

# 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 then 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 because 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

##### Writing

Pupils should be taught to plan their writing:

- noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary

### STARTER:

Show children pictures of a selection of different newspapers and ask them to discuss with a partner anything they would expect to see in a newspaper (e.g. an eye-catching headline, paragraphs, direct speech). Children share their ideas as the teacher makes a list on a flipchart (children should be able to refer to this list later in the lesson.) This will help the children link what they already know about newspapers with their new learning, and this will support those children who are less sure of the features of newspaper reports.

### MAIN TEACHING:

*(This part of the lesson should be done where there is space for the children to work in groups on the floor).*

**N.B. Prior to this lesson, you will need to stick an A3 sized newspaper report (using the models provided) onto large pieces of flipchart paper.**

Put the children into mixed ability groups of 5. Each group should be given one of the newspaper reports and some post-it notes.

Each group should then read through their newspaper report. They should then pick out any features that they think all newspaper reports would have (e.g. headline, orientation sentence, paragraphs). They should write each feature on a different post-it note and stick their post-it notes on the flip-chart paper around the example. Encourage groups who are struggling to use the list created at the start of the lesson.

Once the groups have been given enough time to find as many features as they can, ask the class to share their findings. Do they now want to add any more features to the list made at the beginning of the lesson? After this class discussion, each group should swap pieces of paper with a group who have a different newspaper report. They should repeat the activity with their new example and do the following:

- Add in any features they think the other group has missed
- Put ONE tick next to any features they agree with
- If they do not agree with a feature, they should leave it blank but not remove it

Now the children have looked at two different models in detail with their group, they will be working individually. They should now walk sensibly around the room and look at the post-it notes that have been written around the newspaper reports. If they agree with a feature, they should put ONE tick next to it. If they see a feature they do not agree with, they should leave it blank.

At the end of this activity, collect all the post-it notes that have been ticked lots of times and stick them onto a board at the front of the classroom.

Write **STUCTURE** on one side of the board and **LANGUAGE** on the other side of the board. Ask the children to help you sort the post-it notes onto the correct side of the board.

Review the features the class have come up with and ask them if they think any are missing. Draw out the missing features with reference to the examples the children have read.

Use the discussions from the lesson, draw out the success criteria for a newspaper report, divided into language and structural features. Display on your working wall display for the children to refer to for the rest of the week.

*Below is a list of key features of newspaper reports to support your teaching of this text type:*

## **STRUCTURAL FEATURES**

*Headline      Picture/photograph with caption      Orientation paragraph (who, what, where, when)      Further paragraphs giving more detail*

## **LANGUAGE FEATURES**

*Passive language.      A catchy headline (alliteration, word play, short and snappy)  
Direct speech      Time fronted adverbials (Not long after... Later on... At about 11pm...)  
Mainly past tense (apart from the headline which is present tense)*

## **PUNCTUATION**

*Parenthesis to add extra detail*

# PRINCE'S PAIN PERSISTS!

Yesterday evening, a huge brawl broke out in Verona between members of the Capulet and Montague households. Prince Escalus had to personally intervene to stop the vicious fight.

It is believed that the dispute started following an altercation between servants from the opposing families. According to eye-witnesses, Sampson, a Capulet servant, was spotted biting his thumb at a passing group of Montagues. This provocative act caused an argument between the groups of men and swords were soon drawn.

Sources suggest that Benvolio, Lord Montague's nephew, made attempts to break up the fight by asking the men to put their swords away. However, Tybalt, Lord Capulet's nephew, soon arrived and threatened to kill Benvolio, which did nothing to resolve the tense situation. Not long after, at about 6pm, Lord Montague and Lord Capulet arrived with their wives and started to threaten each other. Both were seen to be holding their swords. It was not until the arrival of Prince Escalus that the fighting stopped.

Grace Fortuna, a maid, was passing by when the Prince arrived on the scene. "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."

It is well known that these two conflicting families are often to blame for the violence on our streets. Prince Escalus has tried for many years to resolve the situation to ensure that Verona is a safe place to live. However, as yesterday's events show, there is still much work to be done.



Prince Escalus is reported to be furious with the men who started the fight.