How are the two households alike?

What is the history between the families like? Have things changed now?

What might this line tell us about life in Verona? Why do you think that?

What do these lines suggest about Romeo and Juliet’s relationship?

What did it take for the parents to end their rivalry?

The lines in bold summarise the main points (the two hours’ traffic) of the play. Can you translate each line to work out what they are?

1.

2.

3.

**Glossary**

Dignity – Sense of pride/self-respect

New mutiny – A new battle / rebellion

Civil – Civilians (people)

Fatal loins of these two foes – Two enemies had children

Cross'd – hindered/defeated

Whose misadventured piteous overthrows – whose unfortunate, heart breaking, rebellions

Strife- conflict / rivalry

**PROLOGUE**

Two households, both alike in dignity,

In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,

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-cross'd lovers take their life;

Whose misadventured piteous overthrows

Do with their death bury their parents' strife.

**The fearful passage of their death-mark'd love,**

**And the continuance of their parents' rage,**

**Which, but their children's end, nought could remove,**

Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage.