5 – THE WORLD OF THE PLAY

Why did Shakespeare choose Verona to set this play?

ACTIVITY

- Watch the **video** of designer, Tom Piper, and director, Erica Whyman, about creating the world for the RSC's 2018 production of Romeo and Juliet. As you watch, write down any words they use about the play that stand out or that you find interesting.
- Visit the photo gallery in **Settings** on the Shakespeare Learning Zone. What do these images tell you about the world of the play? What is happening in Verona? What is it like? Write down any words or images that come to mind. Look at the words you've written down so far.
- Create a mood board for the world of Verona, either digitally using an app or as a collage using your own drawings or old newspapers and magazines. A mood board can help a designer to think about the overall impression they want the audience to have of a place and can be a collection of colours, textures, fabrics, styles of clothing, buildings, art work and anything else that you see which inspires you. In your mood board, try to label the things you add to help you remember your thought process.
- Ask yourself: What did the world of Verona mean to Shakespeare's audience? Where could the modern versions of this world be today?

EXTENSION

- Create your own Model Box for the world of Verona. Use drawings or mood boards to start your design so you are happy with it. Where will your audience sit? How will your actors enter and exit? What scenery will you have – if any?
- When your model box is finished, practise explaining how it works to an imaginary director and cast of actors. Where will some of the other scenes take place in your model? The fights? The balcony scene?