

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Romeo & Juliet- Act 1



Directions: *Answer the following questions based on Act 1 of Romeo & Juliet in complete detailed sentences.*

Prologue

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. Put the following lines into your own words: “From forth the fatal loins of these two foes/A pair of star-cross’d lovers take their life;”
3. What does the term “star-cross’d lovers” suggest?
4. Put these lines into your own words: “Whose misadventur’d piteous overthrows/Doth, with their death, bury their parents’ strife.”

Scene 1

5. At the start of the scene, how effective is the law in preventing and controlling violence?

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

7. 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?

8. Why do you suppose biting a thumb is offensive to the Capulets?

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

10. How does Tybalt, a Capulet, misinterpret Benvolio's action? What does Tybalt say to him?

11. Why is Tybalt considered hot-tempered?

12. What does Lady Capulet say about Lord Capulet's age and condition? What do you suppose prompts Lady Montague to hold her husband back from the fight?
13. The Prince appears, and he is angry. Why is he angry, and what is the promise and threat he makes?
14. To what does the expression "purple fountains" (line 81) refer?
15. Lady Montague, glad that Romeo has missed the fight, asks Benvolio if he has seen Romeo. What is Benvolio's response?
16. 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?
17. What poetic device is used in the description of the sun? Quote and explain.

18. Romeo enters and tells Benvolio the problem. What is his problem?
19. What literary term is illustrated here? “Love is a smoke rais’d with the fume of sighs;/Being purg’d, a fire sparkling in lovers’ eyes;/Being vex’d, a sea nourish’d with lovers’ tears:...”
20. Although Benvolio and Romeo are saddened by unrequited love, what joke are they able to make?
21. What is the nature of Romeo’s desire toward Rosaline?
22. What practical advice does Benvolio give Romeo?
23. The entire dialogue between Benvolio seems to rhyme. What form is used?

Scene 2

24. Paris quickly gets to the point of his visit to the Capulets. What does he ask of Lord Capulet? What is Capulet’s response?

25. Paris responds that girls younger than she have been married. What is Capulet's response to this?
26. What invitation does Capulet make to Paris?
27. In his conversation with Romeo, Benvolio says: "Take thou some new infection to thy eye,/And the rank poison of the old will die." Interpret these lines.
28. What could the "poison" foreshadow?

Scene 3

29. The Nurse quotes the vulgar remark that her husband made to young Juliet, and then, repeats it. What do the Nurse's indecent remarks in front of the family indicate about their relationship?
30. What does Lady Capulet tell Juliet? What is Juliet's response?

Scene 4

31. Why does Romeo say he is unable to dance?
32. How do the Montagues expect to be able to enter a Capulet house?
33. 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?
34. Summarize Mercutio's dream. What does Mercutio's Queen Mab speech reveal about his character?
35. 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.

Scene 5

36. Lord Capulet and a relative stand, unmasked, on one side of the room. Romeo, masked, standing on the other side, asks a serving-man who Juliet is. How does Romeo describe the girl, and what does he conclude?
37. What does Romeo's immediate reaction to Juliet suggest about his character?
38. What does Lord Capulet say to Tybalt in reference to Romeo's attendance at the party?
39. Tybalt obeys his uncle, but what does he foresee?
40. 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?