

# 20 – THE PROCLAMATION

What is the impact of Romeo and Juliet's deaths?

## WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to play [this clip](#) about the 2018 production and [this clip](#) about antithesis
- A copy of Act 5 Scene 3, either on the page or onscreen.

## ACTIVITY

- Watch the clip about the RSC's 2018 production of Romeo and Juliet and why the play is relevant today.
- Make a list of any public figures of authority you can think of, either from modern times or history. Which of these figures do you think the Prince is most like?
- Take a look at the Prince's final speech in Act 5 Scene 3 beginning 'A glooming peace'. Make a list of all the points he makes in this speech. Look through these points and decide how the Prince wants everyone to feel with his words.
- Watch the clip above where RSC Voice Practitioner Nia Lynn talks about the use of antithesis. Can you spot any antithesis in the Prince's final speech and underline it or highlight it? If so, why does Shakespeare make use of it here? What other language devices does he use in these 6 lines and why?
- Imagine you are the Prince's public speech writer. Look at the list of points that you made earlier and try writing them in your own words. Practice saying your version of the speech out loud.
- Ask yourself: Why do you think Shakespeare brings in the Prince at the end of the play to resolve the feud? What does his final speech do to the audience? Are there any similarities between this speech and the prologue?

## EXTENSION

- Film a public news announcement as the Prince of Verona. Decide the points you are going to make before you write your speech. How do you want the people of Verona to feel? Are they responsible for the tragedy? Do you want to punish them or give them hope? Try to use a mixture of language devices to influence your people - these could include rhyme, repetition, rhythm, antithesis.
- Choose where you are going to film your news announcement - what sort of background can you use to create the right atmosphere for your viewers.
- Once you have filmed your public announcement, try editing it together as a TV news article. Watch some TV news reports to give you some ideas.