

# THE MONTHLY TRAILER

The Month of Love



**Editors: Bennu Turan**

**Elif Külâh**

**Writers:**

Yeliz Mina Çellik

Defne Kanat

Duru Berna Bilgin

Elif Külâh

Elif Naz Nurtin

Selin Gürler

Tan Gözâlıcı

Ayşe Umay Çalışkan

Ceylin Atalay

Hasan Alp Korkusuz

Işık Yavuz

Selen İnal

Selim Enneli

Yağmur Batur

**With supports of Ms. Yavuz**

# HERE'S THIS MONTH'S PLAYLIST!



# TFL MUN '25



As you all know TFLMUN'25 took place on January 11 and 12. The committees were DISEC, ECOSOC, UNW, UNICEF and HUMAN RIGHTS. A special committee was held for the second time this year: The Star Wars committee, which was my favorite. Everyone really took the committee seriously and their cosplays were amazing! The fashion show that was held at the end of the first day breathed life into the conference. The theme was "How would you dress if you were a lesson?". Everyone's costumes were so creative and the effort they put in was clear. Thanks to the quality of this year's organization, the progress of the committees progressed really well and it was the best conference in the history of TFLMUN. According to many students, this conference was better than others. We can also learn the reasons that make this conference more special from the interviews we conducted with our students who attended the conference.

Here's the interview we did with our director general, Selin Atilla:

**Q- What are your general thoughts about the conference?**

**Selin:** "I am the director general of TFLMUN'25. We wanted to make it unforgettable for every participant since it was our last conference as seniors and we believe that we succeeded. Including the preparations it took us 5 months. We had some troubles, especially with sponsor videos, but we managed to get through them all. Overall the process was a bit exhausting but we had so much fun, so it didn't matter. Moving on with the conference, it was magical. The committees had some ups and downs. We had a Star Wars committee which was incredible by the way. To be honest, that committee was the best one that I've ever participated in my MUN career. The best moment of TFLMUN'25 was the closing ceremony. We were really emotional and we tried so hard not to cry on stage, but in the end we all did. We didn't want it to end, we had so much fun."

**Q- What has been your favorite MUN moment throughout your MUN career?**

**Selin:** "Before TFLMUN'25 my favorite MUN moment was me earning the best delegate prize at MCMUN. It was unbelievable, I worked really hard and when I was recognized for my efforts I was very happy."



Here's the interview conducted with our co-chair of UNICEF, Doğa Karasu:

**Q- What are you feeling about being the co-chair of 7th and 8th graders?**

**Doğa:** "Doing MUN with the little ones wasn't as bad as we thought, in fact it was a lot of fun. I think our committee may have been more fruitful than the others, because it was the delegates' first time and they didn't know what to do. They had to listen and watch us attentively in order to learn. It was easier to control the committee since they were younger. I had so much fun. It was such an honor to explain the procedure to inexperienced people and see what they achieved thanks to our guidance. We couldn't have made it if the delegates didn't want to succeed."

**Q- What was the most creative gossip you've ever received?**

**Doğa:** "The most creative gossip I've ever received was 'Why are the chairs single? They are both gorgeous.' The answer is: we don't know."





Here's the interview we did with our chair of the Star Wars committee, Mehmet Doğu Çiftçi:

**Q- What do you think about TFLMUN?**

**Doğu:** "I have witnessed all three years of TFLMUN, twice as a delegate and this year as a chairboard member. What I appreciate about this organization is not just how great it is (although it truly is great); what I truly love about it is that it is a result of the resolve and determination of both the students who participate and our English teachers, especially Ms. Duygu Ünal who has tirelessly orchestrated this beautiful organisation with utmost care for three years. For this reason, I find it difficult to criticize, as I cannot overlook the immense effort put into the conference, with so many sacrificing their time and energy, while little is provided in terms of finances and logistics. Especially compared to some other organisations, I believe TFLMUN does not receive the care and support it truly deserves. It is an organisation that brings the school together near the end of the semester, it gives us joy and calms our mind after exhausting months."

**Q- What do you think about the special committee?**

**Doğu:** "Last year TFLMUN had its first special committee, simulating a showdown between prominent politicians and intellectuals in the aftermath of the declaration of the Republic of Türkiye. I was given the role İsmet İnönü and I had the chance to witness how much care and importance the organisation team and Ms. Duygu gave to that committee, as they did for this year's committee as well. In fact, this year's committee wasn't on the table until our USG, Eda Doğa Uğurdan, proposed the idea to Ms. Duygu. She reacted with excitement and interest, which also encouraged us to work for a good crisis committee."

