Lesson plan

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Topic	Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
Aims	• Learners will practise listening skills
	• Learners will practise speaking skills through a
	group discussion
	• Learner will use analytical/critical thinking skills
	• Learners will develop writing skills
Age group	Teens
Grade	8 th
Level	B1
Time	45 minutes
Materials	· Video from LearnEnglish Teens
	https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/vi
	deo-series/shakespeare/shakespeare-romeo-juliet
T 4 1 4	• Romeo and Juliet student worksheet
Introducti	In this lesson, learners will watch a video about
on	Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. They will discuss
	what they already know about the play, check their
	understanding of the video, evaluate different
	characters' responsibility for the tragedy in the
	play, and take part in a group discussion to reach
	an agreement about who is ultimately responsible.
	There are also suggestions for
D	alternative/additional follow-up activities.
Procedure	• Introduce the topic by writing the words 'Romeo
1.	and Juliet' on the board. Ask students what they
Introduction	know about the play and brainstorm ideas, writing words on the board around 'Romeo and Juliet'.
to the topic	When they have finished, write the word
(10-	'relationship' on the board.
15 minutes)	Ask students if they know what the relationship
	between Romeo and Juliet was. Elicit the fact that
	they were 'in love' or that they were 'in a
	relationship' or 'boyfriend and girlfriend'.
	• On the board write the following statements:
	<u> </u>
	Having things in common Reing from the same town/area
	Being from the same town/area

Being the same age Getting on with each other's family Being able to trust each other Ask students to look at the statements and rank them from which is the most to which is the least important thing to have in a relationship. Then ask them to discuss their answers with a partner, justifying their answers. • Explain that the students are going to watch a short video about the play Romeo and Juliet. Ask: 'Does anyone know what problem they had in their relationship?" 2. • Ask students to do the pre-watching task (vocabulary matching) from the Learn English **Preparation** activity (5 **Teens website**. It can be found here and is the first minutes) task under 'Preparation'. https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/vi deo-series/shakespeare/shakespeare-romeo-juliet This can be done by projecting the page, or by printing off the worksheet here: http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/sites/te ens/files/romeo_and_juliet_-_exercises_1.pdf. Alternative: Divide the words and definitions and put the definitions on one colour card and the words on a different colour card. Ask students to find their partner. Check the answers when students have matched themselves, and check pronunciation. 3. Watch · Students watch the video. · Ask students to do the 'Check your the video – understanding' activity from the Learn English check understandi Teens website: ng (10-15 http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/sites/te ens/files/romeo_and_juliet_-_exercises_1.pdf, minutes) putting the events from the story in order. This can be done in class on a computer, or by printing out the worksheet.

Alternative: Cut up the comprehension task onto pieces of paper (one per group) and ask students to order them, working in groups.

- If necessary, watch the video again so that students can check their answer.
- Ask students to do the multiple choice comprehension activity. Again, this can be done in class on a projector, or by printing off the worksheet.

Alternative: Ask the questions to the whole class (like a quiz), and students work in teams, writing down the correct option.

4. Followup: discussion task (10–15 minutes)

- Explain that *Romeo and Juliet* is a tragedy. Tell students that they must decide who (if anyone) is responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet.
- Put students into groups of four. Give them the worksheet. Tell them to look at the different characters and make notes about why they might be responsible for the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. Encourage students to analyse the characters' actions and their consequences. Look at the example in the table on the worksheet to help them.
- Give students 10 minutes to make notes and to reach a conclusion as to who they think is responsible. They should choose one of the characters/groups of characters, or they can decide that no one is to blame, but they must justify their answers.
- Here are some suggestions. if your students need help:

The Montagues – Romeo's parents were at war with the Capulets, so Romeo could not be with Juliet. Romeo's friends – They decided to go to the Capulet's party, which is where Romeo met Juliet. It was also dangerous.

Romeo's best friend (his name is Mercutio in the play) – Had a fight with Tybalt and was killed. This

was when Romeo decided to kill Tybalt and then he had to leave Verona.

The Capulets – Juliet's parents were at war with the Montagues. They forced Juliet to marry Paris, even though she did not want to. Tybalt kills Romeo's best friend, and when Romeo reacts by killing him, he has to leave Verona.

Friar Lawrence – He marries Romeo and Juliet, even though he knows their families are not happy about it. He gives Juliet the drugs. His message does not reach Romeo. He does not tell their parents what is happening.

Romeo – He goes to the Capulet's party, when he knows he should not. He kills Juliet's cousin Tybalt, which means he has to leave Verona. He immediately kills himself when he sees Juliet is dead – he could have waited.

Juliet – She lies to her parents about being married to Romeo. She takes the drugs, even though it might be dangerous. Paris dies because of her.

Anyone else? — The messenger who doesn't get the message to Romeo saying that Juliet is not really dead. Accept any other sensible suggestions here!

- Once students have reached an agreement in groups, regroup them and ask them to discuss their answers with their new group. An easy way to do this is to give each person in the group a number (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4), then put all the 1s together, all the 2s together, etc. When students are in their new groups, they can compare who they think is responsible and, again, give reasons.
- You could review language for discussion here if you think your students need it (agreeing/disagreeing, giving and asking for opinions). Write some useful phrases on the board.
- Set a time limit of 10 minutes, and ask students to reach a conclusion.

	• Ask for feedback from all groups. There are no
	right or wrong answers, but students should
	justify their opinions.
5. Giving	Shakespeare choose a tragic ending for his heroes.
homework	Write a different ending to this play.