



Title: *The Living World of Romeo and Juliet*

Scope: Students in Grades 6-12

Curriculum Standards:

Students are able to:

- Flourish in a unique environment to practice listening, speaking and reading classical text
- Discover their voice and presence through acting out Shakespeare's text
- Communicate a range of ideas effectively through Socratic teaching methods
- Explore figurative language, word relationships, and nuances through kinesthetic visual, and aural exercises (9-10.L.VAU.5)
- Analyze how complex characters, events, and ideas develop through essential role play (9-10.RL.KID.3)
- Determine an author's point of view through rhetorical choices in performance (9-10.RI.CS.6)
- Analyze form and structure of classical text by speaking iambic pentameter and dissecting soliloquies

Description:

During this 3-session residency, students actively experience the story and circumstances of *Romeo and Juliet*. TSC teaching artists move Shakespeare's story and language off the page and into the hearts, bodies, voices, and imaginations of your students. Students transform from quietly reading the play to actively speaking and physically embodying the story.

Over the course of these sessions, TSC brings you a playful and enlightening curriculum of progression that encourages students to learn on their feet. Your students will build a theatrical foundation of physical, vocal, textual, and player vocabulary, transforming them into an artistic community that appreciates and enjoys the exploration of classical literature. No materials are required – just students who are ready to play and dressed in a way that allows them to move. Session lengths vary and range from 30-50 minutes.

Project Goals and Assessments:

In addition to addressing Curriculum Standards in English/Language Arts, this program fosters a greater appreciation for the literary works of William Shakespeare and the art of classical theatre.

In-class or virtual "performances" and exercises, post-workshop discussions, and direct observation by the teaching artist and classroom instructor are utilized in assessing the students' comprehension of the material presented.



Lesson Overview:

SESSION 1: THE LAUNCH (Prologue; Act I, Scenes 1-3)

“Three civil brawls bred of an airy word”

Students meet Shakespeare as a great humanist and jump into the world of his play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Students live the prologue, meeting the two families whose participation in an ancient feud results in ongoing violence that terrorizes the community. Students discover rage to be the underlying emotion of the story as they identify with the young characters in the play. Students align with Romeo as he deals with peer pressure and his own sense of foreboding when making crucial decisions.

SESSION 2: THE CHOICE TO FIGHT (Re-Cap; Act 3, Scene 1)

“For now, these hot days is the mad blood stirring.”

Students bear the aftermath of disrespect as wounded Honor and Pride lead Tybalt to revenge. Opportunities to avoid violence and confrontation are discovered and rehearsed as students become the four young men in the midst of hot anger and mortal weapons. The play takes tragic turns, and students see the power of truth and the courage it takes to bear witness. Absent and/or unequipped parents leave Romeo and Juliet struggling to find a path out of the chaos.

SESSION 3: NEAR MISSES (Re-Cap; Act 5)

“Stay not, be gone, Live!”

Students live Act 5, experiencing what mere seconds can do to an outcome and how accidents can be averted. Offers made to exit dangerous situations are illuminated, as well as the power of truth and its ability to set one free.