For me, it was surprising because neither Cemre nor I had any prior crisis experience and only Eda did. It's truly fair to say that she ended up covering for our inexperience and supporting us, sometimes even positively acting like a "babysitter" to help us manage our committees during the conference.

It was a first, as a crisis committee, but was an amazing experience. I didn't feel like a chair but like a delegate myself. The delegates were so excited and proactive during the sessions that their energy swept me up, and I found myself caught up in the Galactic War, fighting alongside them. The committee also had a very funny ending, where we ended up capturing the Republican capital and they captured ours simultaneously. And from the chaos, Palpatine (who was actually Eda) initiated the Order 66 and we all died. Oops.



**Q- Do you have any suggestions for improvement?**

**Doğu:** "I believe TFLMUN has a great future but it as day passes the ability of seniors and teachers to sustain this effort goes lower. We need the other grades to lend their help and energy to keep the tradition going. Also, considering the growing economic hardships, that kind of extra help is totally necessary. TFLMUN is not just an MUN conference, you can always find that outside our school. It is not just any conference but two days of pure joy, excitement and fun for us highschoolers and even some 7th and 8th graders. We need TFLMUN and TFLMUN needs the students."

Here's the interview conducted with our Secretary General Rya Erdemir:

**Q- What are your feelings and thoughts about this conference?**

**Rya:** "This year, since it was our last activity in high school, it was also our final MUN as students. Therefore, it was extra meaningful for us. We really put a lot of effort into the preparation phase, it wasn't just an ordinary MUN for us. We wanted everyone to have beautiful and long-lasting memories. We kept saying, 'Let's make this MUN different.' and it truly was. Especially as the academic team from the English department, including me, Selin Atilla, Tuna Kesen, Oğuzhan Sevinç, and Ms. Duygu, we were constantly having meetings. What really made this MUN different, in my opinion, was the outstanding success and quality of the organization. The organizing team, including IT, press, entertainment, etc., also worked hard. The entertainment team was constantly designing games. To make this year different, we organized a fashion show. In the end, after we hit our gavels at the closing ceremony on Sunday, delegates came up to us and said, 'This MUN was the best.' We received such great feedback and we really felt that we achieved our goal, which was the most important thing for us. The sponsorship shoots, the preparation phase, in short, everything we did created beautiful memories. There was nothing I disliked or criticized. I just wish it hadn't been so short. Everyone was so friendly, and our teamwork was amazing."

**Q- What is your favorite gossip you've ever received so far?**

**Rya:** "In the 2023 TFLMUN held at school, I was representing the United States in the Health Committee. And all the crises were about America. There were two gossips in that committee: one said, 'Rya will be triggered every time America is mentioned,' and the other said, 'America, stop drinking water.' I was so stressed during that conference that I was drinking water every 5 minutes. Whenever someone mentioned America in the GSL, everyone would turn and look at me, and I would be drinking water out of stress."

**Q- What is your favorite MUN moment?**

**Rya:** "In this MUN, during the last session, Tuna and I visited each committee one by one. People congratulated us and thanked us for how well everything went. The UNICEF committee with the middle schoolers, in particular, came over to thank us as well. Those moments made me feel very proud and happy."



Here are the MUN crush memories we received anonymously, in the name of love:

*"I'm going to tell you about my best MUN crush moment. There was a very handsome admin in my committee of a conference I attended. I exchanged glances with him throughout the committee. I constantly sent him message papers just to get him to come to me. I couldn't even focus on the committee at all. Then, during one session, he suddenly left and was replaced by another admin. I was so sad to see him gone. Then he came back and I wrote 'You made me miss you' on a message paper and gave it to him. But in the end nothing happened between us unfortunately."*

*"In a conference I attended, I developed a crush on the co-chair. He was very quiet and didn't seem very social. Since he was quite tall, I thought he was older than us, but later I found out he was the same age as us. I decided to give it a shot and sent him a message. After chatting for a bit, he suddenly sent me a cat gif and wrote underneath, 'Sorry, I don't know how to talk to girls.' I didn't message him again after that."*



**Elif KÜLAH 11/C**

## What is Valentine's Day ?

Valentine's Day originated as a Christian feast day to honor a martyr named Valentine. However, over time, it evolved into a cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance, which is celebrated annually on February 14th.

## The story of St. Valentine

The day gets its name from a famous saint, but there are multiple stories about who he was. Most people believe that he was a priest in Rome during the 3rd century. Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he believed that married soldiers were bad at their job. But Valentine felt that this was unjust and decided to arrange marriages secretly. When Claudius found out, he threw Valentine in jail and sentenced him to death. While in prison, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter, and on February 14th he was executed. Before his execution, he sent her a love letter.

