Romeo and Juliet

Study Guide

Prologue

mutiny – strife, rivalry
piteous – passionate

1. In the prologue, Shakespeare tells his audience what they are to expect in the play. Why do you suppose Shakespeare chooses to use this technique?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Where is the play set?

________________________________________________________________

3. Put the following lines into your own words:

“From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross’ed lovers take their life;”

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What does the term “star-cross’ed lovers” suggest?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Put these lines into your own words:

“Whose misadventur’d piteous overthrow
Doth, with their death, bury their parents’ strife.”

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. Do you think this prologue is necessary or unnecessary? Why?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Act I, Scene I – Verona. A public place. Page 1

| colliers – people who dig or sell coals | drive – drove |
| valiant – brave | covert – thicket |
| fray – brawl | augmenting – increasing |
| partisans – weapons | importuned – inquired, questioned |
| pernicious – vindictive, wicked | tyrannous – cruel, vicious |
| beseeming – becoming | siege – the act of being encircled |
| adversary – enemy, nemesis | ope – open |
| ere – before | posterity – future generations |

1. What are Sampson and Gregory discussing in the first eleven lines of this scene?

_______________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

2. Sampson and Gregory are bragging, vulgar-mouthed men who engage in word games. What bawdy comment does Sampson make? What kind of ‘love’ is this an example of?

_______________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

3. Who are the two Montagues Gregory and Sampson meet on their way? The Capulets draw their weapons, but what indicates that they are not as brave as they say they are?

_______________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why is biting a thumb offensive to the Capulets?

_______________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

5. Who is Benvolio and what does he attempt to do?

_______________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Act I, Scene I Page 2

6. How does Tybalt, a Capulet, misinterpret Benvolio’s action? What does Tybalt say to him?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. Why is Tybalt considered hot-tempered?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

8. What does Lady Capulet say about Lord Capulet’s age and condition?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

9. What do you suppose prompts Lady Montague to hold her husband back from the fight?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

10. The Prince appears, and he is angry. Why is he angry, and what is the promise and threat he makes?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

11. Lady Montague, glad that Romeo has missed the fight, asks Benvolio if he has seen Romeo. What is Benvolio’s response?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

12. Montague, when speaking of Romeo’s recent depression, states:
“...But all so soon as the all-cheering sun
Should in the farthest east begin to draw
The shady curtains from Aurora’s bed,
Away from light steals home my heavy son,
And private in his chamber pens himself, ...”

Interpret these lines. What is Montague saying about his son, Romeo? Who is Aurora? Why do you think Shakespeare includes her in these lines? What literary term is employed by the use of Aurora?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
13. Romeo enters and tells Benvolio the problem. What is his problem?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

14. Romeo’s lines can be seen as presenting the paradox of love or simply as romantic nonsense. What indication is there that Romeo recognizes his sentiments could be viewed as romantic nonsense?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

15. What is Benvolio’s response?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

16. “Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;
Being purged, a fire sparkling in lover’s eyes;
Being vex’d, a sea nourish’d with lovers’ tears:…”

What literary term is illustrated here?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

17. Although Benvolio and Romeo are saddened by unrequited love, what joke are they able to make?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

18. What is the nature of Romeo’s desire toward Rosaline? According to the tradition of courtly love, how is Romeo expected to respond to her rejection?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

19. What practical advice does Benvolio give Romeo?
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

20. “O, she is rich in beauty, only poor
That, when she dies, with beauty dies her store.”

What are these two lines an example of?
__________________________________________________________________________________
Act I, Scene II – A street.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>merit</td>
<td>deserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sirrah</td>
<td>sir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holp</td>
<td>helped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>languish</td>
<td>persistent disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>heretics</td>
<td>people whose opinions differ from the official faith (Christianity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scant</td>
<td>barely, hardly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. After speaking briefly, Paris gets to the point of his visit to the Capulets. What does he ask of Lord Capulet?

