



ROMEO AND JULIET

Lesson 1: Main activity (25 mins approx.)

Group students into threes and give them the Act 3 Scene 1 edit. Students should assign themselves either Romeo, Mercutio or Tybalt. Show students the three movements they are going to use in performing this scene together. The first is 'advance' - stepping towards the person they are speaking to. The next is 'retreat' - stepping away from the person they are speaking to. The third is 'manoeuvre' - stepping around or to the side of the person they are speaking to. When they speak their lines, they need to decide on each line whether they are advancing towards the other character(s) in an attempt to connect with them or appease them, retreating away from them in an attempt to get away or showing disagreement, or manoeuvring around them in an attempt to persuade or bend them to their will.

Ask students to read through the lines first to get a sense of them before trying out the lines in their threes, using the three movements to show their character's motivation and tactics. It is not necessary for students to use a movement on every line if they don't feel a line needs a movement - but if they are not advancing/retreating/manoeuvring on a line, they might want to think about why and what that tells them about the line in question. Once they have had a couple of goes to refine their choices of movement, ask for a couple of groups to volunteer to show their scene to the rest of the class. After watching the groups, discuss the choices - what has this revealed about the characters and their similarities and differences? How does individual character behaviour correspond to and break away from the rules of their world?

