

# FACT OF THE DAY #5

## ROMEO AND JULIET PREDATE SHAKESPEARE

you may be aware that the Broadway classic west side story is based on shakespeare's romeo and juliet, but did you know that shakespeare got the story from someone else?

shakespeare was famously inspired by Arthur Brook's "The Tragick Historie of romeus and juliet" (1562), which was the first English version of the story.

But before that there were several Italian versions and a French one.

ovid's metamorphoses contains a story about Pyramus and Thisbe, ill-fated lovers who end up both committing suicide after one mistakenly thinks the other has died.

some Italian versions featured romeo and Giuletta and the feuding families of Montecchi and Capelletti. These were real families from the thirteenth century, who were mentioned in Dante's Divine Comedy.

But ultimately the inspiration for the story most likely comes from a book called metamorphoses, written by the Roman poet ovid (43 BC-AD 17/18)



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