The video to accompany this lesson plan can be found here:  
http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/course/shakespeare/unit-1/session-18

**Aims: Students will...**
- listen for gist and detail in the context of a video about Shakespeare’s life, language and plays.
- explore the meaning, use and form of the phrase a fool's paradise.
- be able to understand and use expressions for talking about reality and fantasy.

**Task A: Lead in and gist**
- Tell students to think about what things they disagreed about with their parents when they were teenagers (if they are teenagers, they can talk about disagreements they have now.)
- Students discuss the topic together in small groups and then share some ideas with the class.
- Tell students that in the video they are going to watch, actor Robert Harley is playing the role of Romeo. As they watch they need to answer this question:
- **What similarities are there between Robert Harley’s situation and Romeo’s?**
- Play the video from beginning to end.
- Students compare answers in pairs and then check as a class.

**Answer**
Robert wants to marry Janet, but Janet’s mother thinks that Robert can’t be trusted. In Romeo and Juliet, Romeo wants to marry Juliet, but Juliet’s nurse thinks that Romeo can’t be trusted.

**Task B: Detail**
- Hand out worksheet (pages three and four of this document.) Students read the questions and two options for each question.
- Play video again for students to complete the information about the episode.
- Students discuss answers in pairs and give reasons. Then check answers as a class.

**Answers**
1. Mary doesn’t trust Robert Harley because she thinks he wants to have sex with Janet.
2. Janet hasn’t got a baby.
3. Robert has been interested in Janet for about a week.
4. William Shakespeare's wife was pregnant when they got married.

- Check tricky vocabulary in feedback: have your way with someone (have sex with someone - informal), do right by someone (treat someone well and fairly).

**Task C: Language – a fool's paradise**

- Give students a few minutes to read Task C and discuss the answers in pairs.
- Play the narrator section from 02.40 to 03.20 for students to check their answers.

**Answers**

1) We use the phrase 'a fool's paradise' when someone is happy with their situation, but their situation is not as good as they think it is.

2) If someone is living in 'a fool's paradise' are they realistic? **No, they are unrealistic.**

3) Alan lived in a fool's paradise for months - he thought he was going to become captain of the football team, but the other players kicked him off the team!

4) She's living in a fool's paradise if she thinks she's going to become a film star.

**Task D: Discussion**

- Give students a few minutes to prepare what they are going to talk about.
- Students mingle around the classroom and discuss the questions with each other.
- Feedback interesting answers and focus on any good language and any errors to correct.

**Task E: Vocabulary – reality or fantasy?**

- Elicit from students what phrase we use if someone has been living in a fool's paradise and they are suddenly made to accept reality again.

**Answer: to come back to earth (with a bump.)**

- Students look at the phrases and decide in pairs which of the phrases describe someone/something who IS realistic and which of these phrases describe someone/something who ISN'T realistic.
- Check answers as a class and drill the pronunciation of the phrases.

**Answer: See answers and definitions on page six of this document.**

- Practise the phrases with a game from Eight Vocabulary Activities.

**Task F: Discussion**

- Students plan what they are going to say for at least two of the questions. Encourage them to use the phrases they've just learnt.
- Then rearrange groups so they can tell their stories to different people.
- Feedback by praising good language and correcting errors as a class.
Task B: Detail

Complete the information about this video:

1. Mary doesn't trust Robert Harley because she thinks he wants to _____ with Janet.
   
   a) have sex   b) run away

2. Janet _____ a baby.
   
   a) has   b) hasn't got

3. Robert has been interested in Janet for _____.
   
   a) a long time   b) about a week

4. William Shakespeare's wife _____ pregnant when they got married.
   
   a) was   b) wasn't

Task C: Language – a fool's paradise

Answer the questions:

1) We use the phrase 'a fool's paradise' when someone is _____ with their situation, but their situation is not as _____ as they think it is.

2) If someone is living in 'a fool's paradise' are they realistic?

3) Alan ________ in a fool's paradise for months - he thought he was going to become captain of the football team, but the other players kicked him off the team!

4) She's ________ in a fool's paradise if she thinks she's going to become a film star. She can't even act!
A fool's paradise: Worksheet two

**Task D: Discussion**

Do you know anyone - or can you think of a famous person - who is living in a fool's paradise?

What advice would you like to give them?

Have you ever lived in a fool's paradise? What happened to make you realise that your situation was not as good as you thought it was?

**Task E: Vocabulary – reality or fantasy?**

*Alvin is always so down-to-earth*

*Mia always has her head in the clouds*

*Riccardo is a wishful thinker!*

*Sara is living in a dream world*

*Abdul has his feet on the ground*

*Aki is so level-headed*

*Travelling around the world is a pipe dream*

**Task F: Discussion**

Talk about:

1) A time when you had a pipe dream or did some wishful thinking. What happened to bring you back down to earth?

2) A person you know who has their feet on the ground.

3) Someone you know who always has their head in the clouds.
**Phrases to describe someone/something who ISN’T realistic**

**to have your head in the clouds**
to be unaware of what is happening around you in the real world

**a wishful thinker**
a person who has hopes and plans that are unlikely to happen in reality

**living in a dream world**
having ideas or hopes which are not practical and are not likely to be successful

**a pipe dream**
a hope which is impossible to achieve or not realistic

**Phrases to describe someone/something who IS realistic**

**down-to-earth**
sensible and realistic

**level-headed**
someone who has the ability to think clearly and realistically and makes good decisions

**to have your feet on the ground**
to be sensible, practical and realistic