

## ACTIVITY ONE

# A TIMELESS TALE

The story of *Romeo and Juliet* has been adapted and alluded to in countless ways over hundreds of years. In fact, even Shakespeare himself borrowed the plot from an Italian tale. Why does this story endure? What human experiences or questions does it deal with that make it timeless?

**PART 1** In the chart below, list three themes that have made *Romeo and Juliet* so relevant and popular for audiences throughout history. You can make up your own name for the themes. Then, for each one, cite a passage from the play where Shakespeare seems to be exploring this theme, and give an example from your own life—your school, your family, your friends, etc.—to show how this theme still has relevance today.

Theme	Passage from the Play	Example from My Life

**PART 2** Find at least one example of where *Romeo and Juliet* has been adapted or alluded to in popular culture. This could be a film adaptation, of course, but it could also be a song, a cartoon or comic, an advertisement or commercial, an internet meme—almost anything. Be prepared to present your example in class, explaining why this particular popular twist on *Romeo and Juliet* makes sense, and why certain choices or changes may have been made. What kind of audience is your example meant to reach? How do you know?



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