

10 – JULIET'S LANGUAGE

How does love change the way Juliet speaks?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this clip](#). (You will need this ready at 5:04 'Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face')
- A mobile or tablet with a recording device.

ACTIVITY

- Watch RSC actor, Mariah Gale, perform a speech from the balcony scene from 'Thou know'st the mask of night is on my face' to 'Which the dark night hath so discovered'
- As you watch, write down any words that stand out or that you find interesting.
- Find this speech in Act 1 Scene 2. It is quite a long scene but you will find it around line 134, depending on the edition you are using. Read the speech out loud, making a note of every opportunity Romeo has to interrupt Juliet or answer her questions.
- Invent your own private thoughts for Juliet to have during these moments. Write them down as secret lines that she thinks but does not say.
- Say the speech out loud again but include your own lines in a whisper that only Juliet hears.
- Record yourself doing this and listen to it. Have you made more sense of the speech and of Juliet's feelings?
- Ask yourself: What might Juliet be afraid of? Can she be more honest when she is talking to herself?

EXTENSION

- Write a love poem to your Romeo or Juliet. Looking through Act 2 Scene 1, write down all the rhyming words that Shakespeare uses. Use as many of these words as you can to create your poem. It can be funny or serious and as long or short as you like.