Exploring Act 1

Activity 1: Preparing for a big scene
a. In groups, look back over Act 1 Scene 4 and each choose one of the more important characters attending the party.

b. Look back over Act 1 and consider how your chosen character might feel about all the events that have happened so far. Act 1 takes place over one day, a Sunday.

c. Now imagine it is just before the Capulet party and the characters you have chosen are in the final moment of getting ready for the event. Make a freeze-frame which shows that final moment.

d. Bring your freeze-frame to life as each character speaks their greatest hope for the party in their own words.

e. Repeat task d, but this time with each character speaking their greatest fear.

f. Support each other in writing a list of three hopes and three fears for each character in that final moment before the party begins.

g. Discuss how those hopes and fears are met by the end of Act 1 Scene 4.

h. Write a monologue in which your character retells the events of the evening from their point of view. Include their feelings about those events and any reflections on what happened earlier on during the day. Also include what your character thinks will happen next. Try to consider the key themes of love, loyalty, friendship, family and fate in your response.

Activity 2: Exploring the themes of Act 1
a. Discuss which of the following key themes you feel are the most important in Act 1 and why:
   - love
   - loyalty
   - friendship
   - family
   - fate.

b. Write an essay summarising your ideas about the presentation of the most important theme (or themes) in Act 1. Try to include specific detail and some quotations from the play to support your points.

Did you know?
When there is a rehearsal for a scene that involves most of the characters, such as Act 1 Scene 4 in this play, some actors might prepare by imagining all the things that their character has been through up to this point in the play. This preparation helps to ensure that every character is reacting appropriately and the scene makes sense.