## Consumption on Valentine's Day

Many of the days we now celebrate have become the focus of consumption, and Valentine's Day is the cornerstone of this consumption culture. It has transformed into a day where we buy gifts to make someone happy and to prove our love to them. This reflects how commercial interests have shaped the way we express love and affection. It has led us to think that giving material gifts and making extravagant gestures is the primary way to celebrate this day. Flowers and jewelry dominate the marketplace and are seen as traditional symbols of love. The day also encourages people to spend on experiences like romantic dinners. Big companies have successfully marketed these activities as obligatory through extravagant advertisements. As we can see, they became successful by making people view giving expensive gifts as normal.

## Overall

Nowadays, although it gives us an opportunity to have fun with the one we love, Valentine's Day is the symbol of love, romance, and consumption.

Hasan Alp KORKUSUZ 10/B



---

## LOVE- Desiring the Impossible

Love is a really interesting emotion as it creates a form of relationship that everyone wants to achieve and considers almost impossible to find or maintain. In terms of these two aspects, I believe love is a form of pursuit and a source of sadness. It is a form of pursuit because it is thought that if there really is true love, no one and nothing can withstand its power. It is, however, a source of sadness too because everyone knows that true love is hard to find, and it is almost impossible. Then, one needs to ask himself/ herself: "Why are humans so eager to find true love if it makes them so upset? What is love and why is it so hard to achieve?"

Love is to desire to be with someone with all your heart and to lose yourself in that person. 'Losing the self in someone else' is a tricky condition for love. One may want to be with one's kin, friends, teachers, and so on. When love is at issue, however, wanting to be with someone seems like an inevitable desire. A loving person's only and true motivation is now that desire to the extent that he or she acts without considering the meaning beyond them. I think that ignoring or even forgetting the meaning of behaviours is the primary condition of love. That's why when worldly purposes become important in any relationship, love begins to fade away and disappears. Long-term relationships like marriage are so full of daily preoccupations that it is often acknowledged that it is not easy to maintain love in them, even if it started out as love.

Most of the famous authors believe that factors like daily routines, working life and money can disrupt true love. And if the relationship progresses without true love, it would have been a relationship with no soul where there aren't any emotional desires for one another. Some authors even argue that true love can only be preserved when lovers can't get together. Parallel to the latter, there is a strong Sufi tradition that associates the irreconcilable relationship between two people with true love, and in this way equates the only true love with that which is directed towards God. After a brief reflection, I may give examples like Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and *Flaubert's Madame Bovary* for the former and Orhan Pamuk's *Museum of Innocence* for the latter. *Ferhat and Şirin*, *Kerem and Aslı*, *Leyla and Mecnun* are the examples of Sufi tradition where human beings fell in love but never met.

So why can't humans stop chasing love? There may be several answers to this question. I think, however, that there are a few that are more prominent than the others. First of all, humans are social creatures and rather than staying alone, they prefer to spend time with people they love. They want others to be on their sides on special days like celebrations or even funerals. Surely, people may share their special occasions with their relatives. But a loved person signifies the loving person's life with almost all transcendental qualities.

Second of all, the ones in love usually cannot abandon love even if they want to. We can voluntarily separate ourselves from many of our habits and relationships. Love is, however, an involuntary and inevitable emotion. It is like a trick of God because we cannot know why and when it exactly happens and we cannot get rid of it even if we want to. It's almost like people were chosen by god to be couples and to be in love. Eros, the God of Love, probably lives among us and plays tricks on us.

Love is a really special quality that only humans have. It directs certain emotional actions towards somebody and there isn't any clear reasoning behind these actions. One may underestimate the feeling of love but it is a power not to be underestimated. Once you fall in love, you will feel a flood of emotions. It will be weird but nice at the same time. I highly suggest you search for your true love but also don't forget that it can find you at the least expected and strangest times.

Selim ENNELİ 10/B

# Valentine's Day. Every single person's nightmare

A year has passed, and it's that day of the year once again. As the first flowers of spring bloom, most people start getting ready for this day. Everything has to be perfect: the best restaurants, the best gifts, and so on. All that for what? To survive another Valentine's Day. But hold up! This one's special because you'll get a special discount for Valentine's Day when buying gifts!

I wouldn't really say that I "hate" Valentine's Day. I actually enjoy seeing happy couples. If anything, my feelings about this day stem more from bitterness. So, if there are any couples or anyone with a significant other reading this, take what I'm saying with a grain of salt.

