Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pd. \_\_\_\_\_

***Romeo and Juliet*: Prologue Close Reading**

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-crossed lovers take their life,

Whose misadventured piteous overthrows

Doth with their death bury their parents’ strife.

The fearful passage of their death-marked 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,

The which if you with patient ears attend,

What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

1. Circle any words in the Prologue that you don’t know. Use the words in the box plus one you circled to complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Possible Meaning** | **Actual Meaning** |
| mutiny |  |  |
| piteous |  |  |
|  |  |  |

----------------🡪 Turn me over!

2. Choose three lines of the prologue and put them into your own words. You should have at least three lines written.

3. Put a box around words in the sonnet that relate to fate.

4. What is a mood of this Prologue? Answer the question and list words in the sonnet that help illustrate this mood.

5. What is the purpose of this Prologue? Why might Shakespeare have chosen to start his play this way?