

## Sample of a Pitch to Editors

---

### Email subject

ROMEO & JULIET by W. Shakespeare – YA fiction submission from BookTrust

### Email body

Dear Editor,

Warring families, a forbidden love, and an unspeakable tragedy – **Romeo & Juliet** encapsulates the intensity of teenage relationships and family drama like no story before.

The Montague and Capulet families are in a long-standing and bloody feud. Romeo meets Juliet at a party and they immediately fall in love, unaware they are from the rival families. Initially upset when they make this discovery, they decide to marry in secret. But their secret marriage is short-lived when Romeo is banished from the city after killing a Capulet in a duel. Devoted to her love, Juliet devises a secret plan to join Romeo, and escape the impending wedding that her father is arranging. She fakes her death with a sleeping potion, and while it prevents the wedding, news of her death reaches Romeo before he is able to hear about her plan, and tragedy follows. Written in iambic pentameter verse, **Romeo & Juliet** tells the story of family rivalry at its most extreme, love at its most intense, and the thrills and despair of first love.

Perfect for readers of Rainbow Rowell and Sarah Crossan, **Romeo & Juliet** is for 14+ readers with an interest in quick-read romances with large-scale drama. This novel also has crossover potential for the adult romance market.

W. Shakespeare is a successful London playwright with over 30 plays to his name, and his theatre troupe has even been invited to perform for the Queen. He specialises in comedy and tragedy, with **Romeo & Juliet** being his first YA tragedy. It was the top-selling YA novel on its release in 1597. It has been translated into over 20 languages and film rights have been sold.

A full synopsis and the text are attached.

Best wishes,  
BookTrust

## Book Synopsis

The bloody rivalry between the Montague and Capulet family shows no sign of abating, despite the Prince of Verona threatening to banish anyone who breaks the peace. When Romeo Montague and his friend sneak into a masked party at the Capulet home, he sees Juliet Capulet across the room and immediately falls in love. They dance and kiss, but never say a word. It is only after asking friends that they discover each other's identity and realise that their love is forbidden. But Romeo, unable to accept this, finds his way to Juliet's balcony that evening, where they declare their love for each other. The following day, they are secretly married by Friar Lawrence.

But Romeo was seen at the Capulet party and is challenged to a duel by Tybalt. He refuses to accept, trying to maintain peace between the families, but Romeo's friend Mercutio is disgusted at the plea for peace and accepts the duel. Mercutio is stabbed and killed by Tybalt, and an enraged Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge. For his crime, the Prince banishes Romeo from Verona.

Juliet is torn when hearing the news that her new husband has killed one of her relatives, but knows she must remain loyal to him. Meanwhile, her father is making plans to arrange a marriage for her in only three days' time to a man named Paris. Unable to confess to her family that she is already married, Juliet and Friar Lawrence devise a plan for her to be reunited with Romeo in Mantua. The Friar concocts a potion to make her appear dead for a period of time, so she can escape the impending wedding. Once her body is taken to the family crypt, the Friar will retrieve her and take her to Romeo.

When the wedding is moved a day forward, Juliet has to take the potion earlier than intended, but it works and she appears dead the following morning. However, news of the plan did not have time to reach Romeo, and he hears only of Juliet's death. Distraught, he decides to kill himself rather than live without her. So he buys a vial of poison and heads to Juliet's tomb so he can die by her side.

On arrival at her tomb, Romeo finds Paris scattering flowers. They fight, and Romeo kills Paris. Romeo then enters the tomb and sees Juliet's body. He drinks the poison and dies by her side. Friar Lawrence then arrives to discover Romeo has killed Paris and himself. It is then that Juliet awakes, and with the watchmen arriving, she refuses to leave Romeo's side. The Friar flees. Juliet realises that Romeo has killed himself with poison, so she kisses his lips hoping it kills her, too. When it doesn't, she buries his dagger in her heart, falls over Romeo's body, and dies.

The Capulet and Montague families arrive at the tomb and, seeing their children's dead bodies, agree to end their long-standing feud.