

17 – THE WEDDING NIGHT

How does Juliet feel about Romeo when she learns he killed her cousin?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A copy of Act 3 Scene 2 to read either on the page or onscreen.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to play [this clip](#) (with RSC actors and RSC Voice Practitioner Nia Lynn).

ACTIVITY

- Juliet goes through some big emotional changes in Act 3 Scene 2. Watch the clip above (from time code 1:37 to 3:14) about the rhythm in Juliet's opening speech beginning 'Gallop apace'.
- Find this speech in the text and go through it line by line, tapping out the iambic rhythm as you say the lines out loud. Make a note of when the lines fit the rhythm perfectly and when they don't.
- Now look at Juliet's speech near the end of the scene after she hears the Nurse's news, beginning 'Shall I speak ill of him'. Try the same exercise on this speech, making a note of when the lines fit the rhythm and when they don't.
- As yourself: Which speech has the most irregular lines? How is Juliet feeling when she says these irregular lines? What does this tell you about Juliet's state of mind on her wedding night?
- Write a list of the words that come at the end of the lines in each speech. Compare the two lists. Can you spot any patterns, repetitions? Do the choice of words give a clue to how Juliet's feelings change from the beginning to the end of the scene?

EXTENSION

- Look at Juliet's first speech in Act 3 Scene 2. Write down any words that jump out at you or that you find interesting, it doesn't matter if you don't know what they mean yet. Take a big piece of drawing paper and look at each word in turn. Decide how you could draw that or represent it. You can use pencils, paint or create more of a collage - or a combination of both. You can also use a drawing app on your tablet or computer. Work through your list of words until your painting or collage is completed.
- Do the same with her second speech and compare the two. How would you frame these portraits to hang on the wall or be displayed?