Objective: The students will gain a basic understanding of the language of Shakespeare by familiarizing themselves with high frequency words from Elizabethan English.

The Lesson:

* Bell Ringer: What is Juliet saying when she states, “O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?”
* They will have two minutes to respond to the statements which will be kept track of by the timer. After two minutes, the students will be placed in a pair. Partner A will respond with what she believes the statement means. Partner B will respond with what she thinks it means. The teacher will randomly select a pair to share with the class.
* The teacher will then pass out a copy of high frequency words used in Shakespeare: <http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson1031/terms.pdf>
* The teacher will then ask the students to review the handout and review what they believe Juliet is saying.
* The class will then discuss how English has changed since Shakespeare’s time and how familiarizing yourself with some frequently used words will help you to understand the content of the Play.
* The students will then be given two scenarios to write about. Scenario number one is to write a scene in which a son is having an argument with his father. The son wants to go to a party being thrown by a family that the father does not like. The son must try to convince his father that he should be allowed to go. Scenario number two is an argument between a mother and a daughter. The daughter wants to date a boy that the mother does not like. Each speaker must have twenty lines. The students must also use 20 of the words from the list.
* The class will look at Act I scene i of *Romeo and Juliet* and review the format of the play.
* The students will be given the option of working with a partner or working alone.
* The students will also be given the option of performing their scenes in front of the class.
* High ability students may want to write a reflection of how the behaviors of their characters reflect the idea in the Great Chain of Being.

Assessment: The students will be evaluated on their ability to incorporate the terms into their scenes and how well they were able to follow the drama format. They will also be asked to translate some passages from *Romeo and Juliet* to see if they have an understanding of some of the words.