**ROMEO & JULIET**

**Study Questions: Record your answers on separate sheet of paper. You must answer in complete sentences.**

Prologue/ Act 1, Sc. 1 (pg 992-1000)

1. In which town is the play set? In what country do you suppose this town exists? (Yes, this is a real place on our planet.)

2. In the prologue, Shakespeare tells us that our two title characters are going to kill themselves. (You already knew this, right?) His 1600’s audience would’ve already known the story of Romeo & Juliet from a famous poem of the time, so this information would not have ruined the experience. In fact, many scholars say that knowing the deaths are coming actually improves the play. How could this be? Explain your thoughts.



**Capulet vs.**

**Montague**

3. Complete this sentence: In Shakespearean times, biting your thumb was...

a. a gesture of friendship

b. an insult

c. a way of hitting on someone

4. How has Romeo been spending his days recently?

a. picking fights on the boardwalk

b. locked in his room being moody

c. dreaming of Juliet

Which is which?

Remember, Juliet’s names rhymes.

So it’s

Juliet Capulet and Romeo Montague

Easy, right?

5. Why doesn’t this girl like Romeo?

6. What does Benvolio tell Romeo to do in

 order to forget the girl who doesn’t want him?

**Act 1, Sc. 2 (pg. 1001-1004)**

1. How old is Juliet? What are her father’s thoughts about allowing her to marry?

2. Why does Benvolio want to crash the party? Why does Romeo agree?

3. What does Romeo want to happen to his eyes if they find someone other than Rosaline desirable at the party? What does this show us about Romeo?

**Act 1, Sc. 3 (pg. 1005-1008)**

1. Does Lady Capulet want Juliet to love Paris?

a. No. She tells Juliet that she shouldn’t judge a book by its cover.

b. Yes. She says Paris is a gorgeous book and Juliet will be the cover.

c. Yes. He’s very educated with a bachelor’s degree in English literature.

2. What is Juliet’s reaction to her mother’s request? What does this show us about Juliet?

**Act**

**Act 1, Sc. 4 (pg. 1009- 1012)**

1. According to Mercutio, who or what is Queen Mab, and what does she do?

2. What does Romeo say about the value of dreams?

3. What does Mercutio say about the value of dreams?

4. At the end of Scene 4, Romeo mentions the subject of his latest vivid dream. What did Romeo dream? Why isn’t he changing his course of action? What does this show us about Romeo?

**Act 1, Sc. 5 (pg. 1012- 1018)**

1. When Romeo first sees Juliet, what terms does he use to describe her?

2. How does Tybalt recognize Romeo?

3. When Tybalt is ready to seize Romeo and throw him out of the party, what does

Capulet say to Tybalt? Why? What is Tybalt’s reaction to this?

4. How does Romeo find out Juliet’s last name?

5. How does Juliet find out Romeo’s last name?

ACT 2

**Prologue/ Act 2, Sc. 1 (pg. 1020-1022)**

1. What does the Act 2 Prologue say happened to Romeo’s love for Rosaline? How is this an example of foreshadowing?

2. Who does Mercutio think that Romeo is in love with in his speech in Scene 1, lines 8-23 (page 1021)? What’s funny about these lines?

**Act 2, Sc. 2 (pg. 1022- 1028)**

1. What does Romeo compare Juliet to in his first speech in Sc. 2, lines 3-4 (page 1023)?

2. When Juliet says, “That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet,” what does she mean? Do names matter in our lives? If you had a different first name, do you think you might have grown up to be a slightly different person?

3. Which one is the first to mention marriage? What does this show us about this character?

4. What does Juliet instruct Romeo to send her the next day?

**Act 2, Sc. 3 (pg. 1029- 1031)**

1. According to the Friar, how are humans like plants?

2. In lines 95-96 (page 1031), the Friar says, “O, she knew well / Thy love did read by rote and could not spell.” Explain what he means here.

3. Why does the Friar begrudgingly agree to marry Romeo and Juliet?

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**Act 2, Sc. 4 (pg. 1032- 1037)**

1. How does Mercutio treat the Nurse?

a. He adores her and wants her to be his mom.

b. He mistakenly thinks that she is Rosaline.

c. He makes rude jokes about her.

2. What instructions does Romeo tell the Nurse to pass on to Juliet?

**Act 2, Sc. 5 (pg. 1038- 1040)**

1. What time of day is it?

2. What’s humorous about the way the Nurse treats Juliet in this scene?

**Act 2, Sc. 6 (pg. 1040- 1042)**

1. In your own words, explain the Friar’s warning in these lines: “These violent delights have violent ends/ And in their triumph die like fire and powder,/ Which, as they kiss, consume.”

2. In your own words, explain the Friar’s message in these lines: “Therefore love moderately; long love doth so:/ Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.”

