



ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP THEMES AND ISSUES

- On the 'Week by Week' part of the web-site select Week 2 and then click on 'Results'. You will find a reproduction of the poster which has been created for this production as well as some other designs by pupils from a school. Examine the actual poster and identify how the designer has made it appeal to a younger audience. Think about the clothes the actors are wearing and their appearance. How does the poster show the themes of the play? Think about the way the actors are positioned and other features such as the 'crack' running down the length of the poster. Read the 'Brief' that was given to the designers and have a go at creating your own poster that will be appealing to a younger audience.
- Have a look at Week 2 of the 'Week by Week' part of the web-site and listen to Adrian Hastings from Prem Design, the company that designed the poster for the production, talking about the way the design team decided to develop the poster. Notice how he talks about 'fly-posting', 'tagging' and creating a 'hard, gritty feel' for the poster. Which aspects of the play do you think the designers emphasised in the poster?
- In the interview with Adrian Hastings from Prem Design, in Week 2 of the 'Week by Week' part of the web-site, he describes the way he plans to put lots of posters on the walls of the theatre when the play is being performed. These posters are intended to show aspects of the play. What quotes from the play would you put on different posters to show the different themes?
- Listen to the blog posted by the actor playing Lord Capulet. Notice how he describes Capulet's character as 'very direct' and almost 'psychotic'. Now read Act 3 Scene 5 lines 140 – 195 and notice how he treats his daughter Juliet when she refuses the marriage to Paris. Now compare his treatment of Juliet to the way that Lord Montague behaves towards his son Romeo in Act 1 Scene 1 lines 110 – 153. Write a comparison of the ways the two families treat their children. Do you think the difference between the way Juliet and Romeo are treated is because one is a girl and the other a boy?
- Read the 'Generation Gap' article in the 'Language' section of the web-site. Notice how the article describes the way Shakespeare reduced Juliet's age from 16 to 13 to emphasise the gap in age between the two lovers and their parents. What evidence can you find in the play that shows the difference in views between Romeo and Juliet and their parents in the play? Think of the way that they think about marriage and family loyalty. What do the older people show that they have learnt from their children by the end of the play?