Valentine's Day is that one day every couple looks forward to, but for what? Just to feel special because they're not alone on this day? I understand that this date has a significant historical meaning (dating back to Ancient Rome), but on this day and at my age, it just feels like another regular day with extra rose petals on top. Plus, can you really call it a "special day" when almost half of the world is also doing the exact same thing you and your partner are doing? Going to the restaurant where you first met? Well, at least 100 other people in your own city are probably doing that too!

Special days like wedding anniversaries are understandable reasons for celebration. It's a day meant only for you and the love of your life. But then, you add Valentine's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, and all the other regular dates you go on. All these important dates just keep piling up until you can't keep track of them anymore. I'm not even going to mention the financial burden of all these special days.

And then there are the single people, having to watch the tenth ad about a new Valentine's Day special campaign while eating a pint of ice cream on their couch, all alone. The second the calendar turns to February, every single media outlet is focused on this day. Well, I don't really find it odd, as it's the same thing that happens for Halloween, Christmas, and other such holidays. However, if I see another couple I don't know making a batch of cookies for their valentine, I'm going to lose it.

I'm sure I am not the only one thinking this way. In some cultures, like Korea, there are people who have their own "way" of celebrating this day. In Korea, on April 14th, single people come together to eat Jajangmyeon (black noodles) with other single friends. After having to witness cute couples for a month straight, it's normal to want a break as well.

And the worst thing about Valentine's Day? What if you broke up with your significant other on that day (or close to it)? Especially if it was a long-term and serious relationship?? Not only will your heart break be remembered and celebrated each year by everyone in the world, but if you have future partners, you'll have to go on dates on the day you and your ex broke up!

To sum it up, Valentine's Day is overrated. Go take over the world with your partner instead of going on a generic date.

**Yeliz Mina Emili ÇELLİK 10/B**

# HOW TO HAVE THE BEST VALENTINE'S DAY

It's that time of the year again- hearts are full of excitement, people are buying presents for their loved ones, and stores are being decorated in red. Yes, Christmas has passed, but you surely know what we're talking about: Valentine's Day! But unlike many other holidays, Valentine's Day is a bit controversial. Some people believe it was invented by greedy capitalists, arguing that if you truly love someone, why should you have to express your feelings on just one specific day? To be honest, I don't entirely disagree with them. However, it brings a bit of change to our lives, and it's such a fun occasion. So why not choose to enjoy it? But how, exactly? Don't worry—I've got you covered! I'll show you how to decide what to do and how to have a fun Valentine's Day, whether or not you have a Valentine.

Before we start, if you're expecting me to list all the clichés, don't waste your time- just buy a rose or maybe a box of chocolate if you're feeling generous!

**Valentine's Day is not only the perfect opportunity to show how much you care for your significant other but also a great time to appreciate the people in your life and express your love for them.**

1. First things first, you're going to need a pen and paper for this.
2. Now, take a moment to think of every single person you spend time with. As you think about them, try to understand what you truly feel about each one. Do they warm your heart? Or maybe just remembering their name is enough to put a smile on your face? Do they make you feel uncomfortable? Hopefully, it's not the last option, but either way, the point is to focus on the positive emotions they bring about. Think of as many people as possible to write down.
3. Then, write the names down. (You don't have to be really close with these people, but I wouldn't suggest writing a love letter to your doorman just because he's a nice old man.)
4. Here comes the hardest part: deciding what would make them feel good and loved. For this step, you will need to empathize. Imagine this: you are that person, and you love somebody. What could they do to make you feel special? This is how you'll figure out the gift you're going to give or the activity you're going to plan. (Write this down as well.)
5. Finally, it's time to decide on the date. Yes, Valentine's Day is a single day, I know! However, since you're not only celebrating the love between you and your girlfriend/ boyfriend, you can spread the gifting process over a week. As I've already mentioned, if you love somebody, you don't only celebrate your relationship on one day just because someone else told you to do so. And if you're planning to go out with your Valentine, don't be afraid to simply ask when they are available.

**Ayşe Umay ÇALIŞKAN 9/A**

## DATE IDEAS FOR A PERFECT DAY

Planning a date can be both exciting and a little overwhelming. Whether you're looking for something romantic or fun. For the boys that are planning a date for February 14th, I think I can help you by telling you about my ideal date plan.

### **Adventurous couples, gather here!**

For Thrill- seeking and explorative couples! There are lots of options for you to keep the thrill alive. Start with outdoor activities... You can go on a hike together in a beautiful forested area or experience zip-lining; both will be incredibly fun for you. For water lovers, you can go kayaking, paddleboarding, or even try surfing together. Another idea would be snorkeling, where you can discover various types of fish together and learn about them. It can be very unique and interesting. Furthermore, you can take a hot air balloon ride in Cappadocia, which I believe is the city of love in Turkey. It offers breathtaking views that are truly mesmerizing. These dates are perfect for creating unforgettable memories with your partner.