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

2. What is Capulet’s response?

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

3. Paris responds that girls younger than she have been married. What is Capulet’s response to this?

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

4. What suggestion and invitation does Capulet make to Paris?

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

5. Compare Capulet’s speech at the beginning of this scene to Sampson and Gregory’s conversation at the beginning of Act I, Scene I. How are the speeches different? Why do you think Shakespeare chose to write the speeches so differently?

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

6. In his conversation with Romeo, Benvolio says:

“Take thou some new infection to the eye,
And the rank poison of the old will die.”

Interpret these lines.

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

7. What does the “poison” Benvolio mentions symbolize?

_______________________________________________________________________
Act I, Scene II – *A street.*

8. Romeo, lamenting his unrequited love, is approached by an illiterate servingman. In reading his list he finds that Rosaline, his love, is going to attend the Capulet party. What suggestion does Benvolio make?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

9. When Romeo responds that Rosaline is the most beautiful woman since time began, what is Benvolio’s response?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act I, Scene III – *A room in Capulet’s house.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>dug</strong> – teat, nipple</th>
<th><strong>perilous</strong> – dangerous, hazardous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>tetchy</strong> – touchy, oversensitive, irritable</td>
<td><strong>lineament</strong> – aspect, characteristic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>trow</strong> – say</td>
<td><strong>margin</strong> – margin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>rood</strong> – crucifix</td>
<td><strong>endart</strong> – take flight and puncture like an arrow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Juliet will turn 14 on Lammas-eve. What is the Lammas-tide the women speak of?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. The Nurse quotes the vulgar remark that her husband made to young Juliet and then, she likes it so much that she repeats it. What do the Nurse’s indecent remarks in front of the family indicate about their relationship?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What does Lady Capulet tell Juliet? What is Juliet’s response?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Act I, Scene IV – A street.

**Word Meanings**

- **prolixity** – overly lengthy
- **Tartar** – a warrior
- **lath** – wood
- **burthen** – burden
- **visage** – face
- **wantons** – tomboys
- **mire** – mud
- **agate-stone** – a stone with small figures cut into it

- **alderman** – city ruler
- **traces** – harnesses
- **gossamer** – sheer, light filmy substance
- **benefice** – secular lifestyle
- **ambuscadoes** – traps
- **anon** – promptly, soon
- **vile** – wicked, heinous
- **steerage** – direction

1. Why does Romeo say he is unable to dance?

2. How do the Montagues expect to be able to enter a Capulet house?

3. Romeo is apprehensive about going to the masquerade because of the dream he had the night before. Romeo seems to believe (as did many in Shakespeare’s day) that dreams have something to do with life. Perhaps Romeo believes dreams act as omens. What is Mercutio’s opinion of dreams?

4. What does Mercutio’s speech reveal about his character?

5. Choose 4 – 8 lines of Mercutio’s dream and write a brief summary.

6. How does Benvolio end the conversation?

7. What is Romeo’s misgiving, and what does the line “some consequence, yet hanging in the stars” have to do with his feeling of dread? Discuss the theme this quote illustrates.
Act I, Scene V – *A hall in Capulet’s house.*

**nuptial** – wedding ceremony

**ward** – dependent

**rapier** – a small sword

**solemnity** – festivities

**disparagement** – affliction, injury, harm

**scathe** – hurt, injure

**princox** – a rude, impolite boy

**perforce** – is a requirement; is essential

**choler** – fury, anger

**gall** – detest, disgust

**prodigious** – threatening, ominous

1. Lord Capulet and a relative stand, unmasked, on one side of the room. Romeo, masked, standing on the other side, asks a servingman who Juliet is. How does Romeo describe the girl, and what does he conclude?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is Tybalt’s reaction when he hears Romeo’s voice?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What does Lord Capulet say to Tybalt in reference to Romeo’s attendance at the party?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Tybalt obeys his uncle, but what does he foresee?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Romeo, approaching Juliet, begins a conversation, and ends up kissing her twice before the Nurse comes to tell Juliet that her mother requests her. Romeo and his friends leave. How does the audience know that Juliet feels as strongly about Romeo as he does for her?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Act II – Prologue.

