

ROMEO AND JULIET

Breaking News

Task: Write a newspaper report of the events of Act 3, Scene 1 (the fight between Mercutio, Tybalt and Romeo). We have included some handy tips and some useful resources to help you do this.

A reminder of what happens in the scene:

- During this scene, Tybalt challenges Romeo to a fight because he was at the Capulet party.
- Romeo (unbeknownst to Tybalt) has just married Juliet – Tybalt’s cousin - so he refuses to fight Tybalt.
- Mercutio doesn’t like the way that Tybalt talks to his friend, Romeo. Frustrated that Romeo will not take up the challenge, he fights Tybalt.
- Romeo tries to stop the fight by coming between the two of them and during this, Mercutio is fatally wounded by Tybalt.
- Tybalt runs away and Mercutio dies.
- Romeo seeks vengeance and kills Tybalt. He knows that this will come at a huge cost to him, so flees the scene.

Key features of a newspaper report

- Use a headline that is short and snappy and will encourage people to keep reading.
- Sum up the gist of the story in the first sentence.
- Write your report in the third person and the past tense.
- Separate your newspaper report up into paragraphs to help the reader clearly understand the information. You will need to change paragraphs when you change the place, person or theme of the content.
- Use some quotes to make your report more interesting, ensuring that you use direct speech punctuation.
- Make sure that your report has a mixture of both facts and opinions – you could include the comments of a fictitious passer-by.

Using quotes can help build the tension in the story and back up your commentary.

Act 3 Scene 1 – Coram SSF abridged script

Enter BENVOLIO and MERCUTIO in discussion, with others.

Enter TYBALT, searching for ROMEO.

BENVOLIO By my head, here come the Capulets.

MERCUTIO By my heel, I care not.

TYBALT Gentlemen, good e'en: a word with one of you.

MERCUTIO And but one word with one of us? Couple it with something; make it a word and a blow.

TYBALT You shall find me apt enough to that, sir.

BENVOLIO All eyes gaze on us.

Enter ROMEO.

TYBALT Well, here comes my man.

MERCUTIO But I'll be hanged sir, if he wear your livery.

TYBALT Romeo! The love I bear thee can afford
No better term than this: thou art a villain.

ROMEO Tybalt, villain am I none.
Therefore farewell. I see thou knowest me not.

TYBALT Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries
That thou hast done me.

TYBALT draws his sword.

ROMEO I love thee better than thou canst devise.

MERCUTIO *[thinking Romeo is a coward]*
O calm, dishonourable, vile submission!
[He draws his sword]
Tybalt!

TYBALT

I am for you.

TYBALT and MERCUTIO fight.

ROMEO

Hold Tybalt! Good Mercutio –

He steps between them but TYBALT'S sword goes under ROMEO's arm and wounds MERCUTIO, who falls.

TYBALT and his followers run away.

BENVOLIO

What, art thou hurt?

MERCUTIO

[to ROMEO] Why the dev'l came you between us?
I was hurt under your arm.

ROMEO

I thought all for the best.

MERCUTIO

Help me into some house, Benvolio,
Or I shall faint. Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me
a grave man. A plague o' both your houses!
A plague o' both your houses!

BENVOLIO helps him off.

ROMEO

My very friend hath got this mortal hurt
In my behalf –

Enter BENVOLIO.

BENVOLIO

O Romeo, Romeo, brave Mercutio is dead.

Enter TYBALT with sword drawn.

Here comes the furious Tybalt back again!

ROMEO

Alive, in triumph, and Mercutio slain?

TYBALT

Thou, wretched boy, shalt with him hence.

ROMEO

[drawing his sword] This shall determine that.

ROMEO and TYBALT fight and TYBALT is killed.

BENVOLIO

Romeo, away, be gone!
Why dost thou stay?

ROMEO

O, I am fortune's fool.

He runs away.

PRINCE

Exile! Let Romeo hence in haste,
Else, when he is found, that hour is his last.

Exit ALL.

If you would like to, use the template below to create your newspaper report or create one of your own.

Think about:

- A suitable name for your newspaper at the top.
- A snappy headline in large font underneath.
- A sentence or two to sum up the story underneath.
- Write your report, using the key features, in columns using the boxes provided.
- Include a photograph/drawing (as if taken live from the scene) in the middle.
- Give the photograph a caption to summarise what is happening.

Newspaper report template
