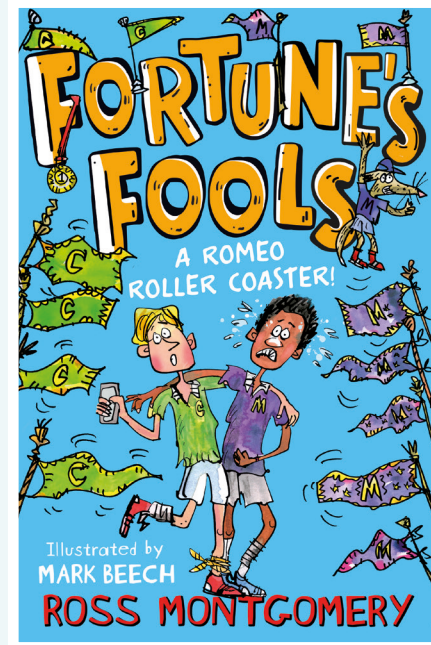




Barrington Stoke

CLASS ACTIVITY PACK



FORTUNE'S FOOLS

Ross Montgomery

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INTRODUCTION

Turning the Capulets and the Montagues from *Romeo and Juliet* into rival school teams, *Fortune's Fools* borrows the key ingredients from Shakespeare's original play and reimagines them in a laugh-out-loud, comedy caper of competitiveness spun out of control.

Top school athletes Dom and Blake have been best friends for ever – B and D, D-Dog and B-Unit, the Cool Combo ... But with Sports Day approaching, their friendship is suddenly under threat. Mr Fortune, their headmaster, has pitted the school houses against each other by naming them after characters from his favourite Shakespearean play, *Romeo and Juliet*. With Dom in Montague House facing Blake from Capulet House, will B and D end the day as mortal enemies or will brotherly love prevail?

This activity pack is designed to provide some inspiration for working with *Fortune's Fools* in the classroom and offers fun, interactive activities to enjoy with the whole classroom. We hope you enjoy exploring this hilarious book and Shakespeare's original with your pupils!



WHAT WAS 'ROMEO AND JULIET'?

Written early in his career, *Romeo and Juliet* was one of Shakespeare's most popular scripts during his lifetime and remains one of his most frequently performed plays. It is a tragedy about the doomed romance of two teenagers from feuding families and is considered the most famous love story ever written.

The plot for *Romeo and Juliet* goes something like this:

Set in Verona, Italy, the play begins with a street brawl between Montague and Capulet servants who (like their masters) are sworn enemies. The Prince of Verona breaks the fight up and declares that any further breaches of the peace will be punishable by death. Later, Count Paris talks to Capulet about marrying his daughter Juliet, but Capulet asks Paris to wait and invites him to attend a Capulet ball. Lady Capulet and Juliet's Nurse try to persuade Juliet to accept Paris's courtship.

Meanwhile, Benvolio talks with his cousin Romeo, Montague's son, about Romeo's recent sadness. Benvolio discovers that Romeo is infatuated with a girl named Rosaline, one of Capulet's nieces. Along with Benvolio and his friend Mercutio, Romeo sneaks into the ball at the Capulet house in the hope of seeing Rosaline. However, Romeo instead meets and falls in love with Juliet. Juliet's cousin, Tybalt, discovers Romeo at the ball and is only stopped from killing him by Juliet's father, who does not want blood shed in his house. After the ball, Romeo sneaks into the Capulet garden and overhears Juliet at her window vowing her love to him in spite of her family's hatred of the Montagues. Romeo reveals himself, vows the same, and they agree to be married. With the help of Friar Lawrence, who hopes to reconcile the two families through this union, they are secretly married the next day.

Tybalt, meanwhile, still enraged that Romeo had sneaked into the Capulet ball, challenges him to a duel. Romeo refuses to fight but Mercutio accepts the duel on Romeo's behalf and is then fatally wounded. He declares a curse upon both households before he dies. Grief-stricken and racked with guilt, Romeo confronts and kills Tybalt.

Benvolio argues that Romeo has justly killed Tybalt for the murder of Mercutio, but the Prince exiles Romeo from Verona under penalty of death if he ever returns. Capulet, misinterpreting Juliet's grief for the loss of Romeo, decides to marry her to Count Paris and threatens to disown her when she tries to refuse.



