Romeo and Juliet Project Assignment

Romeo and Juliet projects are required for this unit but the style of project is all about your own unique, creative talents. There are a wide variety of project ideas to choose from. Try to pick a project that fits your strengths and interests. You should be excited to begin your project; otherwise you should keep looking! The whole point of this project is to find a way to connect your passions and interests to a time period long since past. Use this project as an opportunity to explore life in Shakespeare’s time or bring Shakespeare to life in your own time! Some projects are more time challenging than others—though all projects require some writing (if only a description of your project) or an oral presentation. Your grade will be partially determined by the level of difficulty of the project and the effort put into your work. There will be no class time given for the project so plan accordingly. If the project you choose is research based, it must not be just copying information from a book or site—mere copying will receive NO CREDIT.

**Written reports will be graded for content and mechanics. Research reports should generally use about three references, and should be about 2-3 pages in length. Essays should be about 2 pages in length. Quotes and paraphrasing require documentation.**

**All video/media projects must be clearly labeled and ready for viewing. (no play packs or special software required)**

Project choices due: 1st Project Check in:

2nd Project Check in: Final Project Due:
Romeo and Juliet-Project Possibilities

1. **Write a soap opera script or draw a comic book** depicting the escapades of King Henry VII, his wives, and children. Be sure to include all six wives and details of their conquest and demise at the hands of the king. Also, include information on the three children and their time as rulers. Show research beyond class notes to depict the tales. Include bibliography for background research.

   **Technology option:** Why not try out the Comic Life program that is on all the MACs here at school?

2. **With other classmates from the same block, dramatize at least one full scene of the play.** Pay special attention to facial expressions, tone of voice, body language, and enunciation of lines. Use costumes and props or suggestions of props. Present in class or record on video. (Maximum credit given only if completely memorized.)

3. **Make a representation of Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre.** This could be done with drawings; this could be done using wood and/or cardboard. You could create a 3-D model or create a detailed architectural drawing. Write at least a one page typed description to go with the drawings/model that explains it in detail. No pre manufactured models or designs will be accepted (including internet versions). All work must be original recreations by the student. Include bibliography of background research on the building and its design.

4. **Research the clothing fashions of Shakespeare’s times. Draw detailed sketches of costumes** for some of the characters in this drama—or make miniature costumes. Write detailed descriptions of your work and why you made the designs as you did (do some research). Sketches must include at least 4 drawings (male upper and lower class, female upper and lower class) and miniature costumes must include at least one male and one female. If done full-size, one costume may be sewn and described. Include source information.

5. **Research fencing!** Report the information. Perhaps put on a videotaped demonstration of fencing and/or attend a class(es) and describe the experience. Look into this one early because setting up classes or interviews will be time consuming! Included in this project must be a paper or power point presentation on the history of fencing with background sources given.

   **Technology option:** Create an iMovie on Fencing

6. **Research references to Romeo and Juliet in modern movies and television shows.** Write a report on the variety of places where the play has shown up (either as a reference or with play lines) and include a video tape or DVD of at
least six different examples of the play showing up in modern movies or TV. Include other examples in written form of where more modern references can be found. Include source information.

Technology option: record examples on an iMoive or create a music video montage of clips to a Romeo and Juliet theme song using Garage Band.

7. Write and present a newscast of the latest developments in the Capulet/Montague feud or family activities. You may want to create your own commercials appropriate to those times, as well as weather forecasts (can be videotaped or performed for the class live). Include background sources.

Technology option: Garage Band has some great newscast themes and iMovie could really make a polished newscast possible.

8. The musical West Side Story, set in New York City, is a modern version of Romeo and Juliet. (two possibilities here—choose one)
   a) Read the book West Side Story. Write a 2 page essay comparing/contrasting the characters and events to Romeo and Juliet. Be specific and give quotes for evidence to support your claims from both of the plays.
   b) View the video or DVD of the movie West Side Story. Write a 2 page essay comparing the characters and events to Romeo and Juliet and include a visual representation of the two movies via collage or drawings. Don’t forget to give quotes from both plays in your essay!

