



A guide to the Globe Education

Romeo and Juliet resource.

www.playingshakespeare.org

(Please note: to access audio and video content on this website, your computer will need to have Adobe Flash Player 9. To download this, go to <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>. Shakespeare's Globe accepts no responsibility for the content of external sites.)

The National Curriculum states that the study of Shakespeare at KS3 should “be based on whole texts and provide an experience of the play in performance” which is exactly what Globe Education’s *Playing Shakespeare* project aims to offer, through the website and production.

The Language section

Analysis of the ways that characters and playwright use language is always emphasised as important in the KS3 curriculum. In the Language section of the site we have endeavored to enable students to explore four scenes in detail through unique interactive text. The meaning of difficult words can be brought up unobtrusively, while definitions of key literary terms are supported by relevant examples from the scenes. It is also possible to toggle between the full text and the director’s edited script, which may raise some interesting discussions about what has been cut and why. Students will also be able to listen to performances of extracts from the scenes, as well as interviews with members of the cast and creative team. A page of links to other online resources for *Romeo and Juliet* is also provided to emphasise that the Globe Education production is only one of many possible interpretations of the play.

The Characters and Motivation section

This section is designed as a mock social networking site for the characters in the play. Each character has a profile page which can be accessed by clicking their image on the landing page. On each page you can read what characters say about themselves and what other characters say about them on their ‘wall’; importantly, all text that the characters use is taken entirely

from the play, providing useful quotations for each character under key categories. An image gallery displays the transformation of the actor into their character. The profiles all contain a series of short interviews with the actor as they develop their character for the production at Shakespeare's Globe. Through each profile, you can therefore follow the networks of relationships, friendship and romance, building up an appreciation of the ties that bind characters together, which generate the events of the play. A useful exercise might be to compare what a character says about themselves with the perceptions of others; or consider the impression of a character you develop from different words used to describe them. You may wish to use your ideas from the language area of the site to inform this exploration. As you develop your own ideas about individual characters, you can follow the development of the Globe's production, and how the actors have chosen to present them.

The Themes and Issues section

The Themes and Issues section of the website aims to promote discussion about some of the ideas the play explores. It does this by providing a forum for students to express their opinions on a discussion board about the issues in the play. Periodically, actors from the production and patrons of the project will add their thoughts about the themes of the play on the discussion board. This area also features four articles written by a research assistant at Shakespeare's Globe. We hope students will consider the play alongside these articles, perhaps discuss their ideas in the classroom or with friends and share their thoughts with each other online. We would encourage teachers to let discussions from the classroom to continue to grow in this online facility.

The Text in Performance section

It is essential that students understand that a play is written to be performed and therefore this area of the site is constructed as a production timeline which aims to record and share the process of the play being created from words on a page into a living production. As the production develops, more sections will be added to the timeline. In this backstage area, you will be able to read interviews with the creative team and crew about the practicalities of mounting a production, as well as see images of the production coming together.