Juliet visits Friar Lawrence for a way out, and he offers her a potion that will put her into a deathlike coma. The Friar promises to send a message to inform Romeo of the plan so that he can join her when she awakens. On the night before her wedding to Paris, she takes the drug and the next morning is discovered apparently dead. She is laid in the family crypt.

However, the message does not reach Romeo and he hears of Juliet's apparent death. Heartbroken, Romeo buys poison and goes to the Capulet crypt where he drinks it and dies. Juliet then awakens and, discovering Romeo dead, she stabs herself with his dagger. The feuding families and the Prince meet at the tomb to find them dead. The families are reconciled by their children's deaths and agree to end their violent feud. The play ends with the Prince's words for the lovers:

“For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.”

DISCUSSING 'FORTUNE'S FOOLS'

1. *Fortune's Fools* takes the story of *Romeo and Juliet* and then mixes it up, taking the plot and turning it into something new. What similarities to the play can you find in the story?
2. *Fortune's Fools* is a lot less tragic and violent than *Romeo and Juliet* and there's no star-crossed lovers in this version. What replaces the doomed romance and how does the story of the feud resolve differently?
3. In *Romeo and Juliet* there are multiple instances of clashes between Capulets and Montagues. Can you find scenes in *Fortune's Fools* that replicate this aspect of the original play?
4. Pick out the part of the story where you think the feud first began, and decide who you think is to blame. Then, compare your answers with the rest of your class. Did anyone choose the same character/s as you? Can you find any similarities between the cause of the rivalry in *Fortune's Fools* and that of the rift between families in *Romeo and Juliet*?



HOUSE LOYALTY

What do you think the different house flags in *Fortune's Fools* would look like? Design one, including a colour, house mascot and slogan! (Remember, the Montague House mascot is a dog)



Could you write an anthem for one of the houses? Bonus points if you can make it rhyme and fit it to a popular song!



WORDSMITH CHALLENGE

Dom comes up with lots of nicknames for him and Blake - D&B, the Cool Combo, etc. Can you think of any other nicknames for them using alliteration/rhyme/a portmanteau/an acrostic poem?