1. The chorus comments on the action of the play. In your own words, discuss the meaning of the first four lines.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What problem is alluded to concerning the lovers?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
3. What is the suggested answer to their problem?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the rhyme scheme of the prologue for Act II? What type of poem is the prologue?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Identify the half rhyme within the prologue.

____________________________________________________________________________________

Act II, Scene I – A lane by the wall of Capulet’s orchard.

purblind – physically blind
Venus – Roman goddess of love and beauty
demesnes – domain, territory
invocation – the act of calling a superior for help

1. Romeo slips away from his friends; the practical, vulgar Mercutio makes some indecent comments about Rosaline. What misapprehension are Mercutio and Benvolio under? What truth does the audience know?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Act II, Scene II – Capulet’s orchard.

vestal – celibate, virtuous
livery – appearance
enmity – hatred
perjuries – falsehoods
Jove – chief Roman god, Jupiter
perversion – passionless, indifferent, unsympathetic

ware – conscious of, aware
idolatry – worship
falconer – a hawk trainer
gyves – chains, shackles

1. As the scene opens, Romeo enters and says:

“He jests at scars that never felt a wound.”

What is Romeo referring to? What does this statement suggest?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Romeo’s first speech is among the most famous of Shakespeare’s soliloquies. What is the main idea in Romeo’s speech? Put the last seven lines of this speech into your own words.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
3. Does Juliet know that Romeo is beneath her window?
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. One of the most famous lines is when Juliet explains:
“O Romeo, Romeo! Wherfore art thou Romeo?” What do these lines mean?
____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Juliet makes a secret vow to Romeo; what is this vow? What is the significance of this quote in relation to a major theme of the play?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. Romeo, after listening to Juliet profess her love, decides to make his presence known. How does Romeo identify himself? Find the quote, then put the passage into modern words.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. As Juliet knows, Romeo is risking death by being there. When she mentions this fact to Romeo, what is his response?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

8. Romeo, still trying to convince Juliet of his safety, says: “I have night’s cloak to hide me from their eyes…” What may “night” symbolize?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

9. Juliet is embarrassed that Romeo has overheard how she feels about him, but she decides to ignore convention. Although deeply in love herself, how does she show herself to be shrewd and knowledgeable about men? What concern does Juliet reveal in her private thoughts?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

10. When Romeo swears by the moon, what does Juliet tell him?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

11. What does Juliet mean when she tells Romeo, “…swear by the gracious self,/Which is the god of my idolatry,…”
____________________________________________________________________________________
12. Juliet professes how she idolizes Romeo. What previous scene does this remind you of?
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

13. What second thoughts does Juliet have? Quote the passage that reveals these thoughts.
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

14. After an exchange of vows, the Nurse calls and Juliet must leave. What is Romeo’s feeling as he stands there?
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

15. Juliet reappears. What does she tell Romeo?
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

16. When Juliet reappears, for the second time, she claims:
“Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud;
Else would I tear the cave where Echo lies,
And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine,
With repetition of my Romeo’s name.”

Why is Juliet’s allusion to Echo significant?
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

17. It is apparent that neither Romeo nor Juliet wants the night to end. What is Juliet’s famous parting line?
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

18. What decision does Romeo make?

Act II, Scene III – Friar Laurence’s cell.

chequering – speckling, spotting  brine – tears
osier – tree of the willow family  chid’st – scolds, reprimands
shrift – confession  doting – excessively loving

1. At the beginning of the scene, Friar Laurence, makes a very profound speech. Choose one full sentence in his speech to interpret. Can any of what the Friar says be applied to the world now?
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
2. The Friar assumes that Romeo is out so early because he has been up all night with Rosaline. When the Friar is informed that it is not Rosaline, but a Capulet, Romeo wishes to marry, what is the Friar’s reaction?

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

3. How is the Friar making fun of Romeo?

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why does the Friar agree to help Romeo and Juliet get married?

