

16 – THE DEATH OF TYBALT

Why does Romeo kill Tybalt?

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 05:02 – 06:12)
- A recording device, either on a mobile or tablet.

ACTIVITY

- Watch the above clip of RSC actors exploring the feud in rehearsal. Pay particular attention to the actions of Romeo and Tybalt as they discuss how Romeo reaches out to Tybalt in the build up to his death. They don't explore the moment Tybalt is killed here, but do you expect Romeo to hurt him given the way he behaves moments before?
- If you are less familiar with the play you may want to watch more of the clip, or to read a summary of the scene. You can find this in the [Learning Zone timeline](#).
- Imagine Romeo is in court for murdering Tybalt. Write down all the questions you would want him to answer. You can think of yourself as his defence lawyer or his prosecutor - or both!
- Make a recording of all your questions, leaving a space of a few seconds between each one.
- Now imagine you are Romeo facing the judge and jury in court. Play your questions one by one and try to answer them as you think Romeo would. Make sure you stop the recording after each question to give you time to answer.
- Ask yourself: Which are the hardest questions for Romeo to answer? What does this tell you about him?

EXTENSION

- If you have time, watch the whole video of RSC actors exploring Romeo and Tybalt's relationship in rehearsal using the link above.
- Make a blog of the voices inside Romeo's head. Think of the answers you gave to the questions in the above activity and write a few short paragraphs to represent Romeo's different thoughts and feelings. These could include: his conscience, emotions, the Prince, Juliet, his banishment, Mercutio.
- Make a podcast of Romeo's inner voices. Think of a different voice for each of your paragraphs - they are all Romeo, but they can sound as different as you like. Record your different voices and edit them together into a podcast.