**Title:** Romeo & Juliet: A Verona Tragedy in 15 Minutes

**Cast:** 5 Actors (ages 12–14)

**Doubling Roles:**

* **Actor 1:** Romeo / Prince
* **Actor 2:** Juliet / Benvolio
* **Actor 3:** Nurse / Lady Capulet
* **Actor 4:** Mercutio / Friar Laurence
* **Actor 5:** Tybalt / Narrator

**Setting:** Minimal stage. Platforms or labeled cubes. Props: colored sashes, simple hats or masks to suggest characters. Modern dress encouraged.

**[Prologue – Narrator enters center stage]**

**NARRATOR (A5):**  
Two households, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,  
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life—  
And now, we tell their tale in fifteen minutes flat!

*(Snaps fingers. Lights change. Music begins for party.)*

**Scene 1: The Party**

**ROMEO (A1):**  
What lady is that who doth enrich the hand  
Of yonder knight?

**JULIET (A2):**  
Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,  
Which mannerly devotion shows in this.

*(They touch hands.)*

**TYBALT (A5):**  
Uncle, this is a Montague—our foe!  
I'll not endure him.

**LADY CAPULET (A3):**  
Let him be. Verona shall not see blood this night.

**ROMEO:**  
If I profane with my unworthiest hand…

**JULIET:**  
Then my lips, ready stand…

*(They kiss. NURSE rushes in.)*

**NURSE (A3):**  
Juliet! Your mother calls. Also—he's a Montague!

*(They gasp. Freeze. Lights shift.)*

**Scene 2: The Secret Wedding**

**FRIAR LAURENCE (A4):**  
Young love, burning bright and fast…  
Still, I shall marry thee, in hopes this love will mend the feud.

*(ROMEO and JULIET clasp hands.)*

**FRIAR:**  
With this vow, let love unite what hate divides.

**Scene 3: The Street Fight**

**MERCUTIO (A4):**  
Tybalt, you rat-catcher, will you walk?

**TYBALT (A5):**  
Draw, if you be men!

*(They sword fight. ROMEO intervenes.)*

**ROMEO (A1):**  
Stop! Enough!

*(TYBALT stabs MERCUTIO.)*

**MERCUTIO:**  
A plague on both your houses… I am sped.

*(Dies. TYBALT exits. ROMEO returns.)*

**ROMEO:**  
Tybalt is slain. I am fortune’s fool!

**PRINCE (A1):**  
Romeo, for thy crime, be banishèd from Verona!

**Scene 4: The Plan**

**JULIET (A2):**  
I’ll to the Friar. I’d rather die than marry Paris.

**FRIAR (A4):**  
Take this vial. It brings death-like sleep.  
You shall awaken with Romeo at your side.

*(JULIET drinks. NURSE screams. Procession crosses.)*

**Scene 5: The Tomb**

**ROMEO (A1):**  
Here lies Juliet, my love, my wife…  
I’ll stay with thee, and never from this palace of dim night depart.

*(Drinks poison. JULIET wakes.)*

**JULIET (A2):**  
What’s this? A cup? My love is gone!  
O happy dagger—this is thy sheath!

*(She dies. NARRATOR returns.)*

**[Epilogue**

**– Narrator center stage]**

**NARRATOR (A5):**  
Their deaths marked the end of their parents' hate.  
A tragic love, too late understood.  
Thus ends the tale of Romeo and Juliet.

**[Lights fade. Curtain.]**