

GETTING INVOLVED

Romeo and Juliet

Active Challenge For KS3 Students

The Plague Diary

This student challenge is based on the character of Friar John. We challenge you to place yourself into the shoes of this minor character and consider the fact that without the occurrence of plague in the plot of *Romeo and Juliet* there would have been no end tragedy.

Friar John only has a few lines in Act V, scene 2. He is a Franciscan friar charged by Friar Lawrence with taking the news of Juliet's false death to Romeo in Mantua. Due to an outbreak of plague, Friar John is required to isolate in a quarantined house, and the message never reaches Romeo.

*Going to find a bare-foot brother out
One of our order, to associate me,
Here in this city visiting the sick,
And finding him, the searchers of the town,
Suspecting that we both were in a house
Where the infectious pestilence did reign,
Seal'd up the doors, and would not let us forth;
So that my speed to Mantua there was stay'd.*

Act V, Scene 2

Examine the evidence of what happens in the play, do some research into the Black Death and create an imaginative account (in your own words) of Friar John's experience during those couple of days. You could start at the point you leave Verona for Mantua with the letter for Romeo (which you have not read), describe the experience of being quarantined with your companion and ending on your return to Friar Lawrence in Verona.

These links provide some inspiration:

theguardian.com/books/2015/sep/24/shakespeares-great-escape-plague-1606--james-shapiro

bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01h666y

But we would also love you to also draw on your own experiences of lockdown and self-isolation.

Please share your account with us, either in written diary form, or film it as a short video diary. Get permission from your parents to post on social media.

Tag us on Twitter and Instagram @The_Globe and use #RomeoAndJuliet so we can see your work.

