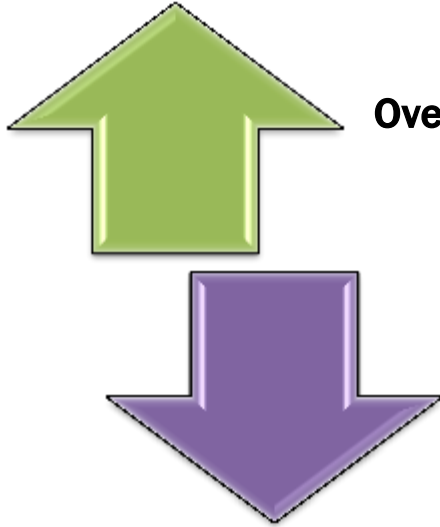


Romeo and Juliet – The Ball Game: A Warm-up Activity



Overview

This is an excellent warm-up activity that provides an easy, non-threatening opportunity to play, collaborate and communicate. It can also provide an introduction to the world of the play through individual words.

Grade Level	Subject Area	Curriculum Expectations and Learning Outcome		Time Needed	Space	Materials
All	English, Language, Drama	Active listening strategies.	Making inferences, interpretation of texts.	Express personal responses and make connections to characters, themes and issues in the play.	10–20 minutes	Clear open spaces
						Several balls* in each of two colours. Soft foam balls about 8 inches in diameter work best. PLUS individual words from the play printed out on slips of paper and placed in an envelope/container for the students to pick from.

The Exercise



STEP 1: Students stand in a circle and start with their hands held out in front of them, as a sign to say that they haven't received the ball yet.



STEP 2: Establish the pattern by throwing the ball to one of the students after you call out their name. The students then continue until each person has received the ball once. The last student throws the ball back to the teacher. This is the pattern. Tell the students to remember whom they threw the ball to and who threw it to them. When going through the first time, remind them to put their hands down after they've received the ball. Repeat the pattern to reinforce it.



STEP 3: Repeat the pattern, introducing additional balls to increase the challenge.



STEP 4: Reverse direction. The person you were throwing the ball to is now the person who throws to you, and the person who was throwing the ball to you is now the person you throw to.



STEP 5: Reverse back to the original pattern.



STEP 6: Introduce a different coloured ball, so that the original colour goes forward and the new colour goes backwards.



STEP 7: Let participants pick word from the play to "toss" and "receive" along with the ball, repeating the original pattern.



***NOTE:** If you don't want to use soft foam balls in your classroom, simply have the students point to one another instead.

Extensions

- Ask students to look up their word in at least three different dictionaries, comparing the various definitions.
- Ask students to use their word in at least three different sentences.
- Ask students to create a drawing, painting or found-object sculpture, inspired by the word.
- Ask students to predict what the play might be about, based on the words they heard.

Ball Game Words – *Romeo and Juliet*

Cut out these words and place them in an envelope or container for the students to pick from.

Grudge

Marriage

Desperate

Mutiny

Friar

Tomb

Foes

Love

Letter

Lovers

Dance

Farewell

Parents

Kiss

Nightingale

Rage

Night

Fear

Quarrel

Enemy

Faithful

Swords

Woo

Wife

Hate

Sorrow

Child

Montagues

Daughter

Tears

Capulets

Nurse

Disobedient

Peace

Murderer

Noble

Death

Husband

Fortune

Banished

Apothecary

Pity

Feast

Poison

Prince

Beauty

Grave

Punished