

LESSON 2 DRAMA ACTIVITY

U: TO KNOW THE KEY EVENTS OF THE CAPULET BALL.

National Curriculum Links

Reading

Pupils should be maintain positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they read by:

- listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
- preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone and volume

Spoken Language

- Use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas.
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, roleplay/ improvisations and debates

WARM UP:

Tell the children the names of the main characters who attend the ball. For each character, show the children an action and tell them a quotation from the play that gives more information about the character (**see writing in bold to put quotations in context**). They should repeat each action and quotation back to you until they have memorised each one. Once they have learnt them, they need to do the action and say the corresponding quotation each time you say the name of the character.

Encourage them to use **expression** in their voices and **large actions**. (N.B. you will need to think of a simple action for each character). Praise children who are doing this well and ask them to demonstrate to the class.

Lord Capulet: *Come, musicians, play!*

He is throwing a party and he wants it to be fantastic.

Lady Capulet: *The lady of the house*

She is the lady of the house (Lord Capulet's wife).

Romeo: *I ne'er saw true beauty till this night!*

Romeo forgets Rosaline when he sees Juliet.

Juliet: *My only love sprung from my only hate!*

Juliet is devastated when she realised Romeo is a Montague.

Tybalt (Juliet's cousin): *Fetch me my rapier!*

Tybalt asks for his sword when he realised Romeo is at the party.

Benvolio (Romeo's cousin): *Away, be gone.*

Like usual, Benvolio is trying to keep the peace and suggests him and Romeo leave the party.

Captain Paris: *What say you to my suit?*

Paris wants to marry Juliet.

MAIN DRAMA ACTIVITY:

Part 1: Scripted Scene

(This part of the lesson should be done in the school hall so the children have enough space to act out the scene).

Assign everyone in the class with one of the following roles:

Lord Capulet (1 child)

Lady Capulet (1 child)

Romeo (1 child)

Juliet (1 child)

Tybalt - Juliet's cousin (1 child)

Tybalt's page (1 child)

Benvolio - Romeo's cousin (1 child)

Captain Paris (1 child)

Servants - serving drinks and food (8 children)

Musicians (6 children)

Party guests (8 children)

With the children, set up a freeze frame for the beginning of party. Ask them where they think their character would be standing and what they would be doing. Use the following questions to aid discussion:

- Who should be in the middle of the stage? Why?
- How is each character feeling?
- How can you show you are a guest with your body language?
- How can you show you are a servant?
- What would the musicians be doing?

Once everyone is in position, the child playing Lord Capulet should say:

"Let the feasting begin!" The class should then mime (no talking) what they think their character would be doing at the party.

You should then start to feed lines from the play and the child playing that part should repeat back the line, using expression and body language to show how their character is feeling:

1) When Romeo sees Juliet for the first time.

Romeo (*to a servant*): **What lady is that which doth enrich the hand
Of yonder knight?**

Servant: **I know not sir.**

Romeo: **She doth teach the torches to burn bright!**

2) When Tybalt hears Romeo's voice.

Tybalt:
(*to his PAGE*) **This, by his voice, should be a Montague.
Fetch me my rapier, boy.**

Lord Capulet: **Why, how now, kinsman?**

Tybalt: **This a Montague, our foe!**

Lord Capulet: **Gentle coz, let him alone.**

Part 2: Hot-seating

Now that the children have acted out and understand what happened at the party, explain that the children will be acting as journalists doing some research for a newspaper report they are writing about the Capulet ball.

Pick someone to act as a guest from the party. This person should sit on a chair at the front of the class, while the rest of the class (the journalists) sit on the floor facing them. The journalists will be asking the guest questions about the party and will need to write down the responses they hear.

The teacher should first model asking questions to the guest (e.g. What interesting things happened at the party? Who was the best dressed? Were there any unexpected guests?) and then the 'journalists' should start to think of their own questions.

After a few questions, pick a different child to act as the guest.

Make sure that children are recording the responses of the guest in their books as these will be used as quotations in their newspaper report later in the week. Ask the child acting as the guest to pause after speaking so the children have time to record what is being said.