

DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR YOUR CLASS

For classes reading the play before seeing it:

1. What do you expect to see on stage at the Stratford Festival? Have each student make a list of predictions about what they expect. Save these predictions. After your Stratford trip, revisit them to see how they compared to the actual production.
2. Write in role, as either Romeo or Juliet, after meeting each other for the first time at the masked ball and talk about your first impressions and reactions.
3. Make a story map or a story board outlining the main events of the play. (This may be used later in group activities.)

After your Stratford trip:

1. If Romeo and Juliet had not died, what would their life together have been like over time?
2. Discuss the world of the youth in this play (i.e. Romeo, Juliet, Benvolio, Mercutio and Tybalt) with those of the adults – in what ways are the youth similar/different from the adults?
3. Discuss the characters Mercutio and Nurse and their impact on the audience and the development of the play.
4. Create a character web showing how all the characters are connected to each other. Discuss the complexity of these relationships and how they affect the progression of the play.

For more classroom activities, complete with instructions, materials and Ontario curriculum expectation links, visit stratfordfestival.ca/teachingmaterials.

You can also check out the following:

- The Forum**, a series of remarkable events to enrich the play-going experience: www.stratfordfestival.ca/forum/ .
- Stratford Festival's **YouTube channel** for behind-the-scenes videos, photos and interviews: www.youtube.com/user/stratfordfestival
- Stratford Festival's **Flickr** pages: www.flickr.com/photos/stratfest/
- Stratford Festival **Twitter**: twitter.com/stratfest
- Stratford Festival **Facebook**: www.facebook.com/StratfordFestival