# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literary Terms</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prologue to Act I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Preview</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act I Questions</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act II Questions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act III Questions</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plot Outline</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act IV Questions</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act V Questions</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Play as a Whole</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What a Week</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fate, Chance, Impulsiveness</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tragedy</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Response Journal Topics</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Literary Terms

Allusion

Aside

Blank Verse

Character Foil

Compression

Dramatic Irony

End Stop

Enjambment

Figurative Language

Hyperbole

Iambic Pentameter

Imagery
Metaphor

Meter

Monologue

Oxymoron

Personification

Pun

Rhyme Scheme

Rhyming Couplet

Simile

Soliloquy

Sonnet

Tragedy
Two households, both alike in dignity. \(^1\)

In fair Verona, where we lay our scene,

From ancient grudge break to new mutiny. \(^2\)

Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean. \(^3\)

From forth the fatal loins of these two foes

A pair of star-crossed\(^4\) lovers take their life;

Whose misadventured piteous overthrows\(^5\)

Doth with their death bury their parents’ strife.

The fearful passage of their death-marked love,

And the continuance of their parents’ rage,

Which, but\(^6\) their children’s end, naught could remove,

Is now the two hours’ traffic\(^7\) of our stage;

The which if you with patient ears attend,

What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.\(^8\)

---

1. *dignity*: High social rank
2. *mutiny*: Violence
3. *Where... unclean*: In which the blood of citizens stains citizens’ hands
4. *Star-crossed*: Ill fated by the unfavorable positions of the stars
5. *Whose... overthrows*: Whose unfortunate, sorrowful destruction
6. *but*: Except
7. *two hours’ traffic*: Two hours’ business
8. *what... mend*: What is not clear in this prologue we actors shall try to clarify in the course of the play
1. Describe the actions of the Montague servants during the opening scene.

2. How do the Montague servants react when they see the Capulets?

3. What do you notice about Benvolio’s reaction when he leaves the gas station office? How do you think Benvolio feels about fighting?

4. What do you notice about Tybalt’s reaction when he sees Benvolio and the others fighting? How do you think Tybalt feels about fighting?

5. Predict what you think will happen next.
6. In your own words, write a paragraph summarizing what has happened. Remember, in a summary you state the main points of what has happened and include important story details.

7. List the differences you notice between the modern version and the older version.
Act I Questions

Prologue (page 786)

1. What is the setting of the play and how do the two families feel about one another? 

2. According to lines five through eight, what ends the “parent’s strife”? 

Act I, scene i

1. What role does Benvolio play in the fight? (lines 61-63 and 65-66) 

2. What role does Tybalt play in the fight? (lines 68-69) 

3. How has the feud affected the town of Verona? As a result, how do the people of Verona feel about the Capulets and Montagues? (lines 70 and 78-100) 

4. How will Prince Escalus deal with future brawls (fights)? (lines 93-95) 

5. Why have Romeo’s parents become concerned about him? (lines 128-139) 

6. What information does Romeo reveal to Benvolio? (lines 165, 168-179, 205-213) 

7. What is Benvolio’s advice to him? (line 222) 

8. An oxymoron is a contradictory phrase. Look at Romeo’s lines 168-179. List four examples of oxymorons in his lines.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Act I, scene ii

1. According to lines 1-3, how does Lord Capulet feel about the Prince’s edict?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What does Paris mean when he says his “suit” in line 6?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. What is Lord Capulet’s response? What might account for this atypical response?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. To what does Lord Capulet say he must have Juliet’s consent (lines 16-19)?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. How are the Clown’s (servant’s) lines different from the rest of the characters’ lines? Why would Shakespeare make his lines different? (lines 38-44)

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Why does Benvolio want Romeo to attend the masque (84-89)? Why does Romeo agree to go (102-103)?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Act I, scene iii

1. Reread lines eight and nine. What do Lady Capulet’s contradictory instructions to the nurse indicate about Lady Capulet’s relationship with her daughter?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What information about the nurse’s family is revealed in her monologue (lines 16-48)? Why might this affect her relationship with Juliet and the Capulets

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
3. What characteristics about the nurse are revealed in her lines 30-32, 43-46, 57-59? 

4. Why do the nurse and Lady Capulet consider Paris an acceptable match for Juliet? (75-76, 82-83, 91-94)? 

5. Paraphrase Juliet’s response to her mother in lines 97-99. At this stage, what is her attitude toward marriage? 

Act I, scene iv

1. Explain Romeo’s pun in lines 14-16. 

2. Explain Romeo’s pun in lines 19-22. 

3. Explain Mercutio’s pun in the second half of line 52. 

4. Explain Mercutio’s monologue in this scene (lines 53-95). What does this show us about his character? 
5. According to Romeo's closing lines in this scene (106-113), what is Romeo's premonition? What does he believe is responsible?

Act I, scene v

1. What aspects of Lord Capulet's character are revealed in lines 16-33?

2. What causes Tybalt's anger in lines 54-59? Why does he feel justified in his anger? What does he intend to do?

3. Why does Lord Capulet forbid Tybalt from following through with his intention (65-74)?

4. In line 41, Romeo first sees Juliet. What images does he associate with her in lines 44-47? Why are these images appropriate?