### **Foodie Couples**

Everyone loves food, so you can plan a date where you will discover new flavors. Attend a cooking class together, try out a new food truck, or have a picnic in the park with a basket full of your favorite snacks. Making a pizza night where you both customize your own flavored pizzas would be unforgettable. You can make pasta, hamburgers, or a dessert and eat them together for dinner. The possibilities are endless. Don't forget to light some candles and prepare a beautifully decorated table.

### **Artsy and Chill**

For creative couples, I recommend the increasingly popular Lego-building date. You can create 3D flower-shaped Legos and keep them in your room as a lasting memory—flowers that never wither and will always remind you of your special moments. Another great idea is attending a clay mug-making workshop, where you can discover hidden talents in each other. It's also a relaxing activity that allows you to talk and connect in a calm environment.

### **My Ideal Date**

My ideal date would probably be a cooking date. For example, something like a competition to make the best cookies. I'd love to spend a delightful evening chatting and bonding while making two different types of cookies, all accompanied by some good music.



Sezin Ceylin ATALAY 12/C

# Reflection of Love in Literature and Cinema

Love has been one of the most universal and powerful emotions in human history and is a theme that has left deep marks in the arts. Love, one of the fundamental building blocks of human relationships, both individually and socially, has been reflected in different ways in every field of art. Literature and cinema are one of the most effective ways to explain and understand love.

## ***The Relationship of Love with Literature***

Literature offers the opportunity to delve into the depths of the human psyche and explore love from many different perspectives. Poets, novelists, and playwrights have often described love in terms of existential struggle, passionate attachment, loss, and human suffering. Love is not only an individual emotion, but also a social and cultural phenomenon reflected in literary works.

For example, Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", a forbidden love story, describes the passionate devotion of young people to each other and the social conflict that develops around it, while also explaining the power of love and the risk of it being destructive. This work presents readers with both the redemptive and destructive aspects of love. Love is a theme that is covered in a wide range in Turkish literature. Tevfik Fikret, Orhan Veli Kanık, Nazım Hikmet and many other poets have depicted love in both an individual and a social context.

In novels, love has also been used as a tool to question a person's inner conflicts, social pressures, and psychological depths. For example, Tolstoy's novel "Anna Karenina" questions how love can change an individual's life and how it can conflict with societal norms.

Literature, while narrating love, emphasizes not only its emotional dimension but also the effects of time, place and culture on love. Every love story reflects the values, moral understandings and perspectives of the society to which it belongs.

## ***The Relationship of Love with Cinema***

Cinema can convey love directly and impressively by using the power of visual narration. Visual and auditory elements convey the emotional states, inner conflicts and romantic bonds of the characters to the audience much more powerfully. In cinema, love is sometimes shaped by heroism, sometimes by dramatic tragedy and sometimes by absurd comedy.

Classic films like Casablanca, a love affair shaped in the shadow of war, demonstrate both the political context of the period and the power of individual love. Titanic integrates the social gap between wealth and poverty, and the destructive power of time and space into the dramatic structure of love.





The most dramatic reflection of love can be seen in films such as *The Notebook*, where love is portrayed as a form of resistance against the relentlessness of time and memory. Similarly, modern films such as *La La Land* show that love can often be a dream and an ideal, and can clash with the practical realities of life.

***The Universality of Love and Its Change Over Time***

Literature and cinema also reflect the universality of love and how it has changed over time. Love has been defined and narrated in different ways in different periods of history, in line with social structures, norms and individual expectations. However, love has always remained as a theme belonging to the depths of the human soul and has created a universal language.

Especially in recent years, love has begun to be addressed in a more diverse and independent way in cinema and literature. Love narratives that go beyond traditional love stories and include cultural differences, different social classes, and originalities allow this emotion to be addressed in a more inclusive and multidimensional way.

