

Romeo and Juliet – Act I, scene 5 – Palm to Palm

Activity*:

- Divide into groups of two: one reads Juliet, the other reads Romeo.
- 1st read through once together.
- 2nd read through underline the last word of each line that is part of a rhyme.
- 3rd read through stand facing each other with enough space in-between.
 - Each time the line rhymes with another of your lines take 1 step forward [→1].
 - Romeo, each time your line rhymes with Juliet's line, take 2 steps forward [→2]
 - Juliet, each time your line rhymes with Romeo's line, take 2 steps forward [→2].

ACT II, Scene 5, at the Capulet's ball (edited excerpt)

Romeo: [To JULIET] If I profane with my unworhiest hand
This holy shrine, the gentle fine is this,
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand [example R→1]
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss. [example R→1]

Juliet: Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,
Which mannerly devotion shows in this, [example J→2]
For saints have hands that pilgrims' hands do touch, []
And palm to palm is holy palmers' kiss. []

Romeo: Have not saints lips, and holy palmers too?

Juliet: Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

Romeo: O, then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do; []
They pray, grant thou, lest faith turn to despair. []

Juliet: Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

Romeo: Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take. []
Thus from my lips, by thine, my sin is purged.

Juliet: Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

Romeo: Sin from my lips? O trespass sweetly urged! []
Give me my sin again.

Questions:

1. Who makes the first move?
2. Do you see a pattern in this movement?
3. What does this say about the characters and the metaphors they are using?

* adapted & inspired by *Globe Education Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet*, London, Hodder Education, 2011.