

BBC

**LIVE
LESSONS**

RSC
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SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

BBC LEARNING PRESENTS

Shakespeare: Text Detectives Live Lesson

Date: Monday, 25th April 2016

Time: 11:00am

Duration: 45 minutes

Location: bbc.co.uk/livelessons

(Note: if you can't watch the webcast live, you will be able to watch the recording on the Live Lessons website)

Setup

How much space and equipment is needed?

The lesson can be screened in a classroom with a large screen linked to a reliable broadband connection. Good audio equipment is not essential but will make the event more enjoyable.

As we'll be asking students to get involved in creative activities throughout the lesson, it would be beneficial if students had the space to move around. We will also be supplying printable worksheets to guide students through the activities.

How many students can participate?

It's completely up to you how many students you have participating in the session. We want to get as many students as possible engaged in this Live Lesson. Space might be a consideration if you have a very large group.

How to prepare for the lesson

Before the lesson

We will be showcasing three scenes during the Live Lesson from **Romeo and Juliet**.

Although we will be providing a brief overview of the play before delving into each scene, it would aid the students' understanding if they were given an introduction to the play before the Live Lesson.

You could choose to do this by reading through the play with your class, or by screening broadcast or cinematic versions of the play in class. You'll find a wealth of resources, including hundreds of TV and radio programmes from the BBC's Shakespeare collection, on the [BBC Shakespeare Archive resource](#).



The Royal Shakespeare Company will be creating resources to help guide you and your students through the play and the scenes we'll be showcasing during the Live Lesson. These optional activities are designed for use in the classroom as a preparation for the lesson.

These printable resources will be made available closer to the lesson on the Shakespeare: Text Detectives page of the Live Lessons website (bbc.co.uk/livelessons).

You'll also find links to additional BBC resources on our website.

Exploring the flexibility of language

This segment of the Live Lesson is based around Act 1, Scene 5 – The Party Scene. We'll be exploring the rhythm and language of a shared sonnet, as well as explaining what a shared sonnet is.

Students will be tasked during the lesson with immersing themselves in choral reading as a group and investigating different ways of playing the scene.

Decoding a soliloquy

In this segment of the Live Lesson, we'll be looking more closely at Act 2, Scene 2 – The Balcony Scene. We'll be exploring what a soliloquy is, what function it serves and how it is used on stage.

Students will be shown how to approach a big section of Shakespeare's text and how to look for clues in the language to help them understand it. The section will also explore interpolated questions and their function within a soliloquy.

Exploring antithesis

This section of the Live Lesson examines Act 3, Scene 2. We'll be exploring Shakespeare's use of antithesis in *Romeo and Juliet*, and giving students a chance to write their own lines containing antithesis.

Contact us

You can email any questions or comments before and during the Live Lesson to live.lessons@bbc.co.uk, or by using the hashtag **#bbclivelessons**. We'll aim to answer as many of your questions as possible.

We'd also love to see examples of your students' work. If your classes have created any work or carried out any activities using the resources provided by the RSC on our website, please do send it in to live.lessons@bbc.co.uk, and they could be showcased on the programme and on our website.

If you let us know if your school is planning to tune in on the day, your school name could also be featured on the programme.

Thank you for your interest in our Shakespeare: Text Detectives Live Lesson, and we hope you'll join us on the 25th of April.

Curriculum links

Key Stage 3/3rd Level – English

As part of the lesson, students will be encouraged to:

- Develop an appreciation and personal response to written and dramatic works
- Make inferences from key statements, clues and evidence in texts
- Understand the purpose of, audience for and context of a piece of written work
- Understand how vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features relates to meaning
- Learn about characterisation, plot, themes and setting and their effect on the text
- Understand how a play is communicated through performance and the effects of alternative staging and interpretations
- Recognise, understand and apply new literary vocabulary, including a range of poetic conventions
- Perform play scripts and poetry, using different dramatic strategies to add impact.