

1 - THE PROLOGUE

What effect does the prologue have on an audience?

WHAT YOU NEED

- A piece of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to play [this clip](#).
- A copy of the prologue to Romeo and Juliet, to read either on the page or on your screen.

ACTIVITY

- Watch the prologue being performed by RSC actors on stage using the clip above.
- As you watch, write down any words that stand out or that you find interesting. These might not be words that you understand.
- Based on the words you wrote down, see if you can complete the following sentence: *I think Romeo and Juliet will be a play about...*
- Read through the Prologue this time, looking up anything where you aren't sure of the meaning. Do you still agree with the sentence you wrote? If you can add more to it, write a second version.
- Ask yourself: Why does Shakespeare choose to start this play with a summary of the whole plot? After hearing it, what are you interested in seeing in the play?

EXTENSION

- Create your own version of the prologue using models of the characters that are mentioned (you could make them from plasticine, borrow Lego or Playmobil figures, make paper cut-outs, or perhaps just use everyday household objects), using your characters to tell the story.
- You could even film your models moving while you read the prologue. Or, if you're feeling really ambitious, use them to create a stop motion version of the story.