**Selin GÜRLER 10/B**

## An Astronomer's Love Letter

*My dear beloved Moon,*

*As the moonlight shines on your wavy hair, golden-brown waves wash the shores of my lonely heart. As your smile brightens my eyes, all the other lights dim —a moment that lasts forever. As your eyes shine brightly like stars, just then, I realize that everything that I need to see is in your eyes. And as all of this happens, I am walking down the narrow road of my heart. Don't get me wrong, the road is as wide as it can be, but my legs just won't let me walk anywhere except the small path that leads to you.*

*Because only you can make my legs run like never before and my heart beat like thunder. Even though everything about me in you is my reflection in your eyes, my heart is blind enough to love you forever, no matter what. That's why, blinded by your light, I'm running down a narrow road. But before all that, I remember the first step I took on your path. When I first saw you, when I first looked into your eyes, I saw only one thing: the stars shining at me. When I first saw your face, I saw only one thing: the beauty and sacredness of your presence. When I first saw you, the moon had started shining inside my heart. Since that day, the moon has never stopped ascending in my heart. It happened right after I first saw you. I can't tell what it was, but it turned my life upside down. I knew it, but I hadn't admitted it. When I saw you again, the next day, dancing with the stars on the dancefloor of the night, I couldn't resist anymore. Love had struck me as deeply as it could. Love had made me blind preventing me from seeing it coming. I hadn't seen you entering my life, through my eyes, and straight into my heart. I am the one loving you, by being yours now.*

*Maybe if something had been different,  
Or if you hadn't been there that day.  
Oh, dear, if I hadn't seen you,  
Nothing would be the same as it is now.*

*But if I had a thousand lives and a million years to live as I wish, I would still choose to spend them with you. And if I had everyone waiting beside my heart, my doors would remain open only to you, my love. Because no man can take his eyes off the moon, even if he could see all the stars. The sun is just an illusion of love- something everyone can see and adore. But loving you is both a gift and a sacrifice, a war and a peace, a blessing and a curse. Seeing you pass by my heart every single day, enlightening it with your light, yet never being able to reach you, is the sweetest torment I could ever wish for.*

*Now that I have met you and hopelessly fallen in love, only one thing can soothe my heartache: letting my hand reach for you every midnight when our hearts are perfectly aligned, or letting my eyes lose themselves selflessly in the stars of your beautiful eyes. Only then can I feel the comfort of your love. Only then can I feel that I am something- your lover.*

That was what was written inside the letter, rolled up like a telescope and left on her doorstep. She picked it up and softly brought it to her eye. Then, hesitatingly, she looked up- directly at the moon. Perhaps by muscle memory, or perhaps because humans are naturally drawn to the most beautiful things. We can never truly know why, but on that day, she saw the moon through that small letter. Only the moon and nothing else- not a star, not a city light, not even another pair of eyes. She just saw the moon itself. But that's enough for me. You're more than enough for me; you're all I have ever longed for.

Ali Berk KESKİN 10/C

# Eros and Psyche

Psyche was a beautiful princess, so beautiful that people compared her to the goddess of love, Aphrodite. Some even stopped worshipping Aphrodite and started admiring Psyche instead, which made Aphrodite very jealous. She called her son, Eros (the god of love), and told him to punish Psyche by making her fall in love with the ugliest creature on Earth. Eros went to Psyche to carry out his mother's order. But when he saw her, he was stunned by her beauty and accidentally pricked himself with one of his own arrows, falling in love with her.

Meanwhile, Psyche couldn't find anyone to marry her, even though she was so beautiful. People admired her from a distance but were too scared to approach her. Her parents, worried about her future, went to an oracle for advice. The oracle said Psyche was destined to marry a terrible creature and must be left on a mountaintop to meet her fate. Heartbroken, Psyche obeyed her fate. She was left on the mountain, but instead of a monster, the god of the west wind, Zephyrus, carried her to a magical palace. The palace was full of treasures and served her every need. At night, her new husband visited her, but he told her that she must never look at him. Psyche agreed, and though she never saw him, she started to fall in love with him.

One day, Psyche's jealous sisters came to visit. When they saw the palace and heard about her mysterious husband, they told Psyche that he must be a horrible monster hiding his true form. Psyche became scared and decided to see him for herself. That night, while her husband was asleep, she lit a lamp to look at him. To her surprise, he wasn't a monster but the handsome god Eros. Psyche was so amazed that she accidentally let a drop of hot oil fall from the lamp onto Eros. He woke up, felt betrayed, and left her, saying, "Love cannot live without trust."

Psyche was heartbroken and began searching for Eros everywhere. Finally, she went to Aphrodite for help. Aphrodite was still angry and gave Psyche four impossible tasks to complete if she wanted to see Eros again. The first task was to sort a huge pile of mixed seeds by morning. Psyche was overwhelmed, but some ants came to help her. The second task was to gather golden wool from fierce sheep. Psyche was afraid, but a god of river advised her to collect the wool caught on branches. The third task was to fetch water from a dangerous, high mountain guarded by dragons. This time, an eagle helped her.

The final task was the hardest. Aphrodite told Psyche to go to the underworld and bring back a box containing some of Persephone's beauty. Psyche managed to get the box, but on her way back, curiosity got the better of her. She opened the box to see the beauty inside, but it contained a deadly sleep that made her collapse.

