

# Moving and Grooving

Grades 1-4



## Lesson 2 — *Let's Listen: Emotions in Music*

### Objective

Students will become familiar with several pieces that portray emotions through music including Prokofiev's "Montagues and Capulets," Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture* and William Grant Still's *Afro-American Symphony*. Students will identify and understand ways composers use music to convey specific emotions. Students will explore how music can evoke emotions in themselves.

### Suggested Materials

- Recording of Prokofiev's "Montagues and Capulets" from *Romeo and Juliet* (audio links can be found at [youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic](https://www.youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic))
- Recording of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture*, love theme (audio links can be found at [youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic](https://www.youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic))
- Recording of Still's *Afro-American Symphony*, movement 4 (audio links can be found at [youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic](https://www.youtube.com/user/BfloPhilharmonic))
- Word Bank (provided)
- Optional: Kids Love Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* – Quick Summary for Kids (provided)

### New York State Arts Standards

MU:Pr4.1.1a	MU:Pr4.1.2a	MU:Pr4.1.3a	MU:Pr4.1.4a
MU:Pr4.2.1a	MU:Pr4.2.2a	MU:Pr4.2.3a	MU:Pr4.2.4a
MU:Pr4.3.1a	MU:Pr4.3.2a	MU:Pr4.3.3a	MU:Pr4.3.4a
MU:Re7.2.1a	MU:Re7.2.2a	MU:Re7.2.3a	MU:Re7.2.4a
MU:Re8.1.1a	MU:Re8.1.2a	MU:Re8.1.3a	MU:Re8.1.4a

### Common Core Learning Standards for ELA & Literacy

Reading, CCR 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7

Writing, CCR 1, 2 and 4

Speaking & Listening, CCR 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

Language, CCR 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

### Procedure

- 1) Music can move us emotionally as well as physically. Composers can depict different emotions through their musical choices. In this lesson, we will explore how three different composers express some strong emotions through the music that they compose.
- 2) The first two musical selections in this lesson depict emotions from Shakespeare's story of *Romeo and Juliet*. This story takes place in Verona, Italy where two families are fighting. The families are named the Montagues and Capulets and they have fought one another for a long time. The two main characters are named Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet. They meet at a party and fall in love, but they know their families will not approve. Ask students to think about what kinds of emotions they might hear in music that tells this story?

## Lesson 2 — *Let's Listen: Emotions in Music* (continued)

- 3) Play the opening of Prokofiev's "Montagues and Capulets" for students. After listening for a little while, ask them to describe the music. What types of sounds are they hearing? What instruments are playing? What qualities do they hear? How does the music make them feel? What emotions might this music be depicting? What might be happening?
- 4) Tell the students about the scene from *Romeo and Juliet* that Prokofiev was depicting – an angry conflict between the two warring families, the Montagues and the Capulets. Did the composer do a good job evoking the emotions of anger and conflict? If so, how did he achieve this? What musical choices did he make about the tempo, the dynamics, the instruments playing, etc.?
- 5) Now play some the love theme Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture*. Ask the students the same questions that you asked about the Prokofiev. Have they heard this music before? How is this music different than the previous selection? What scene do they picture?
- 6) Now describe the scene that Tchaikovsky is depicting— this is the moment when Romeo and Juliet declare their love to each other. What did this composer do to help us hear this emotional content? What musical choices did he make?
- 7) Finally, we will explore a piece of music that does not tell a specific story. Play the end of William Grant Still's *Afro-American Symphony*, movement 4 (beginning around the 5:20 mark). What does this music sound like to the students? How is it similar to the previous selections? How is it different? How does it make them feel?
- 8) Share some information about this piece. It was the first symphony by an African American that was performed for an American audience by a leading orchestra. The composer liked to incorporate elements of black musical culture in his pieces, and this piece uses blues progressions and rhythms. In the fourth movement, which he originally titled, "Aspiration" he seeks to portray hope and a collective striving for a better world. Ask the students if they think Still achieved this emotional tone through his musical choices. Discuss.

