

**ELL Strategies**  
**Language Arts: Romeo and Juliet**

**Submitted By:** Tami Forsline  
Clemente High School

**Content Area**

ESL

**Title of Lesson/Unit**

Trial of Friar Lawrence (*Romeo and Juliet*, Oxford, Level 2)

**Student Audience**

ESL2

**Timeline of Lesson**

3 double periods

**Brief Overview of Lesson**

After reading play, students hold the trial of Friar Lawrence who is being sued by the Montagues and Capulets for the death of their children.

**WIDA Standards**

**English Language Proficiency Standard 1:** *English language learners communicate in English for social and instructional purposes within the school setting.*

**Language Domains:**

*Listening (1b) – Process, understand, interpret, and evaluate spoken language in a variety of situations.*

*Speaking (1b) – Engage in oral communication in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes and audiences.*

*Reading (3b) – Process, interpret, and evaluate written language, symbols, and text with understanding and fluency.*

*Writing (4b) – Engage in written communication in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes and audiences.*

**English Language Proficiency Standard 2:** *English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Language Arts.*

**Language Domains:**

*Listening (5b) Process, understand, interpret, and evaluate spoken language in a variety of situations.*

*Speaking (6a and 6b) – Engage in oral communication in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes and audiences.*

*Reading (7a) – Process, interpret, and evaluate written language, symbols, and text with understanding and fluency.*

*Writing (8b) –Engage in written communication in a variety of forms for a variety of purposes and audiences.*

### **Materials Needed (Please list in order)**

*Romeo and Juliet*, (Oxford, Level 2)

Gavel

Video camera

### **Teacher Preparation**

Copy the attached handout

Select students with the highest level of language proficiency in the class to be the six lawyers and the judge (Perhaps an A student)

Select students with a lower level of language proficiency to be sergeant-at-arms

The nurse should preferably be a student with a medium to high level of language proficiency (Perhaps a B student)

Assign other students as minor witnesses.

Student without parts will be the jury

Set the room up like a court room

### **Lesson Goal/Objective**

Speaking in a formal setting

Persuasive speaking/ writing and logical reasoning

Syntax of questions

### **Step-by-Step Procedures**

1. Teachers should first decide how their students will be grouped
2. Look at the attached handout to determine which students would best play the characters listed
3. Distribute the handout to students and review it with them

**Homework**

Finish writing opening statement

Finish writing trial questions

**Assessment Based on Goals/Objectives**

Is writing persuasive?

Can students write using correct syntax in questions?

A performance rubric can be used for speaking parts, but not all students will have a speaking part.

**Possible Connections to Other Subjects**

Law, Government

**References Used**

*Romeo and Juliet* (Oxford, Level 2)

**Accommodations**

See "Teacher Preparations" to accommodate various proficiency levels

## Friar Lawrence's Trial

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Friar Lawrence was very important in deciding “the plot,” what happened to whom and when. We are going to write the next part, the sequel, to Shakespeare’s play, after Friar Lawrence tells the Prince what had happened with Romeo and Juliet. When the Capulets and Montagues learn what the Friar had done, they want to blame (culpar) him for their children’s deaths! They want to sue! (enviar/mandar dinero)

**First**, you are going to be one of the following people/couples:

1. Friar Lawrence
2. Lord & Lady Capulet
3. Lord & Lady Montague

If you are Friar Lawrence, defend yourself—write a statement about why you are NOT guilty of causing the deaths of Romeo and Juliet. Start with: I am innocent of the deaths because...

If you are a Capulet or Montague, write a statement about why Friar Lawrence IS guilty and responsible for the deaths. Begin with: Friar Lawrence caused the death of Romeo and Juliet (choose the right one) because...and write your reasons.

**Second**, using the character you were above, write the questions your lawyers will ask the witnesses (testigos) on “the stand.” I will collect these. Tomorrow your group will compare and select the best of the questions to use in court

**Third**, you will meet with the team of lawyers whose opinion you wrote on the day before. You will brainstorm your (written) ideas with each other to write an opening statement and decide on your defense, your best arguments and reasons.

**Finally**, we will separate into the following parts and hold a trial (juicio) for Friar Lawrence. We will need the following characters:

2 Lawyers for Friar Lawrence	Friar Lawrence
2 Lawyers for Capulets	Lord Capulet
2 Lawyers for Montagues	Lady Capulet
Judge	Lord Montague
Nurse	Lady Montague
Sergeant at Arms	Benvolio
Prince	Romeo’s servant
Jury	Other witnesses