



Opera Omaha

Workshop Title: Adapting the Classics

Estimated Time: 30-45 minutes

Suggested Grade Level: Written for Students in Grade 7 and Higher

Workshop Facilitator: Sarah Lynn Brown

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/NGNtDGOH3Ao>

In Opera Omaha's **Adapting the Classics Virtual Workshop**, participants investigate how adapting an artistic work brings new energy and accessibility to the story.

Students actively engage with the content to better understand the what, why, who of Adaptation, while also learning the foundational "rules" of adapting and when/how to "break" them.

This interactive workshop will challenge students to work independently and collaboratively to spark their creativity and inspire the next great classical adaptation.

Created to be paired with Opera Omaha's production of *The Capulets and the Montagues* and the free Student Dress Rehearsal program, the workshop is also valuable for students unable to attend a performance.

Workshop Objectives:

To use the tool of adaptation to gain ownership over classic works.

To find success in collaboration of ideas.

To welcome and respect different perspectives in order to tell a story together.

SECTION: Introduction of Self, Workshop and Question of the Day- 2 min

PAUSE VIDEO AT END OF SECTION FOR QUESTION OF THE DAY:

If you could only pick one book (any type of book) to bring with you on a desert island (or to read and re-read), what book would you choose?

Once chosen, have the students discuss: *What books were chosen? Why? Did anyone have similar answers?*

Pause Video. Share and Discuss. **3-5 min**

SECTION: What is adaption? The What, Who, and Why. 5 min

PAUSE VIDEO AT END OF SECTION TO DISCUSS ADAPTATION EXAMPLES: *Let's discuss some examples of adaptations you have seen or experienced. What are a few of your favorites?*

Examples included in the workshop: THE LION KING, RENT, HAMILTON

Opera Examples included in workshop: PROVING UP by composer Missy Mazzoli and librettist Royce Vavrek based on short story by author Karen Russel, EURYDICE by composer Matthew Aucoin and librettist Sarah Ruhl adapted from Ruhl's play of the same name.

There are many other possible examples, but here are a few: Comic Books to Movies (and then new characters and stories back to comic books), Movies to Musicals: WAITRESS and MEAN GIRLS.

Pause Video. Share and Discuss. **3-5 min**

SECTION: The How. 3 min

SECTION: Guidelines of Adaptation - The Four C's. 5 min

The Four C':

Cut

Conflate

Clarify

Contemporize

SECTION: Practicing Adaptation. 3 min

PAUSE VIDEO AT END OF SECTION FOR SCENE READING.

Pause the video and break into groups of three. Assign roles (A, B, and C) in your groups and read the text aloud (scene below) for one another in your small groups.

Discuss in your small groups: *What do you hear differently? Why would this be an interesting choice for an audience?*

Come back together as a class and have a few brave groups read their scenes out loud.

As a full class, discuss: *What did you notice that was the same from group to group? What was different? How did that change the way you heard and experienced the text as an audience?*

Pause Video. Group Work. **5-10 min**

Scene Text on Next Page

Romeo and Juliet Prologue

<p>CHORUS: Two households, both alike in dignity, In Fair Verona, where we lay our scene. From ancient grudge, break to new mutiny Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.</p>	<p>STUDENT DIALOGUE: STUDENT A: Two Households STUDENT B: Both alike in dignity. STUDENT A: In fair Verona, where we lay our scene STUDENT C: From ancient grudge, STUDENT B: Break to new mutiny STUDENT C: Where civil blood makes civil hands STUDENT A/B/C: unclean.</p>
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SECTION: Closing Question. 2 min

DISCUSSION QUESTION FOR AFTER THE VIDEO HAS ENDED:

What story you would want to adapt and why?

Is there a story you think is really calling out to be told with music? (Maybe it would be an adaptation of the book you chose for your desert island.)

End Video. Closing In-Classroom Chat. **3-5 min**

More information about Opera Omaha's [The Capulets and the Montagues](#) and [Student Dress Rehearsals](#)

Questions? Contact:

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