

14 – THE NURSE

Why does the Nurse help Romeo and Juliet?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A copy of *Romeo and Juliet* either to read on the page or onscreen.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to visit [this page](#)

ACTIVITY

- Look through the text of *Romeo and Juliet* and find the scenes where the Nurse appears. The section of the Shakespeare Learning Zone on the link below will give you some ideas for where to start looking. Collect as many quotes as you can find that tell you more about her. These quotes will be things the Nurse says about herself and things other people say about her. Use her character information on the Shakespeare Learning Zone and the section on Juliet's relationships to help you.
- Design a Nurse puppet. This can be as simple or elaborate as you like. Decide what type of puppet it will be and draw out your design on some paper. Your nurse could be a glove puppet, rod puppet, shadow puppet or marionette on strings. You can look up different kinds of puppets online for some ideas. If you have time, start making your puppet. You can use the extension exercise below to finish this.
- Ask yourself: How does the Nurse's language change through the play? What happens to her language when she decides to help Romeo and Juliet?

EXTENSION

- Make the Nurse puppet you designed and bring her to life. You could use modelling clay or paper mâché for her head and make clothes and hair out of scrap material and wool. You can be as ambitious as you like or keep it simple, for example your Nurse could be a wooden spoon with a face.
- Try out a voice for your puppet. Use the Nurse's speech in Act 1 Scene 3 to practice and you could even try filming the results.