Eros, who still loved Psyche, found her and brought her back to life. He then went to Zeus and asked him to make Psyche immortal so they could be together forever. Zeus agreed, and Psyche was brought to Mount Olympus, where she became a goddess. Psyche and Eros were married and lived happily ever after.

The story of Eros and Psyche teaches us about the power of love and how important trust is in a relationship. It also shows that people can learn from their mistakes and become stronger.

Elif Naz NURTİN 12/C

# THE POWERFUL LOVERS: Anthony and Cleopatra



The love between Antony and Cleopatra makes one of history's most passionate and tragic tales. Mark Antony, a brave Roman general, and Cleopatra, the enchanting queen of Egypt, found themselves deeply in love despite the forces that sought to drive them apart. Their bond was more than mere romance; it was a profound connection which made them feel alive, even though it brought chaos into their lives.

He was one of the most powerful men in Rome, sharing this power with Octavius Caesar and Lepidus. But while his duty was to Rome, his heart belonged to Cleopatra. Her charm, wit, and beauty captivated him, and he often chose to stay with her in Egypt, far from his responsibilities. This made his Roman allies view him as weak, a man who had lost his focus because of love. To restore his reputation, Antony married Octavia, the sister of Caesar, as a political move, even though Cleopatra remained as his true love.

The greatest test of their love occurred when war broke out between Antony and Caesar. Antony sided with Cleopatra, forsaking his loyalty to Rome. They fought together against Caesar's armies but were defeated at the Battle of Actium. At one point during the battle, Antony felt betrayed by Cleopatra, believing she had abandoned him. Yet, they could not stay apart for long, and their reunion demonstrated the depth of their love for each other.

It ended in a tragic conclusion for them, defeated and unable to endure life without each other. Antony took his own life, and Cleopatra followed, using a poisonous snake. Their love defied the world, and it ultimately consumed them.

The story of Antony and Cleopatra is not just about power and war but a reminder that love can inspire us to dream big while also forcing us to face impossible choices. They were two souls who loved deeply even when the world insisted they couldn't.

**Yağmur BATUR 11/D**

## Where THE Story of Love- “Romeo and Juliette”- Took Place: *Verona*

There have been countless art pieces made about love and such pieces will very likely continue to be created in the future, but ever since 1595, the date the unforgettable and iconic tragedy about a forbidden love; Romeo and Juliette was written, almost no other creation has had their name echo through minds for this long. And almost 4 centuries later, unbelievably the story is still relevant. Hence, in this text you'll read not only about this story but also about the story's location, a town in Italy and the impact of the tragic story on the culture and the fame of the place.

### The Story (shortened):

In Verona, there are two families who have had a long standing feud, whose children happen to be the two youngsters with names Romeo and Juliet. Unaware of their families' enmity, at a party they see each other and fall in love. They instantly get married without telling anyone other than Juliet's nurse and Romeo's servant. Later on, Romeo's cousin gets into a fight which ends with his death. Romeo witnesses this crime and goes on to avenge his cousin. When he gets caught, they tell Romeo that he has to leave town or else they will kill him. Since leaving Verona means abandoning Juliet too, they spend their last night together. After Romeo leaves, still not knowing about her daughter's marriage, Juliet's mother says she's soon to get married to someone called Paris. Because Juliet doesn't want to marry someone else, she asks the priest who married Romeo and Juliet to come up with a plan to escape this marriage. He tells her to drink a potion to take her out, make her look as if she died the night of her marriage to Paris. Soon after her supposed death, Juliet is taken to her tomb in Verona where she'd meet Romeo. Later, when this plan is in action, someone who thinks Juliet has actually died tells Romeo his wife has passed away. When Romeo meets Juliet at her tomb, by his burden, he consumes poison to kill himself. Juliet, finding her husband dead, follows in her beloved husband's tragic footsteps, drinking the poison. After their death, their families find out about their children's relationship and make up even though it's all too late.



**“ROMEO & JULIET.”**

### The Radix:

While we credit Shakespeare for creating such an immaculate story, the story's roots go further back. It was inspired by an Italian tale written by Matteo Bandello around 40 years prior, which was adapted into English by Arthur Brooke in 1562 called *The Tragical History of Romeo and Juliet*. However, Shakespeare's version, because of its poetic approach and story-telling style, helped this tragedy get universal recognition.

