

## **SCOUSEPEARE**

**When I was a schoolteacher in Scotland Road, Liverpool I heard about a local theatre group that, in order to stimulate the interest of kids in Shakespeare, could reduce a play to five minutes or so spoken in Scouse or, to be more conventional, Liverpudlian. So I thought I would have a go but make it much shorter. Here is my version of Romeo and Juliet.**

**Romeo goes to a dance. He fancies Juliet.**

**Romeo: “Are yer dancin’?” Pause while she eyes him.**

**Juliet: “Or rite”, Pause for a slowey.**

**Romeo: “Well, shall we get married?”**

**Juliet: “Or rite”.**

**Tybalt comes over, pokes Romeo in the chest with his forefinger and says, “Ay lad, you’re dead”.**

**That, dear reader, is all that is needed I think. If, however, a teacher wishes to include some critical analysis, some discussion of ‘what ifs’, the class might be asked to consider what would happen if Juliet had responded with another staple Scouse answer when asked to dance:**

**“Ask me friend, I’m sweatin”.**

**Cliff Jones 24<sup>th</sup>. September 2018**