

Romeo & Juliet Questions

ACT I

I.i.

1. Why do you think the the play opens with a fight scene?
2. What is is the function of the prologue?
3. What sort of poem is the prologue? How do you know this?
4. Why do Tybalt and Benvolio fight?
5. There are several puns in this scene. Quote three examples.
6. Why is Romeo unhappy? Quote a line to support your answer.
7. What solution does Benvolio suggest to Romeo?

I.ii.

1. Capulet, Juliet's father, gives her age and a plan for Paris. Report these two pieces of information.
2. Explain the humour in the servant's speech. Also, tell why he asks Romeo to read the names.
3. Romeo also reads aloud the invitation. What does Benvolio suggest to Romeo? Why?
4. What is the difference between how the servant speaks and how Romeo and Benvolio speak?

I.iii.

1. What do you think of the Nurse in this scene?
2. Name one pun that Lady Capulet says. Write the quote and the line number.
3. How does Juliet react to her mother's idea of marriage? What does Juliet agree to do about Paris' wooing her?

I. iv.

1. What sort of person is Tybalt?
2. One piece of information about the setting, the time of day, is given by Romeo. Quote that clue and give the time of day.
3. Romeo says it is not a good idea to go to the feast because of a dream he had. Quote another example of foreshadowing.
4. Romeo's uneasiness is very different from what Mercutio talks about. What is Mercutio describing and what does this comment show about him?

I.v.

1. Since the guests are masked, how does Tybalt recognize Romeo?
2. How does Tybalt react to Romeo's presence? Also, tell what Tybalt's uncle decides and what Tybalt does as a result.
3. Do you think Tybalt is acting disrespectful towards his uncle?
4. How do Romeo and Juliet feel about each other? How do they feel after they learn that each is from an enemy family?

Act One on the whole . . .

- A) How can you tell that Romeo's love for Juliet is genuine? How can you tell that Romeo's love for Rosaline is something akin to infatuation?
- B) Why do you think Capulet told Tybalt to leave Romeo alone at the ball? What does this tell you about Capulet and how he feels about the long standing feud?
- C) Who is your favourite character so far and why?
- D) How would you feel if your dad told you whom to marry? What would you do about it? Would it work for Juliet?
- E) Think about how movies start and what captures your interest enough to make you keep watching. Now, compare what Shakespeare does in Act I. Is it the same? Is he successful?

ACT II

Prologue

1. What is the purpose of the prologue?
2. What are the main ideas of the prologue?

II.i.

1. How is Romeo feeling in this scene?
2. Do Romeo's friends know what has happened to him at the masque?
3. Why don't Benvolio and Mercutio try to find Romeo?
4. How are Benvolio and Mercutio similar and/or different?

II.ii.

1. Do you think Romeo and Juliet are sincere in this scene? Why or why not?
2. Why does Juliet say "O, be some other name" (42)?
3. What does "Wherefore art thou Romeo" mean (33)?
4. After Romeo appears, what is Juliet embarrassed about?
5. When Juliet speaks about "light love" or her light behaviour, what specifically does she mean by the word "light"?
6. Juliet says ". . . I have no joy of this contract tonight./It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden . . ." Nonetheless, what arrangements does she make with Romeo?
7. Who is the first to mention marriage? Quote the line.

II.iii.

1. How many days have passed so far in the play?
2. In addition to describing the qualities and dangers of herbs, Friar Lawrence also compares these qualities to those in humans. Quote what he says.
3. When Romeo asks the Friar to marry him to Juliet immediately, the Friar comments on Romeo's fickleness. Quote his remark.
4. Why does the Friar agree to perform the ceremony?
5. What kind of a person do you think the Friar is? Give reasons to support your answer.

II.iv.

1. Would you consider this scene funny? Why? What purpose would you say this scene has in the play?
2. What do you think of Mercutio now?
3. What do you think about the Nurse?
4. There are more puns in this scene. Quote two.
5. There are a few malapropisms as well. Quote one that is intentional by the speaker and one that is unintentional. (Hint: between lines 103-125)
6. The Nurse is quite a bawdy character. (If you don't know what the term means, look it up.) Quote an example showing this aspect of her character.
7. Mercutio says that Tybalt is "more than Prince of Cats", a character in an animal story. In what way is Tybalt more dangerous than the fictional "Prince of Cats"? Also, what might this image foreshadow?
8. Romeo gives the Nurse two instructions regarding Juliet. Report these instructions.

II.v.

