



# ROMEO AND JULIET

## Lesson 2: Main activity (25 mins approx.)

Give students the Act 1 Scene 1 Romeo/Benvolio edit (Part 1) provided and organise them into pairs. This activity takes place with students being seated. One student will be Romeo, and the other, Benvolio. Ask students to speak their lines to each other once through to get the sense and meaning (supporting them with any vocabulary you know they will struggle with). Then, on the second read through, ask them to stand up when they say a word that is positive, and to sit down when they say a word that is negative. Once they have done this a couple of times, ask them to feed back what they noticed. What might this tell us about Romeo's state of mind at this moment in time? What does he think about love? Spend some time looking at the explicit examples of oxymoron in Romeo's speech - highlight these to students and ask them to think about how they physicalised this as standing up and sitting down - how does this physical action help them to understand oxymoron as a manifestation of mental uncertainty?

Now give students Part 2 of the Act 1 Scene 1 Romeo/Benvolio edit provided. Sit students in a circle and ask them to each read a line in turn. Every time Romeo mentions a word to do with appearance/beauty, ask them to stand up and sit down again. Read through once and then discuss - how many times did they stand up? What does this tell us about Romeo's focus when it comes to the woman he loves? How genuine do they think his feelings are when they are so focused on looks rather than personality? Now ask students to read again (going the opposite way round the circle so that students can speak a different line to before), and this time, every time they hear a word they have heard said before, they should clap. This takes a lot of concentration and can be a bit tricky, so you might need to do it two or three times before you see the full effect of it. Once you have finished, ask students what they learned from this activity. Why do they think Romeo repeats himself so much? What words does he repeat most frequently? What does this tell us about what is important to him?