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

Act II, Scene IV – A street.

cleft – split
fantasticoes – gallants, cavaliers, suitors
roe – fish eggs
fishified – changed to a fish
dowdy – trollop, harlot, prostitute
hams – knees
ell – a measurement of forty-five inches
mar – hurt
troth – loyalty, devotion

lenten – pie made during Lent
vexed – disturbed, troubled
shrived – forgiven, pardoned
convoy – carriage, transportation
prating – gossiping, babbling
lieve – rather, “just as soon”
apace – swiftly, rapidly
bawd – whore, prostitute

1. Once again, Mercutio yammers on and on at the beginning of this scene. Both Mercutio and Benvolio believe that Romeo is still pining over Rosaline. Once Romeo enters, Mercutio, in one passage, makes several allusions. List the allusions then, do a little research to explain what the allusions mean and how they fit in the context of this scene.

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

2. “Without his roe, like a dried herring: O flesh, flesh, how are thou fishified!” What is the pun Mercutio is making here? What type of pun is this?

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

3. As Romeo enters, Mercutio and Benvolio are discussing Romeo’s longing for Rosaline and Tybalt’s challenge to Romeo. What change in Romeo’s behavior does Mercutio comment on?

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
4. The Nurse and Peter arrive looking for Romeo. How does Romeo respond?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

5. What do you think the Nurse’s malapropism, using “confidence” instead of “conference”, suggests about her character, or about the situation?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. After Benvolio and Mercutio leave, the Nurse asks, “…what saucy merchant was this, that was so full of his ropery?” What is Romeo’s answer?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. The Nurse, expresses certain doubts about Romeo. What are these doubts and how does Romeo respond?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

8. What is the message that Romeo gives to the Nurse for Juliet?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

9. Romeo tells the Nurse that his “man” will deliver something beyond the abbey-wall. What is Romeo’s “man” bringing?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act II, Scene V – Capulet’s orchard.

| lame – incapacitated, physically handicapped | beshrew – a mild curse |
| heralds – couriers, messengers | hie – leave |
| feign – fabricate, act | wanton – magnificent, extravagant |
| fie – a curse |

1. Juliet waits anxiously for the Nurse to return. How is Juliet able to justify her Nurse’s tardiness?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. How does the Nurse tease Juliet?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Finally, what does the Nurse tell Juliet?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

13
4. The Nurse is off to fetch the rope ladder. What is this rope ladder going to be used for?

__________________________

__________________________

**Act II, Scene VI – Friar Laurence’s cell.**

*flint* – stone with which to make fire  
*wanton* – playful, spirited, exuberant  
*blazon* – compliment, glorify

1. When speaking with Friar Laurence, while waiting for Juliet, Romeo says: “Do thou close our hands with holy words./Then love-devouring death do what he dare./It is enough I may but call her mine.” After interpreting Romeo’s words, what do you think this passage suggests?

__________________________

__________________________

2. In expressing his reservations about the marriage, find a quote from Friar Laurence, that could foreshadow future events.

__________________________

3. What follows after Romeo, Juliet, and Friar Laurence exit from the stage?

__________________________

**Act III, Scene I – A public place.**

*adle* – jumbled  
*doublet* – piece of men’s clothing  
*zounds* – derived from an oath “God’s wounds”  
*(swounds)*  
*haunt* – popular place  
*dry-beat* – to beat, lash, wallop  
*pilcher* – case or cover for a sword  
*passado* – fencing term  
*effeminate* – powerless, weak  
*appertaining* – relevant, pertinent

1. How does Benvolio show himself to be a reasoning man?

__________________________

__________________________

2. What is Mercutio’s response? Is he correct?

__________________________

__________________________

3. How does Mercutio show himself to be the more reckless of the two?

__________________________

__________________________
4. Romeo enters. Tybalt has a few heated words for Romeo. Even after hearing the insults, Romeo says he has to love Tybalt. Why does Romeo say this?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

5. How does Romeo hint to his marriage to Juliet?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. How does Mercutio react to Romeo’s refusal to fight with Tybalt? Why is this element of the scene significant?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. In what way is Romeo responsible for Mercutio’s being stabbed?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

8. In what way is Mercutio’s comment about his wound ironic?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

9. Romeo says, “My very friend hath got this mortal hurt/In my behalf; my reputation stain’d/With Tybalt’s slander,—…” Romeo uses “stain’d”, which takes on a duel meaning. What are the different meanings?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

10. What is Romeo’s reaction to Mercutio’s death?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

11. What is Romeo willing to sacrifice for Mercutio?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

12. Once killing Tybalt, Romeo says, “O, I am fortune’s fool!” What does he mean by this? What major theme does this statement support?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
13. Throughout this play, loyalty proves to be a determining factor for characters who have a decision to make. What is your opinion of Benvolio after he tells the Prince that Romeo is responsible for Tybalt’s death?