5. If a measure is a dance, what does he intend to do in lines 50-51?

6. Explain the metaphor Romeo and Juliet use in their first conversation.
7. Who reveals Romeo’s identity to Juliet and Juliet’s identity to Romeo?

8. Examine lines 128-132. Who is Juliet asking the nurse about? Why would she leave Romeo until last?

The Act as a Whole

1. How are the characters of Benvolio and Tybalt foils for one another?

2. How are the characters of Mercutio and Romeo foils for one another?

3. How are the characters of the Nurse and Lady Capulet foils for one another?
Act Two Questions

Prologue

1. What information do we learn in the prologue to this act?


Act II, scene i

1. As this scene starts, where is Romeo going? (1-2)


2. How does Mercutio attempt to “conjure” Romeo? (17-21)


3. What is ironic about this attempt to make Romeo appear?


Act II, scene ii

1. What images does Romeo use in his description of Juliet? (2, 15-17, 26, 54)


2. Paraphrase Juliet’s lines 35-36?


12
3. What does Juliet mean when she says, “a rose/by any other word would smell as sweet” (43-44)?

4. Examine Romeo’s lines 71-73. Copy and explain the example of hyperbole.

5. Examine Juliet and Romeo’s lines from 49-83. How is Juliet’s view of love different from Romeo’s view?

6. According to lines 116-120, what fears does Juliet have about their relationship?

7. How are lines 183-184 an example of dramatic irony?

8. What plan do Juliet and Romeo make? (142-148)

9. Where is Romeo headed at the end of the scene? (187-190)
10. List three examples for the following types of figurative language found in Act II, scene ii

**Metaphor**
- A. 
- B. 
- C. 

**Simile**
- A. 
- B. 
- C. 

**Personification**
- A. 
- B. 
- C. 

---

**Act II, scene iii**

1. What example of personification begins this scene (1-9)?

2. According to Friar Laurence, what is the dual nature of plants (15-20)?

3. What does Romeo mean when he says he has been “wounded,” (50-52) and what does he ask Friar Laurence to do (64)?

4. For what does Friar Laurence chastise Romeo (65-80)?

5. Why does Friar Laurence agree to Romeo’s plan (90-92)?
6. What is Friar Laurence's parting advice (94)?

__________________________________________________________________________

Act II, scene iv

1. What is the irony of Mercutio's comments about Romeo's absence (4-5)?
__________________________________________________________________________

2. What additional complication is added to the plot (6-8)?
__________________________________________________________________________

3. How does Romeo describe Mercutio to the nurse (139-141)?
__________________________________________________________________________

4. What is Romeo's plan (169-171) and (176-180)?
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Act II, scene v

1. How much time has passed since Juliet sent the nurse to meet Romeo? (10-14) How does this affect Juliet’s mood?
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

2. How does the nurse tease Juliet at the beginning of this scene? (25-26, 29-30, 48-52, 55-57)
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

3. What excuse will Juliet use to leave for Friar Laurence's cell? (66)
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

4. Where will the nurse go while Juliet is being married? (72-74)
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________
5. What is the closing pun? (78)

6. List three similes from scene v.

Act II, scene vi

1. Romeo and the Friar refer to future sorrows. What are they both worried about? (6-8 and 9-10)

2. What advice does Friar Laurence give to Romeo? (14-15)

3. What event occurs off stage at the end of this scene?

4. List three examples of similes or personification in scene vi.
Act III Questions

Act III, scene i

1. Examine Benvolio’s opening lines. (1-4) How does Shakespeare use them to establish setting? ____________________________

2. According to the opening lines, why is Benvolio worried? ____________________________

3. Think about what we know of Mercutio and Benvolio’s character traits. What is the irony of Mercutio’s comments to Benvolio in lines 5-9 and 15-29? ____________________________

4. What are Mercutio’s comments to Tybalt intended to accomplish? (36-37, 39, 44-47) ____________________________

5. Think back to Act I. Why does Tybalt want to fight Romeo? How does Romeo react to Tybalt and his insults and why does Romeo choose to act this way? (60-63, 66-70) ____________________________
6. Explain Mercutio’s pun, “Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man.” (95-96) ____________________________

7. Explain the situational irony of Mercutio’s death (hint: what was Mercutio trying to do and what was Romeo trying to do). ____________________________

8. According to Romeo’s lines 106-110, why does Mercutio fight Tybalt? Does Mercutio’s line 71 support this? _____

9. According to Romeo’s lines 110-112, how is Juliet responsible? ____________________________

10. Why does Montague say that Romeo should be pardoned? (181-183) ____________________________

11. Give the Prince’s response to the killing. (184-194) ____________________________
Act III, scene ii

1. Are Juliet's lines 1-31a monologue, soliloquy, or aside? For what is she waiting? What images does she use? ____________

2. When the nurse first approaches her, what does Juliet believe has happened? (45) ________________

3. Explain the pun in lines 43-51. ________________

4. “Beautiful tyrant” and “Fiend angelical” are examples of what type of literary device? What is Juliet trying to say about Romeo? (75) ________________

