

15 – THE FEUD

What is the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets in the play and how does it affect everybody?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A copy of Act 3 Scene 1 to read either on the page or onscreen.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to play [this clip](#) (from time code 00:53 – 02:22)

ACTIVITY

- Watch the clip above from Act 3 Scene 1 about the about the feud and Mercutio's death.
- Imagine you are Benvolio and have been asked to give a witness statement to the police about Mercutio's murder. Write a short paragraph about what happened as you saw it.
- Now do the same from Tybalt's point of view. Compare the two statements. What are the differences? If you were the police, who would you believe?
- Ask yourself: Who is more responsible for this fight, Tybalt or Mercutio? Who does Shakespeare want us to sympathise with?

EXTENSION

- If you have time, watch the fight performed by RSC actors onstage in [this clip](#) (between time codes 1:34 and 3:20).
- Choreograph your own Tybalt and Mercutio's fight as if you were a stage fight director. Decide what weapons your actors will use - swords, guns, knives? It might help to draw the stage as a floor plan and create models to represent the characters and move them around. Use the lines from the text in Act 3 Scene 1 to work out where your fight moves happen. Remember, this is a stage fight and not a real fight so no-one must really get hurt!
- Once you know the shape of your fight, design a storyboard for a comic book or graphic novel. Use as many panels or frames in your storyboard as you need to show the whole fight you've created.