____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________

14. What does Lady Capulet request of the Prince?
____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________

15. What slant does Benvolio put on his account of the fight?
____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________

16. What is Lady Capulet’s comment on Benvolio’s story?
____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________

17. What is the Prince’s decision?
____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act III, Scene II – Capulet’s orchard.

- Phoebus – Roman god of the sun (Apollo)  
- Phaethon – son of Apollo  
- amorous – passionate, loving  
- garish – elaborate, pretentious  
- cockatrice – a mythological creature said to have the ability to kill with a single look  
- weal – security, success, fortune  
- corse – corpse  
- bedaub’d – covered, smeared  
- bower – surround, encompass  
- monarch – prince, king, ruler  
- beguiled – fooled, seduced

1. The night is a very significant time for Romeo and Juliet. In her soliloquy, she mentions “night” at least 12 times. List 10 ways Juliet uses “night”.

____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. As Juliet waits for night and Romeo’s visit, the Nurse arrives with news. What is the news, and how is it presented?

____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Juliet’s first reaction is to call Romeo names. What does she call her beloved Romeo? The names she calls Romeo are quite obscure; what do you think they suggest? What is odd about these insults?

____________________________________________________________________________________  
____________________________________________________________________________________
4. After the name calling, what is Juliet’s second reaction? What does this second reaction prove?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Juliet, figuratively states: “Some word there was, worser than Tybalt’s death./That murder’d me…” What is it that “murder’d” Juliet? Why does she choose to express herself in this way?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

6. Why does the Nurse, who is obviously fond of Tybalt, volunteer to go and get Romeo?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

7. Where is Romeo hiding, what seems to be Juliet’s plan, and what does she give to the Nurse?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Act III, Scene III – Friar Laurence’s cell.

affliction – agony, depression, grief
sack – rob, ransack, raid
usurer – money-lender
digressing – departing, diverging, drifting

1. How does Romeo react to the news that he has been banished?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is Friar Laurence’s reaction to Romeo’s complaining?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Romeo is obviously devastated to be banished from his Juliet, but he is being very stubborn, not even attempting to listen to the Friar’s advice and positive words. Romeo tells the Friar to “…talk no more.” What does the Friar conclude at this point?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why is the Friar unable, according to Romeo, to truly understand Romeo’s feelings about Juliet and being banished?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
5. The Nurse arrives and informs the Friar and Romeo that Juliet, too, is crying just as Romeo is. Hearing of Juliet’s unhappiness and the hatred he supposes she feels toward him, he draws his knife to kill himself. What does the Friar accuse him of?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. For what things does the Friar say Romeo should be happy about?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. What does the Friar then tell him to do? What instructions does the Friar give Romeo?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act III, Scene IV – A room in Capulet’s house.

kinsman – relative

1. In the conversation between Lord Capulet, his wife, and Paris, what do they think is Juliet’s present cause of grief?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is learned about Paris’ character?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What decision does Lord Capulet make, and why do you suppose he makes this decision?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is your opinion of Juliet’s parents and of Paris?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
Act III, Scene V – Capulet’s orchard.

jocund – joyful; invigorating
asunder – split, separate, apart
runagate – wanderer, nomad
dram – destructive, harmful potion
carrion – contaminated person; diseased flesh
prudence – sense, shrewdness