### Extended learning:

Ask students to bring in a piece of music that evokes a strong emotion in them. They can write a short paragraph describing why it makes them feel the way that they feel while listening to it. Students may take turns sharing their musical choice and their writing with the class.

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**LOUD!**

**FAST**

*Choppy*

**Bright**

**Major**

Duple

*Busy*

**HOT**

Quiet

**Slow...**

Smooth

**Dark**

**Minor**

Triple

**Still**

**Cold**

## ***Kids Love Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet – Quick Summary for Kids***

This story takes place in Verona, Italy, where two families are fighting. The families are named the Montagues and Capulets and they have hated one another for a long time. At the beginning of the play the Prince of Verona warns both families that anyone caught fighting in the streets of Verona will be sentenced to death.

One of the main characters is named Romeo Montague. Romeo is usually peaceful and interested more in love than in fighting. At the beginning of the play, Romeo tells his cousin Benvolio and his friend Mercutio that he is sick with love for a girl who won't love him back. Benvolio and Mercutio encourage him to forget about her and go with them to a costume party at the house of Capulet. They know it will be dangerous because they are Montagues, but they think it will be fun.

Old Capulet has one daughter named Juliet. He is hoping Juliet will agree to marry Count Paris and is excited for them to spend time together at the party. Capulet wants his party to be a happy place for love to blossom. When his nephew, Tybalt, tells him that there are Montagues at the party, Capulet demands that Tybalt leave them alone to enjoy the party.

While Romeo is at the party, he meets Juliet. He falls instantly in love with her and is sad to learn that she is the daughter of his family's enemy. Romeo decides to risk his life and sneaks to Juliet's bedroom window to speak with her. While he watches and listens to Juliet, Romeo learns that she is in love with him too!

They speak at the window and make plans to secretly get married, even though their families are enemies. The next day Romeo and Juliet go to Friar Lawrence who agrees to marry them right then and there. Friar Lawrence hopes that their marriage will help to bring peace to both families. On the way home from the wedding, Tybalt, who is still angry that the Montagues came to the Capulet party, challenges Romeo to a duel in the street. Romeo refuses to fight him. Mercutio agrees to fight Tybalt instead. Romeo tries to stop the fight and accidentally gets in the way. Tybalt stabs Mercutio and Mercutio dies. Romeo is so angry and sad that Mercutio is dead that he agrees to fight Tybalt, and then kills him! Benvolio begs Romeo to run away from Verona so that the Prince of Verona can't sentence him to death for fighting.

Juliet is sad to hear of her cousin's death, but she is even more sad to hear that her husband Romeo must leave Verona. She has another problem too. Her father is forcing her to marry Count Paris. She goes to Friar Lawrence for advice. Friar Lawrence gives Juliet a special type of poison. The poison will make her fall into a very deep sleep, but everyone will think she is dead. Friar Lawrence plans to send a message to Romeo so that he can come back to Verona and meet Juliet when she wakes up in her family's tomb. Then they can leave Verona and be together.

Juliet follows her part of the plan, but something goes very wrong. Friar Lawrence's message never makes it to Romeo. Instead, Romeo hears that Juliet is dead. In despair, Romeo returns to Verona with a very strong poison. He goes to Juliet in the tomb, drinks the poison, and dies. When Juliet wakes up she finds Romeo laying next to her. She is so sad that she takes his dagger and kills herself.

This story is a tragedy because the ending is so sad. There is one good thing that comes of Romeo and Juliet's deaths. When the Montagues and the Capulets learn what happened with their children, they agree to end the years of fighting. The Prince of Verona hopes the story of Romeo and Juliet will help keep Verona a peaceful place.

**This, and other resources, provided by [www.kidslloveshakespeare.com](http://www.kidslloveshakespeare.com)**

