

6 – ROMEO AND LOVE

How seriously do we take Romeo at first?

WHAT YOU NEED

- Some pieces of note paper, or a notebook and something to write with.
- A copy of Romeo's first speech in Act 1 Scene 1, either on the page or on your screen.
- A computer with internet connection, ready to play [this clip](#).

ACTIVITY

- Find Romeo's speech in Act 1 Scene 1 that begins '*Alas that love, who's view is muffled still.*' Read the whole speech out loud, noticing any words that stand out and why.
- Read the speech again and write down all the examples of antithesis and/or oxymorons that you can find. (Antithesis means words or phrases that are opposites used next to or near each other to create an effect such as 'cannot be good, cannot be ill' while oxymorons are two words that have opposite meanings placed directly next to each other such as 'bitter sweet' or "freezing fire'. What do you think this speech is about, looking at your list?
- Using smaller pieces of paper, write each word you have chosen on one piece of paper - so you have one word on each piece. Separate them into two piles - positive words and negative words. Some words might be more difficult to decide on. Which is the greater pile? What does this tell you about Romeo at this point in the play? What does he think about love?
- Turn all the pieces of paper over and mix them around. Pick up two pieces at a time and read out the two words together. Note down any more interesting combinations of words that you create.
- Watch [the clip](#) of RSC actor, Bally Gill, talk about Romeo. Does this match your idea of the character? Do you know anyone like him? Are you like Romeo in any way?

EXTENSION

- Write a dating profile for Romeo. How would he describe himself to attract his dream girl? What language would he use?
- If you are feeling particularly creative, make a lonely-hearts video to accompany Romeo's profile. You can draw a picture of Romeo to film while you read the words out or even play Romeo yourself, talking to camera. How will your Romeo act in his dating video? Confident, embarrassed, funny?