1. Summarize the conversation between Romeo and Juliet at the opening of this scene.

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. The mother enters and, seeing Juliet weeping at Romeo’s departure, believes the weeping is for Tybalt. The mother then vents her own anger at Romeo and discloses her plan to have him found and poisoned. Why does Juliet appear to speak ill of Romeo?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What news does Juliet’s mother bring? What is Juliet’s response to her mother?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why does Lord Capulet get so angry when he hears of Juliet’s desire not to marry?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Why do you think Lord Capulet is so controlling of his family?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. What does Lord Capulet threaten if Juliet chooses not to marry Paris?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. When the Nurse tries to speak up for Juliet, what is she told?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

8. In the last words of Lord Capulet’s speech, how does he try to persuade Juliet to go through with the marriage to Paris?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
9. If forced to marry, what does Juliet threaten? What is her mother’s response?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

10. What is the Nurse’s advice, and how can she give that advice knowing how Juliet feels?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

11. In what way does the Nurse’s opinion contrast with Juliet’s? What kind of character does this make the Nurse?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

12. When Juliet hears this opinion, what is her decision regarding the Nurse?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

13. Juliet tells the Nurse she is going to Friar Laurence to confess her sins. Why is she really going there?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

**Act IV, Scene I – Friar Laurence’s cell.**

| **inundation** – deluge, surge | **charnel-house** – designated area for discarding bones of the dead |
| **pensive** – melancholy | **reeky** – wretched, foul, vile |
| **prorogue** – postpone, suspend | **shanks** – calves (parts of the human body) |
| **arbitrating** – settling, resolving | **surcease** – to end, stop, halt |

1. What does Juliet tell the Friar?
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. List three things Juliet is willing to do “…without fear or doubt…rather than marry Paris”?
____________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________

3. What plan does the Friar set out?
____________________________________________________________________________________
Act IV, Scene II – *Hall in Capulet’s house.*

**forsooth** – in fact, correct  
**gadding** – lazily wandering, strolling  
**behests** – orders, rulings  
**prostrate** – lying flat  
**tush** – “keep quiet”

1. Why is Lord Capulet happy?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act IV, Scene III – *Juliet’s chamber.*

**orisons** – prayers  
**receptacle** – place for discarding the unwanted or those who have passed away  
**mandrake** – a plant whose root was said to look like the human form; if the root was pulled from the ground it was believed to cause madness or death

1. If the potion does not work, what is Juliet’s plan?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Juliet is a little fearful and a little suspicious. What suspicion about the Friar does she voice?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What worry occupies Juliet next?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the literary term for Juliet’s speech in this scene?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act IV, Scene II – *Hall in Capulet’s house.*

**forsooth** – in fact, correct  
**gadding** – lazily wandering, strolling  
**behests** – orders, rulings  
**prostrate** – lying flat  
**tush** – “keep quiet”

1. Why is Lord Capulet happy?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
Act IV, Scene III – *Juliet’s chamber.*

**Orisons – prayers**
**Receptacle –** place for discarding the unwanted or those who have passed away
**Mandrake –** a plant whose root was said to look like the human form; if the root was pulled from the ground it was believed to cause madness or death

1. If the potion does not work, what is Juliet’s plan?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Juliet is a little fearful and a little suspicious. What suspicion about the Friar does she voice?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What worry occupies Juliet next?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the literary term for Juliet’s speech in this scene?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act IV, Scene V – *Juliet’s chamber.*

**Aqua-vitae –** intense spirits (Latin: “water of life”)
**Lamentable –** wretched, woeful
**Martyr’d –** abused, punished
**Confusions –** chaos

**Dirges –** sad songs played at funerals
**Troth –** truth
**Pestilent –** extremely offensive, dreadful

1. How do Lord and Lady Capulet react to the news of Juliet’s death?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. As he learns of Juliet’s supposed death, what does Lord Capulet compare Juliet to? What literary term is being illustrated?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Does the grief seem sincere?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. How does the Friar try to comfort the grieving parents?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
5. What literary term is illustrated here:
“Our instruments to melancholy bells;
Our wedding cheer to a sad burial feast;
Our solemn hymns to sullen dirges change;
Our bridal flowers serve for a buried corse,…”

6. The next section between Peter and the musicians, seems to be for comic relief. How do you suppose the comic relief scene is supposed to function in the play?

