

Learning objective: Looking at Shakespeare's presentation of themes of love and hate and considering their overlapping nature.

Starter:

Give students the HATE to LOVE sheet (available from the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning website) to fill in.

Introduction:

What is love? Can students summarise what they think it is? Have students discuss ideas and make notes on board.

What is hate? Again ask students to write down a sentence which they think defines it and write the ideas on the board.

Can love and hate sometimes overlap? Can you hate someone that you love? Can you love someone that you hate?

Tell students to keep these ideas at the forefront whilst we read some more of the play. It might help us shape our opinions about *Romeo and Juliet*.

Development:

Read Romeo's conversation with Benvolio. Discuss what is happening and who Romeo is in love with.

Look in particular at Romeo's speech from lines 169-181. Ask students to pick out the ways in which Romeo refers to what has happened in the riot that day.

Next look at the way Romeo talks about his own worries on lines 183-193.

Discuss the idea of oxymorons and antithesis (opposites).

Students return to their definitions of love and hate – can they refine their ideas so it is an oxymoron?

Plenary:

What have we learned about the themes in *Romeo and Juliet*? Why does Shakespeare draw attention to them from the very outset of the play and why does he show how conflicting each one can be?

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