

ACT 2: POETRY



CONTEXT: ACT 2

The second act starts with a prologue, in which the chorus tells us that 'Romeo is beloved and loves again'. Act 2 Scene 1 starts with Benvolio and Mercutio looking for Romeo, who has jumped over the orchard wall into the Capulet's garden. They can't find him and decide to leave, saying that there is no point looking for someone who does not wish to be found.

Benvolio: **Go, then, for 'tis in vain
To seek him here that means not to be found.**

Romeo appears and soon spots Juliet standing by a window in her house.

Romeo: **But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.**

Soon they begin to speak to each other and declare their love for one another. They decide to get married the next day, in secret.

Juliet: **If that thy bent of love be honourable,
Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow**

In the next scene (3), we are introduced to a new character, Friar Laurence. Romeo asks Friar Laurence to marry him and Juliet.

Romeo: **I'll tell thee as we pass, but this I pray:
That thou consent to marry us today.**

Friar Laurence says that he will conduct the marriage, believing it might help to end the feud between the Montagues and Capulets.

In scene 4, Benvolio and Mercutio are still looking for Romeo. When he arrives, he seems to be very happy about his newfound love. The nurse soon arrives in search of Romeo.

Nurse: **Pray you, sir, a word. And as I told you,
my young lady bid me inquire you out.**

Romeo tells the nurse that he is in love with Juliet and wishes to marry her that afternoon.

Romeo: **Bid her devise
Some means to come to shrift this afternoon. And there she shall at Friar
Lawrence' cell
Be shrived and married.**

The nurse relays this to an anxious Juliet, who has been waiting at home for news. The lovers reunite in Father Laurence's room and are married.

LESSON 1

LI: TO PICK OUT EXAMPLES OF SIMILES AND METAPHORS USED BY SHAKESPEARE.

National Curriculum Links

Reading

Pupils should be taught to:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet
- listen to and discuss a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
- discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination

STARTER:

Draw some circles on the board and write the following prompt above them.

The sun is like...

See how many things they can think of that are round like the sun.

Activity idea taken from 'Jumpstart Literacy' by Pie Corbett (p49)

MAIN TEACHING:

Show the children the following extract from Act 2 Scene 2:

Romeo:

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?

It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,

Who is already sick and pale with grief.

Explain to the class that Shakespeare has used a metaphor in this scene:

'Juliet is the sun'

A metaphor is when you compare something to something else by saying it **is** something else (play film clip on this webpage about metaphors to children:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4jf6g8/articles/zntjqp3>)

Talk about the difference between metaphors and similes.

The children are now going to look at examples of metaphors and similes used by Shakespeare in Act 2. They need to try and work out what is being compared to what and match it with the words of Shakespeare.

Give out the sheet below to the children for them to work on in pairs.

Poetry: Similies and Metaphors Sorting Exercise. Week 2. Lesson 1

Romeo:

O, speak again, bright angel! For **thou art**
As glorious to this night...
As is a winged messenger of heaven
Unto the white, upturned, wondering eyes
Of **mortals**

thou = you art = are mortals = humans

Love is being compared to a flower.

This is a metaphor.

Juliet:

This love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flower when next
we meet.

Generosity and love are being compared to the sea.

This is a simile.

Juliet:

But to be frank, and give it thee again.
And yet I wish but for the thing I have.
My **bounty** is as **boundless** as the sea,
My love as deep.

bounty = generosity **boundless** = limitless

Juliet is being compared to an angel.

This is a metaphor and a simile.

Remember, a simile uses the word AS or LIKE.

A metaphor says something IS something else

Take feedback from the children and ask them to share what they matched with what.

PLENARY:

Children pick a simile or metaphor they have read in the lesson and explain why they like it.