1. What time is this scene? How do these short, varied scenes add to the suspense?
2. How do the actions of the Nurse add to the suspense?
3. Does the Nurse make you laugh? Why? Do you know anyone like her? Who?
4. Does it seem like the Nurse and Juliet get along? How do you know this?
5. Why does Juliet say "Sweet, sweet, sweet nurse" (54)?
6. Does the Nurse support the marriage of Juliet and Romeo?

II.vi.

1. Both Romeo and the Friar refer to future sorrows. Quote their statements.
2. Quote and explain the Friar's closing statement.
3. Romeo and Juliet's marriage poses some problems. List the problems and explain.
4. What is a proverb? Quote a proverb stated by Friar Laurence.

ACT II on the whole . . .

- A. Which character would you most like to meet? Why? Whom do you like the best? Why? Is there any character that you find the most comical?
- B. What do you think of teenagers getting married? Does it seem appropriate for Romeo and Juliet?
- C. Do you think Romeo and Juliet are devoted to each other? What makes you think so?

ACT III

III.i.

1. Who dies in this scene?
2. Why are they killed and who is responsible for the respective deaths?
3. Why might Romeo be blamed for the death of his friend?
4. What happens to Romeo as a result of this scene? Do you think this is a fair punishment? What would you do if you were the Prince?

III.ii.

1. What does Juliet think when the nurse first enters the scene?
2. What is Juliet really upset about by the end of the scene?

III.iii.

1. What does Romeo say is torture? Why?
2. Have Romeo and Juliet consummated their love yet?
3. How is Romeo feeling in this scene? Quote some lines to support your answer.
4. What is Friar Laurence's reaction to Romeo?
5. Why does the Nurse come to the friar's cell?
6. Why does the Friar ask "Art thou a man?" (109)
7. What does the Nurse think of the Friar? How can you tell?

III.iv.

1. What does Capulet say about Juliet marrying Paris? Why does he say this?
2. Why does Capulet change his mind about Juliet's marriage age? Does anything in the play support your answer?
3. What day of the week is it in this scene?
4. When are Juliet and Paris to be married?

III.v.

1. How many days are we into the play?
2. What time of the day is it?
3. Why doesn't Juliet want it to be day yet? How do you know this?
4. The Nurse gives Juliet some advice. What is it and what do you think about it?
5. What plan does Lady Capulet have to take revenge on Romeo in exile?
6. At the end of Act III, what does Juliet say she will do if all else fails?

ACT III on the whole . . .

- A. What do you think of Juliet's parents now? Why? Can you understand Juliet's frustration? What would you do in her position?
- B. What do you think would happen if Juliet told her parents that she married Romeo?
- C. What do you think of the Nurse now? Is she on Juliet's side?

ACT IV

IV.i.

1. Why is Paris talking to the Friar?
2. If the Friar cannot help her, what has Juliet decided to do?
3. Do you think Juliet romanticizes suicide?
4. Briefly state the Friar's solution and plan.
5. Why is the Friar willing to become involved in solving the marriage problems Juliet encounters?

IV.ii.

1. What causes Capulet to say, "My heart is wondrous light"?

IV.iii.

1. Quote a line from Juliet's soliloquy which foreshadows her death.
2. List three of Juliet's fears as she considers taking the potion.
3. Report Juliet's final action of this scene.

IV.iv.

1. Is this scene necessary and why?

IV.v.

1. Is Juliet's "death" believable? Why do you think Shakespeare's audience believe it or all the unlikely events of the play?

ACT V

V.i.

1. What dream has Romeo had?
2. What news does Balthazar bring Romeo?
3. Why was Romeo interested in a particular apothecary?
4. Why is the apothecary reluctant to sell Romeo poison?
5. Where does Romeo plan to take the poison?

V.ii.

1. What prevented Friar John from visiting Romeo in Mantua?
2. What is Friar Laurence's plan?

V.iii.

1. Why is Paris in the churchyard?
2. What excuse does Romeo give to Balthazar to explain why he is going into Juliet's tomb?
3. How does Romeo personify death?
4. What "food" is Romeo offering death?
5. Why does Paris think Romeo has come to the Capulet's vault?
6. What does Romeo beg of Paris?
7. What is Paris' wish as he is about to die?
8. Why does Romeo bring Paris' body into the tomb to lie near Juliet?
9. What is ironic about Romeo's statement to Juliet, "Death, that hath sucked the honey of thy breath, Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty."
10. What is Romeo's last act before drinking the poison?
11. Describe the scene Friar Laurence sees when he enters the Capulet's vault.
12. What does Friar Laurence now propose to do with Juliet?
13. Describe Juliet's death scene.
14. Who did the Watchman find hiding in the cemetery?
15. In 10 clear points, summarize the explanation of Friar Laurence.
16. How Does Montague plan to remember Juliet?
17. What are the final words of the play and who says them?