

Romeo and Juliet in Space

Student Instructions

Activity 1.4 / Shakespeare Learning Commons

Shakespeare's
London
circa. 1600

1. Introduction

When Shakespeare wrote *Romeo and Juliet* (about 400 years ago) Europe was expanding its military and commercial influence across the Atlantic and stories of exploration and conquest were becoming part of the public imagination.

What if Shakespeare was born about 400 years from now? What stories would he tell and how would his story *Romeo and Juliet* change?

2. In groups assigned by your teacher, you will work together to create a one minute space scene from *Romeo and Juliet*.

3. Blank Slate

Use this *Blank Slate* to make a list of themes to be included in your space scene.

4. In your groups use the Space Scene Timeline Worksheet to create a timeline that includes your assigned passage from *Romeo and Juliet* and add in events that happen in the play before and after this quote is spoken.

6. Perform your scene while it is filmed! Then, as a class, watch your new space adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet*. How does *Romeo and Juliet* work in space and why? Would Shakespeare be telling the same story far in the future as he did in the past? What if he were writing today?

5. Using the timeline you have created, write the dialogue for a **one-minute** space scene revolving around the quote your group has been assigned.

