

Romeo and Juliet

The blurb

When you choose a book to read, usually you tend to look at the back cover first, for it is here that a brief description of the book is given. This is called the *blurb*.



HERE IS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF A BLURB:

Bill Bailey, the rugged Liverpudlian, was now a fully-fledged Tyneside building contractor, as staunchly loyal to his squad of workmen as they were to him. He had also met and married Fiona, a young widow with her own loveable family, to which she and Bill shortly added by the adoption of the orphaned Mamie.

Life might be good, but the economic climate was growing distinctly cloudy, and it was vital that Bill land the contract for a major development scheme. Competition was fierce, and when his men came under attack, Bill was sure that someone was out to spoil their chances for the job.

Meanwhile, there were ructions on the domestic front. One of their children, Willie, acquired a new friend, Sammy Love, and although Fiona had grave doubts about this formidable lad and his colourful language, it was Sammy - and his father - who would make a special contribution to the lives and fortunes of Bill Bailey's lot.

Bill Bailey's Lot by C. Cookson

THE PROLOGUE OF *ROMEO AND JULIET* IS LIKE THE BLURB OF A MODERN DAY BOOK. IT TELLS US ABOUT THE PLAY.

TASK A. WHAT DOES IT TELL US ABOUT:

1. The two families at the beginning of the play?
2. The fate of the two lovers?
3. The two families at the end of the play?

TASK B.

1. In rough:

Using the prologue as a basis, write a modern day blurb for *Romeo and Juliet*.

2. On plain paper:

Design a book cover for the play. Remember a book is made up of a front cover, a spine and a back cover. Write your blurb onto the back cover before illustrating the front.