

Sample Lesson Plan Wide Eyed Productions



Rome & Juliet Character Packs

Introduction to main characters of *Romeo and Juliet*

Grade Level: 9th Grade

Purpose: To introduce students to the characters in *Romeo and Juliet*. Prepare them for *Romeo and Juliet* and remove anxiety about classical language. This lesson should be used in the classroom before the students have begun to read the play.

Objectives: Students will:

1. Work in small groups and negotiate creative choices
2. Become familiar with characters from *Romeo and Juliet*
3. Use problem solving and critical thinking skills to form hypotheses about characters from *Romeo and Juliet*

Materials Needed: 5 Boxes or large manila envelopes, filled with items that will represent the characters (or pictures of the actual objects.) Also inside the box are lines of dialogue that each of the characters speak. See last page for how to create Character Boxes/Envelopes. You will also need:

5 pieces of paper

5 pens or pencils

5 pieces of paper - each piece of paper has written in bold these character's names -, Rome, Juliet, Nurse, Friar Lawrence and Mercutio – This is the answer key

Chalkboard, Whiteboard or Large Pad

Prior Knowledge: No prior knowledge is necessary for this lesson.

Standards Addressed:

NYC Blueprint for the Arts:

1. Theatre making
2. Developing theatre literacy
3. Making Connections
4. Working with community and making cultural resources

Common Core State Standards:

1. Demonstrates Independence
2. Build strong content knowledge
3. Respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose and discipline

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4. Comprehends as well as critique
5. Value evidence
6. Come to understand other perspectives and cultures

Duration: 30 - 45 minutes

Procedure:

1. Before class make the character boxes. Instructions and items needed on last page.
2. Before class make the answer key this is on 5 separate pieces of paper. To make this write down each of the characters names. You will have one page for Romeo, Juliet, Nurse, Friar Lawrence and Mercutio.
3. Divide Class up into 5 groups and hand out character packs.
4. Give each group a piece of paper and pencil.
5. Tell the group to pick a group presenter.
6. Ask the groups to open up their box; and examine the contents of it.
7. Ask them to write down the clues this box gives them about the person who owns these items. To get them started use some of these questions: (Give them around 10-15 mins for this.)
 1. Does this person have a job? (If so where do they work?)
 2. Are they married? Are they in love?
 4. Look at the line of dialogue on the strip of paper, does this tell you anything about the character?
 5. Make sure to ask each group if they understand what the quote is saying, if not assist with helping each group decipher the quote.
 6. What do you imagine their personality is like?
8. After viewing the packs for 15 minutes have a class discussion. Start with group 1 ask them if they know who their character is.
Write down their answer on the board. Ask the character box group leader to tell the class some of the speculations that they have made about their character. Write the character name and their speculations on the board.
9. Repeat this with all of the groups. Then show all groups the answers, and discuss who guessed correctly?
10. Have each student journal or free write- on these questions: What would they like to learn about these characters? What do they hope to discover upon reading the play?

Modifications: If you cannot find items for boxes, use pictures of items.

Assessment/Reflection:

What questions do they have about *Romeo and Juliet*? What do they hope to discover upon reading the play?

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Character Packs

1. Procure, 5 large manila envelopes or 5 shoe boxes.
2. Label each box or envelope as Character 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, the number will correspond to the character. The students will not know the name of the character they will only see the number on the box/envelope.
3. Add the items below inside each box/envelope.

Character #1 – Juliet

Necklace

Small dagger

A small bottle labeled sleeping potion

A wedding ring

(On a slip of paper write/type this line of dialogue)- *What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other word would smell as sweet.*

Character #2 - Romeo

Wedding Ring

A rose

A small bottle labeled poison

A paper heart with the name Rosaline on it

(On a slip of paper write/type this line of dialogue)- *See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!
O that I were a glove upon that hand, that I might touch that cheek!"*

Character#3 – The Nurse

A baby bottle

A letter inside an envelope. On the outside the envelope write **message** (On the letter write **Meet me at the church.**)

(On a slip of paper write/type this line of dialogue) - *God in heaven bless her!
You are to blame, my lord, to rate her so.*

Charcter#4 – Friar Lawrence

Picture of the hippie peace sign

Rosary

Small bible

(On a slip of paper write/type this dialogue)- *Holy Saint Francis, what a change is here!
Is Rosaline, whom thou didst love so dear, So soon forsaken? young men's love then lies
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes.*

Charcter#5 – Mercutio

Masquerade mask

Picture of a sword

½ of a best friend pendant

(On a slip of paper write/type this dialogue) – *If love be rough with you, be rough with love;*

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Prick love for pricking, and you beat love down.