

Name: _____ Date: _____

***Romeo and Juliet* Inclusivity Stations Activity**

Station 1: *West Side Story*

Context: One of the most famous adaptations of *Romeo and Juliet* is *West Side Story*, a Broadway musical-turned-film first released in 1961 and then again in 2021. In these adaptations, the play is set in New York City with a feud between the Jets, a white gang, and the Sharks, a Puerto Rican gang. Tony, a former Jet, and Maria, the sister of the leader of the Sharks, fall in love.

Directions: Watch [this fight scene from *West Side Story* \(1961\)](#) (00:00–04:26), portraying Act 3, Scene 1 of *Romeo and Juliet*. Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and directorial choices did the director make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?

Directions: Listen to the song [La Borinqueña \(Sharks Version\) from *West Side Story* \(2021\)](#) (00:00–01:03). Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and directorial choices did the director make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?

Directions: Read the *Town & Country* article "[Steven Spielberg Refused to Subtitle the Spanish in *West Side Story* For This Important Reason](#)" by Emma Dibdin. Then, answer the question below.

Why did Steven Spielberg refuse to use subtitles in the 2021 film adaptation of *West Side Story*?
What is the impact of this choice on the audience?

Station 2: *Rosaline*

Context: In 2022, Hulu released a retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* through the perspective of Rosaline.

Directions: Watch the trailer for the movie [Rosaline](#) (00:00–01:33). Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and directorial choices did the director make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?

Station 3: Royal Shakespeare Company's *Romeo and Juliet* (2018)

Context: The Royal Shakespeare Company, a renowned theater company in England, put on the play *Romeo and Juliet* in 2018.

Directions: Listen to the BBC *Front Row* podcast episode ["Steve McQueen, Erica Whyman on *Romeo and Juliet*, Gender-swapped theatre"](#) (14:15–17:50). Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and directorial choices did the director make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?

Directions: Watch the Royal Shakespeare Company video ["Romeo and Juliet—importance of a female Mercutio"](#) (00:00–00:52). Then, answer the question below.

What impact did the director's choice have on the actress playing Mercutio and audiences?

Station 4: *& Juliet*

Context: In 2019, the musical *& Juliet* premiered in England. It has since toured globally, including Canada, the United States, and Australia. *& Juliet* reimagines Juliet's ending in the original play.

Directions: Watch the Broadway trailer for [" & Juliet "](#) (00:00–01:03). Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and directorial choices did the director make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?

Station 5: Gareth Hinds's graphic novel version of *Romeo and Juliet*

Context: In 2013, Gareth Hinds published a graphic novel version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Directions: Read pages 78–80 of Gareth Hinds's graphic novel. Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and authorial choices did the illustrator and author, Gareth Hinds, make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?

Station 6: *Teach the Torches to Burn: A Romeo & Juliet Remix* by Caleb Roehrig

Context: In 2023, author Caleb Roehrig published the novel *Teach the Torches to Burn: A Romeo & Juliet Remix*.

Directions: Read the synopsis for the novel [Teach the Torches to Burn: A Romeo & Juliet Remix](#) by Caleb Roehrig. Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and directorial choices did the director make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?

Station 7: *Redefining Juliet*

Context: In 2016, the BBC released the documentary *Redefining Juliet*, directed by Glen Milner, about a stage production of *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Robin Norton Hale, that cast actors with disabilities or differences as Juliet.

Directions: Watch the BBC video "[Retelling Shakespeare like never before](#)" (00:00–00:55). Then, answer the question below.

What artistic and directorial choices did the director make to create an inclusive adaptation? What is the impact of these choices on the audience?