### More about Verona:

Verona, one of the seven cities of Veneto, a part of Italy, in its northern area, is a stunning city and has gained historical significance and touristic attractions because of this famous story. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its rich architectural and artistic belongings. Although Shakespeare never visited Verona, his depiction of the city is vivid and evocative, harmonizing its real-life charm with the romance of the story. Locations associated with Romeo and Juliet are being visited and celebrated every year by literature and history enthusiasts.



### Juliet's House in Verona (Casa di Giulietta)

The House of Juliet in Verona is an imposing medieval palace, enormously rich in architectural history. Probably inhabited by the family of Dal Cappello since as early as the 13th century, it boasts a magnificently restored exposed brick façade with a Gothic portal and elegant three-lobed windows. The iconic balcony, assembled out of 14th-century marble elements, is representative of early 20th-century restoration trends. A balustrade connects the different parts of the house elegantly, while the courtyard contains a bronze statue of Juliet by Nereo Costantini. Carefully preserved, this Gothic residence is a major cultural landmark and a romantic symbol around the world.



### San Francesco al Corso Convent Complex and Juliet's Tomb

The San Francesco al Corso Convent Complex consists of a medieval church and monastery, dating from the 13th century, which once hosted a Franciscan monastic community. Antonio Avena transformed it in 1935 into Juliet's Tomb, one of Verona's popular tourist attractions. The annexed Museum of Frescoes "G.B. Cavalcaselle" opened in 1973; it displays fresco cycles coming from medieval and Renaissance buildings in Verona, along with sculptures from the 19th century. The Guarienti Room reconstructs a 16th century Veronese palace interior, featuring illusionistic frescoes and Ionic columns that create an open loggia effect. The crypt preserves Juliet's legendary sarcophagus, while the cloister houses medieval and Roman stone artifacts.



### Piazza Erbe

Piazza Erbe is the historical heart of Verona, featuring all the traces of the city's architectural evolution, which earned it a place on UNESCO's World Heritage list. The square melts together Roman, medieval, and Renaissance styles, surrounded by the ancient buildings of different ages. On the north side, it houses the Lamberti Tower, the Casa dei Giudici, and the Mazzanti houses, which are famous for their well-preserved frescoes, they all reflect the nickname of Verona: Urbs Picta-painted city. The west side is dominated by Palazzo Maffei, a baroque masterpiece that's adorned with mythological statues. Farther south, the House of Merchants is one of the most striking medieval structures. A Roman fountain, the Madonna Verona, provides the centerpiece, flanked by the 13th-century Tribune and the Column of San Marco, which recalls Verona's days under Venetian rule.



### Roman Amphitheatre

Dominating Piazza Bra, the Roman Amphitheatre was an engineering marvel when built in the 1st century A.D. It can boast an elliptical shape that ensures excellent acoustics and holds a lot of spectators. Constructed by perfectly cut marble blocks, in the past, gladiators and public performances took place here. Nowadays, it is still a famous opera arena and one of the best-preserved Roman arenas in Italy.

### Castelvecchio Bridge (Scaliger Bridge)

The bold Scaliger Bridge was constructed across the Adige as an escape route from Verona between 1354 and 1356 and is one of the most daring medieval constructions. With three large arches- the largest about 50 meters in span- and made out of red terracotta brick and white marble, the bridge rebuilt from 1951 resembles its original version, which was destroyed in 1945. The military function of the bridge is underscored by battlements, trenches, and high towers.



### Scaliger Tombs

The Scaliger Tombs is a striking example of a Gothic funerary complex: sarcophagi for the ruling family of Verona, the Della Scala, within a wrought iron fence decorated with their trademark staircase motif. The ark of Cangrande I (14th century) is attributed to the same architect who designed Sant'Anastasia Church and features a Gothic tabernacle, religious reliefs, and an equestrian statue, originally housed in Castelvecchio. The ark of Mastino II is dated back to 1345, a Gothic form combined with painting and gilding; that of Cansignorio of 1375 is the most sumptuous, covered in sculptures by Bonino da Campione of holy warriors and biblical figures.



### Artifacts and Art related to Romeo and Juliet

Fascinating artifacts reflecting the city's legacy in literature and history are also kept in Verona. The Civic Museum of Verona contains Renaissance art reminiscent of the era of Shakespeare's play, while Juliet's House contains letters, costumes, and art inspired by the love story. To this day, visitors make use of the courtyard walls of Juliet's house to leave love notes on-a modern-day tradition inspired by the tale.

### Conclusion

Verona is not only the setting of *Romeo and Juliet*, but it's a city where history, art, and literature become one. Its ancient streets, stunning architecture, and timeless association with Shakespeare's masterpiece make it a must-see for anyone moved by the power of love and stories.

**Tan GÖZALICI 12/A**