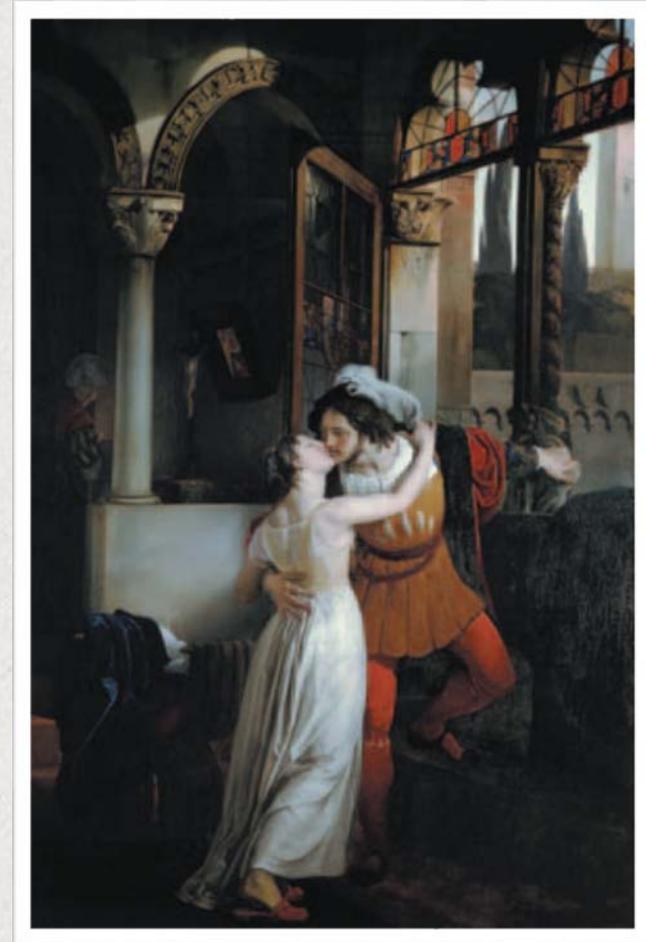
The Play

- Written around 1594-1595, first published in 1597
- It is a lyrical tragedy
- Its language and images are typical of Renaissance love poetry
- It is the tragedy of youth
- It can be divided into two parts



Bandello & Co.

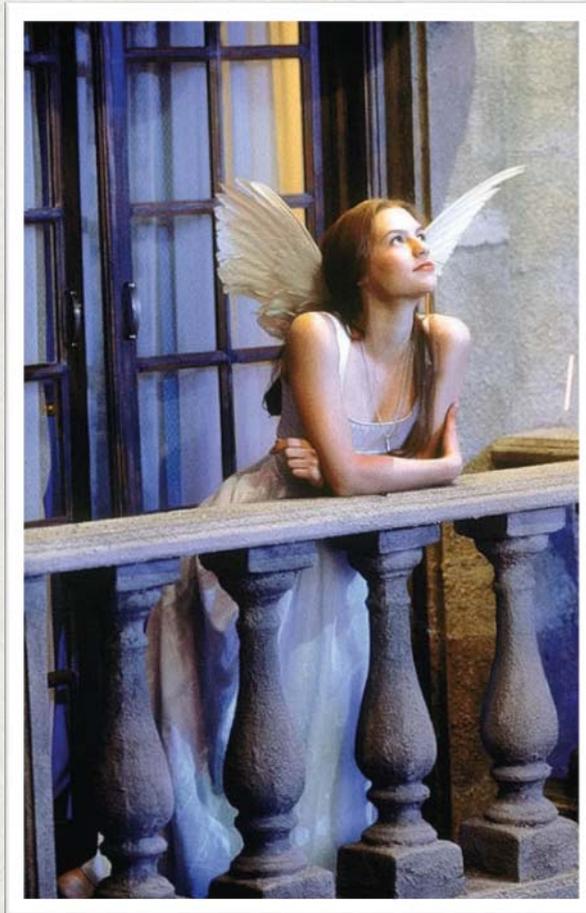
- Italian *novellas* were very popular in Renaissance Europe
- The typical line of transmission was Italian → French → English
- *Romeo and Juliet* was a story already told by:
 - a. Masuccio Salernitano
 - b. Luigi Da Porto
 - c. Matteo Bandello



Shakespeare and his sources

- **Time of the action**: it is reduced from several months to four days and nights
 - it heightens the **dramatic tension**
- **Romeo and Juliet's death**: Romeo kills himself just before Juliet wakes up
 - **Time** is an agent in the play
- **The young vs the old**: the gap is clear from the beginning until the end
 - there is **no communication** between parents and children

Only Your Name Is My Enemy



- The passage is taken from **Act 2, scene 2**
- The *balcony scene*
- Excellent example of how Shakespeare manages to transform the language and situations:

Love poetry → Drama

Juliet's Monologue

- It is night
- She opposes the **substance of things** to the **power of words**

*What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title.*



Juliet's Consciuousness

- She is more conscious and mature than Romeo
- She asks direct questions

How cam'st thou hither, tell me, and wherefore

- She expresses real fear

If they do see thee, they will murther thee

I would not for the world they saw thee here

Romeo's Answers

- He replies in a rhetorical way
- He uses many typical images of love poetry

*Alack, there lies more peril in thine eye
Than twenty of their swords! Look thou but sweet,
And I am proof against their enmity.*



MONDADORI EDUCATION