

Speaking Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet Resource

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers



But, soft! What light...

1. Divide into three groups. Create an inner circle and an outer circle. There should only be ten scripts.
2. Explain any of the language that you think the students will might not understand.
3. The inner circle reads the script with the teacher.
4. Hold the page to your chest to ensure there is no looking at the page. What words struck you?
5. Invite the second group of students into the inner circle, the first group will take their place in the outer circle. The students will be more attuned now. Go straight into the activities. Slowly and carefully. Stop them if they are going too fast. Ask them the same question. They should not be looking at the page. They will have remembered by hearing and speaking it.
6. Repeat with the third group: What about repetition? Are there any words, phrases, images that are repeated?

RATIONALE & TIPS

1. This helps set the pace and encourages the notion that this is NOT a performance. It's about getting the words out. There is no expectation of perfection
2. Don't expect many answers here now. Remark on the ones that come but then move on to the next group
3. Explain to the students that there is no necessity to come up with new ideas, if someone has already said what they intended to say it is still their idea.
4. We are detectives. We are looking for clues in the language that will give us an insight into who this person is and what is going on.

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BUT, SOFT! WHAT LIGHT...

ROMEO

[JULIET appears above at a window.]

- 2 But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?
- 3 It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.
- 4 Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
- 5 Who is already sick and pale with grief,
- 6 That thou, her maid, art far more fair than she.
- 7 Be not her maid, since she is envious;
- 8 Her vestal livery is but sick and green
- 9 And none but fools do wear it; cast it off.
- 10 It is my lady, O, it is my love!
- 11 O, that she knew she were!
- 12 She speaks yet she says nothing; what of that?
- 13 Her eye discourses; I will answer it.
- 14 I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks.
- 15 Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
- 16 Having some business, do entreat her eyes
- 17 To twinkle in their spheres till they return.
- 18 What if her eyes were there, they in her head?
- 19 The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars,
- 20 As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven
- 21 Would through the airy region stream so bright
- 22 That birds would sing and think it were not night.
- 23 See, how she leans her cheek upon her hand!
- 24 O, that I were a glove upon that hand,
- 25 That I might touch that cheek!