**Act V, Scene I – Mantua. A street.**

- *presage* – predict
- *apothecary* – a pharmacist
- *meagre* – scrawny, slender
- *penury* – deprivation, neediness
- *caitiff* – slave-like

1. In Romeo’s short speech at the start of this scene, find an example of foreshadowing.

2. The Friar is supposed to send a messenger to Romeo informing him of the plan and Juliet’s fake death. Who arrives in Mantua instead, and what news does he give Romeo? What theme is this incident supporting?

3. Although it is illegal to sell poisons in Mantua, how is Romeo able to purchase some?

4. Romeo has to do some convincing before the pharmacist agrees to sell the poison. How does Romeo convince the pharmacist and what does this show about Romeo’s opinion of the world? In addition, discuss how this scene demonstrates the power of love, continuing with a major theme of the play?
Act V, Scene II – Friar Laurence’s cell.

pestilence – disease

1. Why is Friar John not able to go to Mantua and deliver Friar Laurence’s message to Romeo? What theme does this situation support?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What revision does Friar Laurence make in his plan?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Act V, Scene III – A churchyard; in it a monument belonging to the Capulets.

obsequies – devotion; mourning
mattock – axe
maw – mouth (like a grave)
ensign – sign, pennant
crimson – red
sunder – sever, disconnect (the soul from the body)
paramour – concubine, mistress

inauspicious – unimportant
sepulchre – vault, grave
contagion – disease
restorative – successful, competent medication
descry – find, uncover
ambiguities – mysteries, uncertainties
direful – horrible, awful

1. What is Paris doing at the crypt?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. What does Romeo give to Balthasar? What does Romeo tell Balthasar to do? Why does Balthasar choose not to do it?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What metaphor does Romeo create regarding the crypt, and what is his meaning?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why do Paris and Romeo fight, since Romeo really has no wish to fight anyone?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

5. Although he has just fatally wounded Paris, what act of compassion does Romeo perform for Paris?
____________________________________________________________________________________
6. Who or what does the Friar say has thwarted all their plans?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. With Romeo and Paris dead, Juliet wakes. How does the Friar hope to resolve this mess?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

8. When Juliet refuses to leave the monument, what does the Friar do?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

9. What does Juliet do?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

10. What has happened to Romeo’s mother?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

11. The concluding lines of the play state a major theme in this play. Identify these lines, state what they mean and how they reflect the theme.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

12. Identify the play’s exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

---

Name ___________________________ Date ___________ Period ______ Romeo Romeo & Juliet Act IV: Cloze and Summary

**Act 4, Scene 1:** As Paris is making arrangements with Friar __________________ to perform the wedding ceremony between himself and __________________, she appears. Paris tries to tease some sign of affection out of Juliet and reminds her that they are to be married on Thursday. . . . Juliet says that she will _____________ herself rather than marry Paris, and the Friar comes up with the plan for her to take the _________________ which will make her appear _______________ for 42 hours, so that the wedding will be called off and Romeo can come and take her to _________________.

**Act 4, Scene 2:** Capulet is making arrangements for the wedding feast when Juliet appears, begs her father's pardon, and tells him that she will ________________ Paris. This makes Capulet so happy that he moves the __________________ up to the very next day, Wednesday.

**Act 4, Scene 3:** Juliet persuades her ___________________ and the Nurse to leave her alone. She agonizes over everything that could go wrong, is terrified by visions of the grave, and ________________ to Romeo.

**Act 4, Scene 4:** The __________________ and their servants are busily preparing for the wedding. Paris' musicians are heard, and Capulet sends the Nurse to awaken Juliet.
**Act 4, Scene 5:**

Summarize the action in Scene 5:

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

**Act 5**

Summarize the end:

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

**R& J Vocabulary Matching**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adversary</td>
<td>a burial cloth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>banishment</td>
<td>to grieve for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boisterous</td>
<td>stormy; violent; rowdy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>idolatry</td>
<td>to look over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lament</td>
<td>exile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nuptial</td>
<td>wedding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peruse</td>
<td>extreme devotion to a person or thing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reconcile</td>
<td>to become friendly again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shroud</td>
<td>opponent; enemy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>