

ROMEO AND JULIET

by William Shakespeare

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

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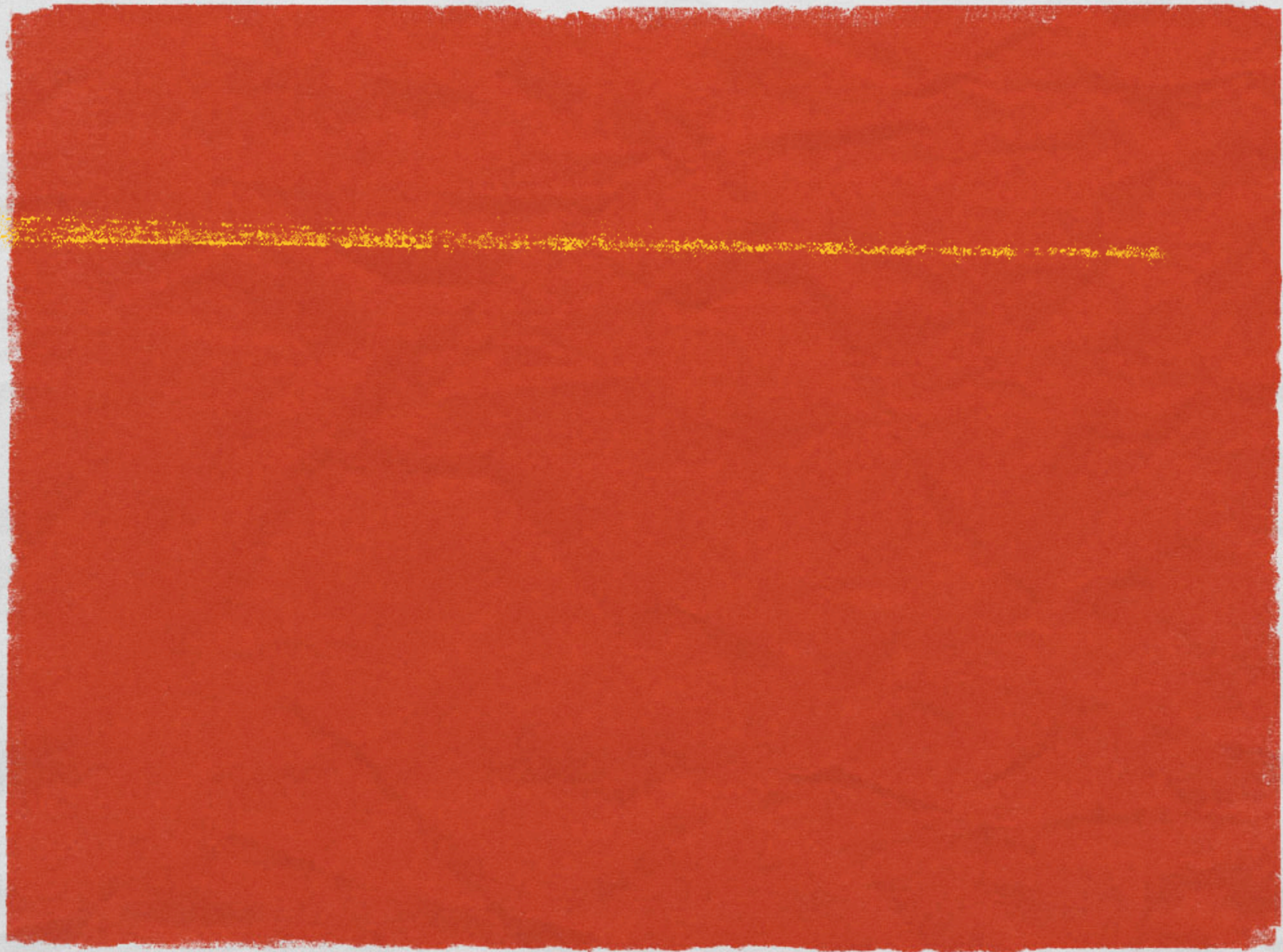
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6. What is Blank Verse?

SHAKESPEARE'S LANGUAGE

- Blank Verse = Unrhymed iambic pentameter
- An iamb = 2 syllables - one unstressed and one stressed
 - pent = 5, meter = beat
- iambic pentameter = 5 iambs per line
- “In fair Verona where we lay our scene”



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- Shakespeare uses many words and phrases that are no longer used. Look to the right hand side of the Cole’s notes page to find translations. For example: “...we’ll not carry coals.” (“carry coals” = submit to insult, like servants.)

PROLOGUE (P.17)

Chorus: Two households, both alike in dignity,

Capulets

Montagues

In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,

[http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Verona,
+&hl=en&ll=42.924252,13.183594&spn=11.195859,22.10
4492&hnear=Verona+Province+of+Verona,+Veneto,
+Italy&t=m&z=6](http://maps.google.com/maps?q=Verona,+&hl=en&ll=42.924252,13.183594&spn=11.195859,22.104492&hnear=Verona+Province+of+Verona,+Veneto,+Italy&t=m&z=6)

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-crossed lovers take their life;

<http://www.whats-your-sign.com/zodiac-sign-dates.html>

Whose misadventured piteous overthrows

Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.

The fearful passage of their death-marked love,

Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
The which of you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.