



SUMMARY

Bursting with pop anthems and rebellious wit, *& Juliet* flips the script on a famous tragic ending. When William Shakespeare tries to conclude his tragic love story *Romeo and Juliet*, his wife Anne Hathaway intervenes, imagining a world where Juliet doesn't die. Instead, she sets off to Paris, a city where she discovers that love isn't destiny but a choice. Through dance parties, new loves, and a hilarious subplot where even Juliet's Nurse finds love, *& Juliet's* soundtrack of chart-topping hits asks whether we're brave enough to write our own stories. In the end, Juliet claims authorship of her life, and Anne Hathaway teaches her husband a few things about women.

CHARACTER GUIDE

Juliet: She's not dead after all! Newly awakened to the possibilities of her own life, Juliet refuses to be defined by a tragic ending written by a man.

Anne Hathaway: Anne is much more than Shakespeare's wife. She is bold, witty, and fiercely intelligent. Determined to give Juliet a second chance, she reshapes the story from the inside, which unfolds right before our eyes.

William Shakespeare: A brilliant but ego-driven playwright who believes he knows how stories should end. Through Anne's intervention, he's forced to confront his assumptions about love, tragedy, and authorship.

Romeo: Also not dead! Earnest and impulsive, Romeo clings to grand romantic gestures even as the world moves on without him.

May: Juliet's best friend is confident, perceptive, and more than any simple definition of gender could handle. May navigates questions of identity and belonging while modeling genuine self-acceptance.

Angelique: Juliet's nurse and confidant, now with a romantic storyline of her own! Warm, grounded, and funny, she proves it's never too late to claim joy and find love.

Lance: A self-absorbed father who must confront his own emotional limitations.

François: Lance's son. François is thoughtful, sincere, and seeking connection.



EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

Writing (spoiler alert!)

& Juliet offers an alternative ending to one of the world's most famous stories. What other story would you like to see receive an alternate ending? Think of a movie, novel, play, or TV show that you wish had ended differently, and write a two-paragraph summary of how you would change the ending. Then, in the style of *& Juliet*, pick a popular song for one of the characters to sing at a crucial part of your new story.

Embodying

& Juliet is also a celebration of some of the greatest pop songs of the last 50 years, from Britney Spears to Katy Perry to Bon Jovi. Pick one of the pop songs from *& Juliet* and create your own dance in the style of one of the characters from the play. Think about who the character is dancing for, and what they are saying. Which song from the show best tells this story, and how does the character move?

Contextual

This musical turns Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* on its head, but it's not the first adaptation of the famous play. Before seeing *& Juliet*, watch another adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*, such as *West Side Story*, Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet*, or even *Gnomeo and Juliet*. Then, after seeing *& Juliet*, write a short essay comparing and contrasting the adaptations. Think about what each adaptation sets out to accomplish. How are they different, and how are they similar?