

# WILL POWER



## EXPERIENCE GUIDE

### EPISODE FOUR

### ROMEO AND JULIET

## DRAMATIC IRONY

“Dramatic Irony” happens when the audience knows something that characters in the play don’t know.

Here are a couple examples of plots with dramatic irony:

- Swimmers laugh as they enter the ocean, but the audience knows a killer shark is under the water.
- A man is excited for a job interview, but the audience knows the boss is his secret crush.

### SPOILER ALERT!

*Romeo and Juliet* begins with a prologue that explains the entire plot in a fourteen-line sonnet!

#### What mood do the bold words set for the play?

*Two households, both alike in dignity  
(In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),  
From **ancient grudge** break to new **mutiny**,  
Where civil **blood** makes civil hands **unclean**.  
From forth the fatal loins of these two **foes**  
A pair of star-crossed lovers **take their life**;  
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows  
Doth with their **death** bury their parents’ **strife**.  
The **fearful** passage of their **death-marked** love  
And the continuance of their parents’ **rage**,  
Which, but their children’s end, naught could remove,  
Is now the two hours’ traffic of our stage;  
The which, if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.*  
(Act I, scene i)

### Brainstorm...

Can you think of movie, tv or book plots in which the audience knows something the characters don’t?

Which of these plots are funny and which are suspenseful?

What was your emotional reaction when watching or reading these stories?



## WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

In *Romeo and Juliet*, the play is made more suspenseful because the audience knows that many of the heartbreaking events could have been prevented.

In the scenes below, the audience (you!) knows something that the characters don't. Fill in the thought bubble with what you would say to the characters in that moment.

- Romeo and Juliet don't know that they are from feuding families when they fall in love at the party.
- Mercutio, Benvolio and Tybalt don't know that Romeo has already married Juliet when Romeo refuses to accept Tybalt's challenge to a dual.
- Romeo doesn't know that Juliet faked her death when he is about to drink the poison.



## YOUR TURN!

Create your own funny or tragic dramatic irony!



Draw a two-paneled comic. In the first panel, reveal some information to the reader.

In the second panel, show what happens when the characters learn that information.

*RL.8.6 Analyze how differences in the points of view (perspectives)\* of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.*

# WILL POWER

IS MADE POSSIBLE BY



### WILL POWER TEAM:

**Crystal Marie Stewart**, Actor, video production, curriculum development

**Christina Farrell**, Curriculum development, stop motion animation

**Rob Merritt**, Video editing and production

**Adam Knight**, Riverside Theatre Producing Artistic Director

**Irena Sarić**, Riverside Theatre Managing Director

### ACTORS:

**Crystal Marie Stewart**: Mercutio (Act 3.1), Juliet (Act 2.2)

**Aaron Stonerook**: Tybalt (Act 3.1), Romeo (Act 2.2)

**Christina Sullivan**: Benvolio (Act 3.1)

**Ray Vanek**: Romeo (Act 3.1)

**Kevin Michael Moore**, Fight Choreographer

Thank you to the **TCR Costume Department!**