Technology option: Create a Google Earth lit trip showing the locations between Romeo and Juliet and West Side Story. Examples can be found for other topics online.

9. Make collages or detailed sketches of your impressions of Romeo and Juliet. Write a description of what you are trying to show in your collages/sketches. This option is only for the very creative and artistic. Elementary cut and paste projects will not score well. Or draw sketches of the characters in the play with short descriptions of each. Draw them with costumes appropriate to Verona, Italy, in 1450. At least five collages/sketches required. Effort and detail must be evident! No slapped on computer graphics or fancy scissor cuts will be enough here! For any of these options include background source information.

10. Research and report on dating and/or wedding customs of the Elizabethan times. Perhaps consider both royal and peasant weddings. At least three pages typewritten with documentation. (could also be done on Power Point)

Technology option: Create an iMovie on dating/weddings in this time or maybe a music video that depicts the customs.
11. **Research the death rites** and customs of the Elizabethan times and beliefs about an afterlife. Compare and contrast with your own beliefs in at least a 3 page report or multi-slide power point. Make sure to document your research.

   - See tech options from #12 and apply them here.

12. Friar John agreed to travel to Mantua carrying Friar Laurence’s message. His mission, however, was thwarted when he was detained along the way and placed in a house under quarantine because of the plague. The effect of the plague is thought to have changed the face of history as radically as it changed the lives of Romeo and Juliet. **Research and report on the devastation of the plague.** Your report must include documentation of your sources and should be typed or done on Power Point. You could also create a presentation board to accompany your report for display.

   - Technology option: Create a documentary on the plague using iMovie.

13. Pick one character that could, at some point, have changed the whole chain of events. **Rewrite the scene** at that point, and project the events that would follow. May be performed live for the teacher or videotaped. Scene must be at least five minutes in length to perform and a script must be provided to the teacher.

14. **Draw two shields** depicting the coat-of-arms of both the Montague and Capulets. Write a 1-2 page typewritten explanation of the coats-of-arms. Explain where your ideas came from and what the drawing depicts. Research family crests and the meaning of the symbols, animals, colors that appear on the shields. Describe why you drew them as you did in your report. Some students have gone the extra mile to have these displayed on wood or cut out foam to look like metal/wood. This is for the artisan gifted.

15. Attend another Shakespearian play presently being shown in the metro area. **Write a play review.** Should be at least two full pages typewritten and include an original program or ticket stub with adult signature. If possible include photos or other visual documentation of your trip. Compare your response to this play vs. *Romeo and Juliet.* Current productions: MN Opera: Romeo and Juliet, Minnesota Shakespeare Project: King Lear, U of M-BFA Student Performances: Romeo and Juliet + Othello, Theatre in the Round- Minneapolis: King Henry V- **Check schedules before choosing this option!**

16. **Write a play** of your own! It must have conflict (a definite plot). It could be a modern play or one copying Shakespeare’s style. (This should be about 10 pages in length). Plot must be complex and written for an intelligent audience. This option is not for the faint hearted but for the true bards out there.
17. **Research the food of the Elizabethan era.** What would Shakespeare have most likely eaten as he sat up penning the words of this famous tragedy? What were the differences between lower class meals and the food of the royal court. Write a 2-3 page report with documentation to show what you find or put on an Elizabethan cooking show parody and perform it live for the class or via video tape. All future chefs this is your chance to star in your own cooking show! Include the recipes!

**Technology option:** Use iMoive to make a polished Shakesparean Cooking Show! Or you could create a Shakespearen Recipie Orginal Webpage!

18. **Film a music video** that depicts an important scene(s) in the play. Include a one-page typewritten description of the scenes your video portrays and your music choice. Show your video to the class on the final due date. Effort and quality of presentation will make or break this project.