ACT 3

**Act 3, Sc. 1 (pg. 1044- 1051)**

1. At the beginning of Act 3, who says the following lines? What do these lines foreshadow?

“I pray thee, good Mercutio, let’s retire.

The day is hot, the Capulets abroad,

And, if we meet, we shall not ‘scape a brawl,

For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.”

2. Examine Mercutio’s “grave man” line. What figure of speech is used? What is the meaning?

3. Explain the Prince’s judgment and why he makes this ruling.

**Act 3, Sc. 2 (pg. 1051- 1055)**

1. In her speech at the beginning of Scene 2, what is Juliet looking forward to that night?

2. Give two examples from lines 27-32 (pager 1052) that Juliet uses to explain the agony of expectation that she’s feeling.

3. Where is Romeo hiding?

**Act 3, Sc. 3 (pg. 1055- 1060)**

1. What is Friar Laurence’s opinion of Romeo’s punishment in Scene 3, lines 27-31 (pager 1056)?

2. In Scene 3, lines 32-46 (pager 1056), why does Romeo say that is is less honored than carrion-flies?

3. What three reasons does Friar Laurence give Romeo to show that he should be happy?

4. In Scene 3, the Nurse gives Romeo a gift from Juliet. What is the gift?

**Act 3, Sc. 4 (pg. 1061- 1062)**

1. Capulet explains to Paris that Juliet is upstairs crying about Tybalt. He says, “Look you, she loved her kinsman Tybalt dearly, And so did I. Well, we were born to die.” From this passage, explain how Capulet felt about his nephew. Why, do you suppose, he felt this way?

2. What decision does Capulet make, thinking that it will cheer up Juliet?

**Act 3, Sc. 5 (pg. 1062- 1070)**

1. What does Juliet mean by an “ill-divining soul” in Scene 5, line 55 (page 1065)?

2. Why do Juliet’s parents believe she is upset? What is their plan to help cheer her?

3. Earlier in the play, Capulet said Juliet will get to have a voice in whom she marries. Now, he’s raging at his daughter for speaking up against his choice. Explain why Capulet has changed his mind about listening to his daughter’s opinion about her future spouse.

ACT 4

**Act 4, Sc. 1 (pg. 1072- 1076)**

1. Name three of the horrible things Juliet says she would find preferable to marrying Paris.

2. Describe the Friar’s plan in your own words.

**Act 4, Sc. 2 (pg. 1076- 1078)**

1. Juliet was supposed to marry Paris on Thursday, but what has her father decided?

**Act 4, Sc. 3 (pg. 1078-1079)**

1. In case the potion doesn’t work, what item does Juliet keep with her in the bed?

2. Describe three things Juliet thinks might go wrong if she takes the potion.

3. Write down six words from Juliet’s speech (Scene 3, lines 32-56 [page 1079]) that show her feelings about death.

**Act 4, Sc. 4 (pg. 1080- 1081)**

1. What does Capulet mean when he says the Nurse should “go and trim her up” in Scene 4, line 45 (pager 1081)?

**Act 4, Sc. 5 (pg. 1081- 1085)**

1. What does the Friar advise Juliet’s parents to do with her body?

2. In a sly way, the Friar actually blames Juliet’s parents for her lifelessness. Write the lines in which he says they are being punished by God.

3. Why does Shakespeare end this heavy, emotionally wrenching scene with the odd exchange between Peter and the musicians?

ACT 5

**Act 5, Sc. 1 (pg. 1087- 1089)**

1. Describe the dream that Romeo has just had at the beginning of Scene 1?

2. Who brings news from Verona? What is the news?

3. Why is it difficult to get poison in Mantua? Why does Romeo believe this apothecary will sell him

some despite this?

**Act 5, Sc. 2 (pg. 1090- 1091)**

1. In Scene 2, what is Friar John’s excuse for not having delivered the letter to Romeo?

2. What is Friar Laurence’s plan of action once he realizes Romeo hasn’t received his letter?

**Act 5, Sc. 3 (pg. 1091- 1102)**

1. Who is the first person to arrive at Juliet’s tomb in Scene 3? Why is he there?

2. Romeo comments that Juliet looks just as beautiful in death as she did in life, with roses in her cheeks and lips. He doesn’t realize that the “death” is just a potion that’s wearing off. Instead, why does he figure Juliet is still so beautiful?

3. Does Juliet wake up just before Romeo dies or just after?

4. Who is present when Juliet awakens? Why doesn’t this person stay?

5. Why does Juliet kiss Romeo’s lips even after he already died?

6. Juliet says, “Thy lips are warm!” This is, quite arguably, one of the saddest lines in the entire play.

Why are these four little words so meaningful?

7. How does Juliet kill herself?

8. Who else died tonight? How do we find out?

9. How many people died in this play? List their names in order of their deaths.

10. Rewrite the final six lines of the play in your own words.