

Romeo and Juliet- A Second Chance

Student Instructions

Activity 1.5 / Shakespeare Learning Commons

Shakespeare's London

2. With the guidance of your teacher you will perform a close reading of the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*.

3. Blank Slate

Use this space to write down any key words that you could use to describe Romeo and Juliet's personalities and actions.

4. Fill out the *Rational vs. Irrational* table on the accompanying worksheet by classifying any of Romeo and Juliet's actions or dialogue from the balcony scene as either *Rational* or *Irrational*.

The Thames

5. A Second Meeting?

Some time, in the not too distant future, Romeo and Juliet's families are united in peace and the two lovers have a chance to meet again under entirely different circumstances. In groups assigned by your teacher, write a **two-minute scene** about a second meeting between the two lovers, set in a futuristic coffee shop. You must choose to write the scene from either a **Rational** or **Irrational** perspective, basing your decision on the chart you created in Step 4. It is up to you to decide whether the change in time and setting affects the characters' behaviours or not. How will they react to each other now? Are they still wildly in love? Is marriage still on their minds?



1. Introduction

The balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* (Act 2, scene 2, lines 1-192) is a passionate and urgent encounter in which Romeo and Juliet display rash and impetuous emotions for one another. What would it be like if the two met for a second time under different circumstances in a world where their families weren't feuding, sometime in the not too distant future? The literacy arcade game 'Speare proposes such a setting, where an outside threat has prompted new peace between their families. Will Romeo and Juliet still agree to marry although their love is not forbidden? Is marriage still on their minds? You choose whether the lovers have a second chance...

6. After all the groups have finished, each group will take a turn presenting their scene to the class. Feel free to get volunteers from other groups to read the parts in your scene. Don't just read the lines, make it a performance!