**Technology option:** Use Garage Band or iMovie to improve production quality.

19. **Write at least a three-minute song/rap** on the story of Romeo and Juliet. The song must be school appropriate and show effort and talent. **Perform for the class or record** and include a typewritten report of how you wrote the song and the lyrics. Why did you choose the music genre that you did, instruments, beat, lyric choices etc?

**Technology option:** Garage Band

20. An epitaph is an inscription on a tombstone revealing something about the person’s life. **Write poetic epitaphs** for all the characters that die in the play. Make poster-style (or tombstone) presentations of each. Make sure you include an explanation of each epitaph and why you feel it best represents that character. Do some research of famous epitaphs. Be creative!

21. **Write diary entries** for Romeo and Juliet exposing their innermost thoughts about particularly dramatic episodes. Choose at least 12 significant points of the play for these diary entry points. Bind in an attractive manner or use a purchased journal that fits the time period. Neatness and presentation counts! You should do a rough of each diary entry and proofread it before writing it on the journal paper of your choice to avoid mistakes and messy corrections. Try to use the penmanship you imagine the character would have. Show the deep emotions, obvious conflict and feelings of love the character(s) is experiencing. **MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE** some of their lines that appear in the play to connect your writing to Shakespeare’s.

22. The play has been performed in classical ballet theaters around the world. **Compose an original dance or practice the steps from a published ballet**
and perform to music on videotape or for the class. Include a one-page description of the dance and what it depicts and where it has been performed or how you choose the steps and music.

23. Compose an original musical piece to represent each act of the play. The musical scores should reflect the emotion, action and uniqueness of each act. Record the scores on tape or CD and include a typewritten explanation of each piece. This is only for the passionate musicians who excel not only at their instrument, but also at composing. Make sure you include the sheet music!

24. Who is the REAL Shakespeare??? There has been heated controversy in recent years over whether or not William Shakespeare really wrote his own plays or not. Is Shakespeare a fake? Is it all a conspiracy? Was Christopher Marlow the real writer or someone else? There’s a lot to be found on this topic and the evidence is quite intriguing! Do your research and then write a persuasive essay with documentation on your findings. Include a visual for display with your report. Note: There is a fabulous PBS special on this topic that would definitely get you thinking! If you like a mystery, this may be your option!

Technology option: Create an iMovie or polished timed power point presentation on the controversy.

25. Create a Then vs. Now scrapbook! Separate into at least 8 categories and show pictures AND text descriptions of the topic in Shakespeare’s time and present day. Ideas for pages include: music, fashion, dating, food, sports, entertainment, government, etc. Neatness and creativity count and must include a works cited page to show your research into the topic in Shakespeare’s time.

26. ***Propose an option to me that is challenging, creative, and relates to Shakespeare and this time period. Do not begin work until I have approved your proposal!

Most importantly have fun! Be creative!
Do your BEST work and enter the world of the Bard!
Romeo and Juliet Project Proposal

Name________________________________-_ Hour_______________

Project proposal: (describe in detail what you will need to do to create this project and what the final project will be)

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Classroom Presentation option selected?  Yes_________  NO________ (Equipment needed? DVD/VCR, Computer Presentation Station, Specialized programs like iMoive, Google Earth, Garage Band etc)

Materials needed for completing your project:

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________________________________________________________________________

Grade I am determined to earn on this project and will let Mr. Beaubien

push me to reach _____________________

1st project check in date____________
2nd project check in date____________
Final project due_____________

Signature of Parent___________________ email address_________________

GET STARTED IMMEDIATELY! SINCE YOU HAVE SEVERAL WEEKS TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT, EXPECTATIONS ARE VERY HIGH! IT MUST BE OBVIOUS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING ON YOUR FINAL PROJECT FOR MANY WEEKS. IF NOT, DO NOT EXPECT ANYTHING ABOVE A PASSING GRADE! YOU HAVE SO MANY CHOICES SO LET YOUR TALENT SHINE!!!