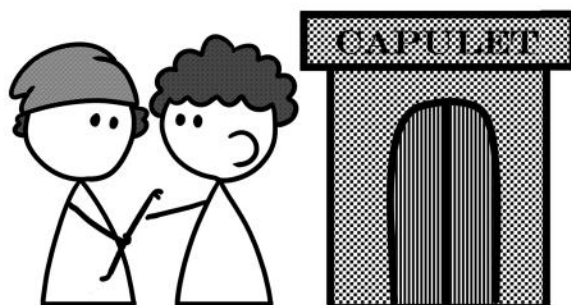


Romeo and Juliet

Close Reading: The Tomb Scene Teacher Instructions

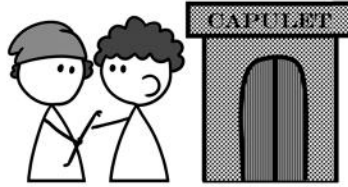
1. Have your students read Romeo's speech from Act 5 Scene 3 on the following page.
2. Ask them to consider the situation. What time of day is it? Where are they? What is Romeo's mood? How does the listener feel about what he/she is being asked to do?
3. Ask the students to highlight any clues that Shakespeare gives to staged action – ie. "take this letter" – "Give me that mattock"
4. Now ask the students to highlight (in a different colour) moments when Romeo is speaking directly to the listener – commanding, questioning, pleading.
5. Now ask the students using a different colour to highlight moments when they feel Romeo is speaking to himself.
6. Have the students perform the scene paying attention to the different highlighted sections – use the highlights to help choreograph their movement – ie. looking away – reaching out – coming close to the listener. The highlights should help bring action and mood into their delivery of the lines.
7. What is the listener doing throughout? Are there moments when Romeo catches his/her attention more than others? Is the listener afraid of Romeo – fearful for his own safety – confused by what is going on? If the listener had lines what would they be – when would they like to interrupt Romeo? Why isn't the listener given any of these moments of interruption?



Romeo and Juliet

Close Reading: The Tomb Scene

Act 5, Scene 3



Romeo:

Give me that mattock and the wrenching iron.
Hold, take this letter. Early in the morning
See thou deliver it to my lord and father.
Give me the light. Upon thy life I charge thee,
Whate'er thou hear'st or seest, stand all aloof
And do not interrupt me in my course.
Why I descend into this bed of death
Is partly to behold my lady's face
But chiefly to take thence from her dead finger
A precious ring, a ring that I must use
In dear employment. Therefore hence, be gone:
But if thou jealous dost return to pry
In what I further shall intend to do,
By heaven I will tear thee joint by joint
And strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs.
The time and my intents are savage-wild,
More fierce and more inexorable far
Than empty tigers or the roaring sea.

Notes:
