

8 – WHEN ROMEO MEETS JULIET

The moment when Romeo and Juliet first meet is important; how does Shakespeare let us know this?

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](#).
- A copy of Act 1 Scene 4 from Romeo and Juliet to read either on the page or on your screen.

ACTIVITY

- Find the part of Act 1 Scene 4 where Romeo meets Juliet for the first time. Read their short conversation out loud. It is only 19 lines between Tybalt's exit and the arrival of the Nurse.
- Create a physical gesture for each of the 19 lines, it can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. Say the lines out loud again, using these gestures to accompany them. Are there any words and movements that are repeated by both characters or are similar?
- Imagine you are at a noisy party. You can't hear what people are saying and must keep your conversation secret. Try using the gestures only while you read the scene in your head. Can you still make sense of the conversation?
- Watch the scene performed by RSC actors Karen Fishwick and Bally Gill. Do you see them use any similar gestures to the ones they've chosen?
- Ask yourself: Does this first meeting between Romeo and Juliet take us by surprise? Do they behave different in this scene to how we might expect?

EXTENSION

- Choreograph a dance for the Capulet Party. Decide what kind of dance it is going to be, so it reflects the world of the Capulets. Will it be formal and old-fashioned, or will it be more modern and lively and suited to the younger members of the family? Choose some music to set your dance to.
- If you're feeling very creative, learn the dance yourself and film yourself performing it.