



## Parts of a Whole

We love this activity as a way to actively and imaginatively summarize or analyze a text you've read. This can also be used as a quick community builder to help foster collaboration and trust in a classroom.

If you're teaching virtually, check out [▶ this video](#) to see a group of CPS teachers explore elements of *Romeo and Juliet* with this activity over Zoom with Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Education Team. We thought it worked well over this platform, and the screen shot below of everyone performing their actions (from the Capulet ball) could be compared and contrasted with one from another class for further analysis and discussion.

Note: If you're using Google Meet, you and your students can download [this extension](#) to make sure everyone in the "room" can see each other at once!



To start, divide the class into groups. The first group stands in line at front of room while the others watch. Give the group a prompt. Consider the following levels of complexity:

- Something concrete, like a car
- Something linked to setting, like the Capulet's ball or Atticus's courtroom
- A specific character from a text, like Juliet or Scout



One at a time, students take the space and, with their bodies, enact one piece of the prompt while saying name of piece. For example, if prompt is a car, students may be the steering wheel, windshield, tire, etc.

Once the first student is set, another student adds on in same fashion until the whole group is creating different pieces of prompt to create the object.

At end, the teacher calls, "stage picture" and each group member exaggerates their pose.

Repeat with other groups, giving a different prompt for each.



Shakespeare and the art of theater open up many and varied paths of learning. Through one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the entire country, Team Shakespeare brings Shakespeare's works to life for middle and high school students. Team Shakespeare is an expansive effort to share Shakespeare with young people and to celebrate the work of this great playwright, who embraced the limitless scope of imagination and the exploration of our complex human nature.

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