



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute  
2010 Volume II: The Art of Reading People: Character, Expression, Interpretation

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## **Creating Character: Performance, Analysis, and Social Development Using *Romeo and Juliet***

Guide for Curriculum Unit 10.02.06

by Elizabeth A. Johnson

This unit uses *Romeo and Juliet* to develop social and emotional skills as well as literary skills and improvisation techniques in high school students. Students will examine characters in the play based on their goals, motivations, obstacles, and actions. Then, students will perform scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* and critique their role as audience members. Finally, students will keep a week-long journal of their own goals, motivations, obstacles, and actions. From this they will evaluate their own decisions and see how their actions affect themselves and others. Students will get concrete ways to express themselves physically and emotionally while learning literary and life skills that translate into life outside our classrooms.

(Developed for Freshman English, grade 9; recommended for Standard English course, grade 9, and Theatre course, grades 9-12)

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