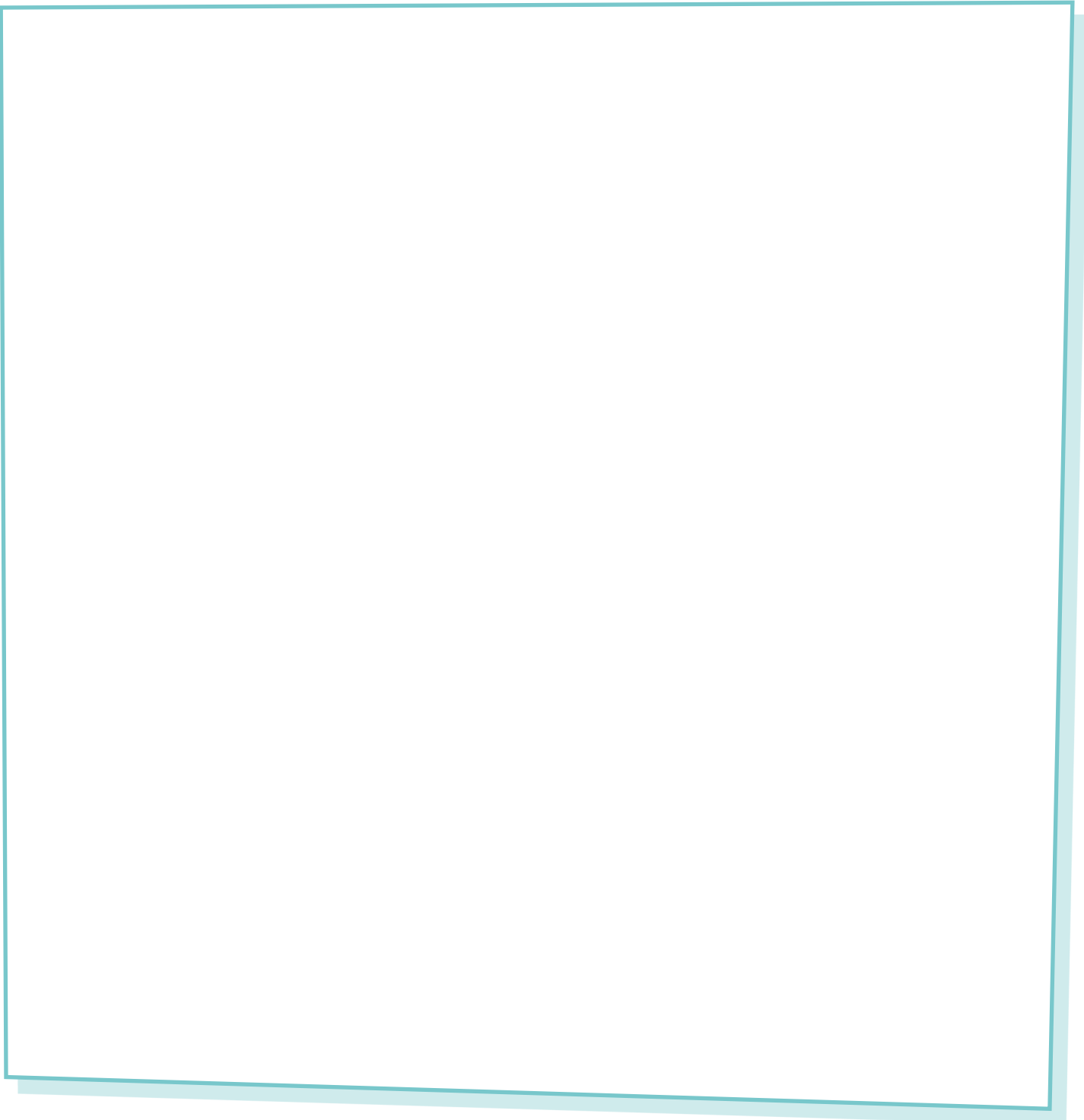


Portmanteau: a word blending the sounds and meanings of two others - for example, “brunch”

Acrostic poem: a poem in which certain letters of each line spells out a word, name or phrase when read vertically

POSTER CHALLENGE

Design a poster for the school sports day, pretending that you're either: Mr Fortune; Miss Plant; or Mrs Prince. What kind of language would they use? Think about the different motivations or feelings of each character ahead of the school sports day.



BE A SHAKESPEARE STUDENT

Shakespeare was famous for inventing new words and phrases in his plays that have become part of the English language that we still use today. Can you match the word with the meaning? We've completed the first one to give you a clue!

Bandit	Jealous or envious
Critic	Walk or behave very confidently
Dauntless	Get gradually smaller in size or amount
Dwindle	To take off your clothes
Green-Eyed	A robber or outlaw belonging to a gang
Heart of gold	Unnatural or mysterious
Hot-blooded	Someone who expresses an unfavourable opinion
Lacklustre	Lacking in energy or strength
Leapfrog	Showing no fear
Swagger	To jump over a person or thing
Undress	Having a generous nature
Unearthly	Passionate



STORYBOARD TIME!

Imagine that *Fortune's Fools* was made into a film. Could you make a storyboard of the relay scene, using a mixture of close-ups, action shots, and reactions from the crowd?

BECOME A PLAYWRIGHT

Fortune's Fools takes a play and turns it into a story – what if it was turned back into a play?
Choose a scene from the book and write a script for it, including stage directions. You don't have to stick to the exact lines in the book – add some of your own, too!

EXAMPLE

[Act 1]
[Scene 1]

Enter Sampson and Gregory, with swords and bucklers, in the house of Capulet.

SAMPSON Gregory, on my word we'll not carry coals
GREGORY No, for then we should be colliers

A large rectangular area with a light blue border, containing 25 horizontal lines for writing.

REVIEWING 'FORTUNE'S FOOLS'

A big part of publishing books and putting on plays is having people review them. Using the templates below tell everyone what you thought of *Fortune's Fools* by Ross Montgomery:

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____ **ILLUSTRATOR:** _____

DID YOU LIKE THE BOOK?

GIVE IT A RATING OUT OF FIVE STARS:




HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE BOOK?

WHAT DID YOU LIKE OR DISLIKE ABOUT THIS BOOK?

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PART?

**DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE SCENE
FROM THE BOOK:**



We've left this template completely blank so that you can use it for other books that you've enjoyed! Why not start a collection of your own reviews?