

## WEEK 1: NEWSPAPER REPORT

### CONTEXT: ACT 1

Having heard of the 'ancient grudge' between 'two households, both alike in dignity' in the play's prologue, Act 1 introduces us to the main characters, and shows how the 'new mutiny' plays out in the streets of Verona.

Act 1 opens with a confrontation between servants from the opposing Capulet and Montague households.

Gregory: **I will frown as I pass by, and let them take it as they list.**

Sampson: **Nay, as they dare. I will bite my thumb at them, which is a disgrace to them, if they bear it.** (*bites his thumb*).

This is a very insulting gesture and the conversation between the groups of men soon escalates into a fight. Benvolio (Romeo's cousin) tries to stop the brawl but Tybalt (Juliet's cousin) is determined to attack. Eventually, Prince Escalus manages to stop the fight, by threatening to punish both families for disturbing the peace of Verona:

**If ever you disturb our streets again,  
Your lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.**

Lord and Lady Montague then find out from Benvolio that their son, Romeo, is sad because he is in love with Rosaline, but she does not love him back.

We are then introduced to a new character, Paris, who wishes to marry Juliet. Her father, Lord Capulet, thinks she is too young, but he still suggests that Paris tries to woo her at the Capulet ball, which is taking place that evening.

Romeo and Benvolio come across a messenger who has invitations for other guests of the ball. Upon discovering that Rosaline is invited, Romeo wants to go to the ball. Benvolio suggests that he should instead find someone new to love.

That evening, Romeo and Benvolio arrive at the ball, wearing masks to disguise themselves (as being Montagues, they would not be welcome at a Capulet party). Romeo soon sees Juliet and falls in love with her. Tybalt hears Romeo's voice and recognises him to be a Montague. He wishes to confront Romeo but is told not to by Lord Capulet, as Romeo is well regarded and Lord Capulet does not wish the party to be ruined.

Romeo searches for Juliet and they soon kiss. However, it is not long until they both find out that they are from opposing families:

Juliet: **My only love sprung from my only hate!**

*Over the course of the week, the children will be writing a newspaper report on the Capulet's ball from the **society** pages of a newspaper (the section of the newspaper which reports on local, national and international social events).*

# LESSON 1

## LI: TO KNOW THE FEATURES OF A NEWSPAPER REPORT.

### National Curriculum Links

#### Reading

Pupils should be taught to:

- apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes both to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet
- listen to and discuss a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks

#### Writing

Pupils should be taught to plan their writing by:

- discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar.

## STARTER:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z2yycdm/articles/z2gk9qt>

Play the above film clip to introduce newspapers to the class. Discuss why people read newspapers and what we features we might expect to see in a newspaper.

## MAIN TEACHING:

Put an example of a newspaper report on the IWB (see next page). Start to read it out loud to the children, asking them to follow the words as you read. Then ask some members of the class to take over the reading.

Repeat this activity, but now ask the children to read the newspaper with their partners, taking it in turns to read the different paragraphs.

Ensure that the children are working in mixed ability pairs so that they can support each other's learning.



# PRINCE'S PAIN PERSISTS!

*Yesterday evening, a huge brawl broke out in Verona between members of the Capulet and Montague families and Prince Escalus had to stop the fighting himself.*



*The fight started following an argument between servants from the two families. One witness said that he saw one of the Capulet servants bite his thumb at a passing Montague servant. After this rude act, the men started to lose their tempers and the conflict began. Not long after, Benvolio tried to break up the fight by asking the group to put their swords away. However Tybalt soon arrived and threatened to kill Benvolio. At about 6pm, Lord Montague and Lord Capulet arrived with their wives and started to threaten each other with violence. It was not until the arrival of Prince Escalus that the fighting stopped.*

*Grace Fortuna was at the scene when the Prince arrived. "He was very angry with both sides. I've never seen him lose his temper like that! He said that anyone who caused another disturbance to the streets of Verona would pay for it with their lives," she said.*

*This event calls into question the safety of our streets. Prince Escalus has tried for many years to make Verona a safe place to live. However there is still much work to be done.*



Ask the children what they notice about the newspaper article. Can they remember any of the features they saw in the clip at the beginning of the lesson?

Show the **structure** of a newspaper report (written on separate pieces of paper):

- **Headline**
- **Orientation paragraph (when, what, where, who)**
- **More detail about event paragraph (how, why)**
- **Quotation paragraph**
- **Reorientation paragraph (present tense – what will happen now?)**

Ask children to work with their partners to identify each part of the newspaper in the example they have been reading.

Take feedback from the class. Ask different children to come up to the front and stick the pieces of paper next to the correct paragraph (using Blue-tac).

Now show the children the following features of a newspaper report:

- **Mainly past tense**
- **4Ws in the orientation sentence (what,when,where,who)**
- **Third person**
- **Time adverbials (e.g. afterwards, later, at 5 o'clock)**
- **Chronological order**
- **Quotation with speech marks**
- **Paragraphs to organise ideas**

Give each pair a copy of the newspaper report on A3 paper. Model using a felt tip pen to highlight examples of words in the past tense and label using a ruler.

Ask children to do the same on their piece of paper.

Repeat for the next feature (4Ws in the orientation sentence) using a different colour pen.

When you are confident that the children understand the task, ask them to work through the rest of the features with their partner and finish annotating their sheet.

After about 10-15 minutes, take feedback from the class and ask different partners to give an example of each feature.

### **Plenary**

Ask children to write down as many features of newspaper reports as they can remember. They then choose 4 different features and record on a whiteboard in a Bingo style grid. Call out features for children to cross off until one child crosses out all four features in their board and calls out **Bingo!**