5. Juliet mentions two reasons for changing her feelings about Romeo having killed Tybalt. What are they? (101, 105-106) ________________

6. Hyperbole is excessive exaggeration. Juliet's lines 113-114 are an example of hyperbole. Explain why. Scan through the rest of her lines (through 127). What other examples of hyperbole are present? ________________
7. On what errand does the nurse leave? (141) ____________________________________________

Act III, scene iii
1. How does Romeo react to the news of his banishment? (13-15) ____________________________________________

2. What example of figurative language is found in lines 20 and 21? Copy down the example. ________________

3. What are the three reasons Friar Laurence tells Romeo that Romeo should be thankful for? (135-145) ________________

4. What vision of the future does Friar Laurence use to console Romeo? (150-158) ____________________________

5. What example of figurative language is found in lines 155-156? Copy down the example _______________________

6. How will Friar Laurence and Romeo keep in touch? (171-172) ____________________________

7. Explain Romeo’s pun in lines 34-40. ____________________________________________
Act III, scene iv
1. What further complication is added in this scene? (20-21) __________________________________________

2. Why do you think Lord Capulet makes this decision? __________________________________________

Act III, scene v
1. What is the “argument” between Juliet and Romeo? (1-16) __________________________________________

2. Look at line 36. How has the connotation of light changed from Acts I and II? __________________________

3. What premonition does Juliet have as Romeo leaves? (55-57) _________________________________________

4. What does Juliet say in her aside in line 83? Why is it important for the audience and not her parents to hear this line? __________________________________________

5. Explain the irony of Juliet's conversation with her mother. (79-105) _________________________________

6. Look at Lord Capulet’s lines 178-197. Are they a monologue, soliloquy, or aside? What do you think are the most important points he mentions? __________________________________________

7. Why do you think Lord Capulet behaves the way he does (look back at 2.4)? _________________________
8. How is Juliet alienated from her family in this scene? ___________________________________________________________________  

9. What is the nurse’s advice to Juliet? Why does she make this suggestion? (214-227) ___________________________________________________________________  

10. How does Juliet’s relationship with the nurse change during this scene? (237-244) ___________________________________________________________________  

11. Where is Juliet headed at the end of this scene and why? (243-244) ___________________________________________________________________  

Soliloquy, Monologue, and Aside  
1. In scene v, Juliet’s mother refers to Romeo as a villain. Juliet’s aside is “Villain and he be many miles asunder.” What is the effect of the aside? Why do you think Shakespeare wrote just the one remark as an aside? ___________________________________________________________________  

2. At the close of scene v, Juliet delivers a soliloquy. What makes her last eight lines a soliloquy? ___________________________________________________________________  

3. Review Juliet’s final eight lines of scene v. What important thoughts does Juliet reveal? Why was it important for her to be alone when she spoke these lines? ___________________________________________________________________  

4. Earlier in scene v, Capulet delivers a monologue when he discovers that Juliet has rejected the match with Paris. What makes this a monologue? ___________________________________________________________________  

5. Why was it important for Juliet and the others to hear these lines? ___________________________________________________________________
Act IV Questions

Act IV, scene i

1. What are the Friar and Paris discussing?

2. What are Lord Capulet’s wishes on the matter?

3. Paris says that he has not tried to woo Juliet because

4. How is Juliet’s conversation with Paris an example of irony?

5. In lines 50 - 55, what does Juliet say she will do if Friar Laurence cannot find a way out of her marriage to Paris?

6. What three things does Juliet say she would rather do than marry Paris?
   a)
   b)
   c)

7. Outline the plan that Friar Laurence presents to Juliet.

8. What is Juliet’s reaction to Friar Laurence’s plan?

9. How will the Friar inform Romeo of his plans?
10. Why do you think Friar Laurence tries to find a way to help Juliet, and why does the Friar’s plan seem reasonable? ____________________________________________________________________________

Act IV, scene ii
1. What is ironic about Lord Capulet’s gratitude toward Friar Laurence? ____________________________________________________________________________

2. What is ironic about Lord Capulet’s joy and relief? ____________________________________________________________________________

3. What change does Lord Capulet make in the wedding plans? Why does he make this decision and what problems will now arise? ____________________________________________________________________________

Act IV, scene iii
1. Why does Juliet tell the nurse to leave her by herself? What is her real motivation? ____________________________________________________________________________

2. Notice line 20. How is this line different from the others? How might the actress portraying Juliet use this? ____________________________________________________________________________

3. What precaution does Juliet take in case the potion does not work? ____________________________________________________________________________

4. What are three of Juliet’s fears as she prepares to take the potion?
   a) ____________________________________________________________________________
   b) ____________________________________________________________________________
   c) ____________________________________________________________________________
5. How has Juliet’s attitude changed since the last scene?

Act IV, scene iv
1. Tell how the actions of this scene are in direct contrast to the previous scene (irony).

Act IV, scene v
1. Copy down two examples of figurative language from this scene.

2. How does Lord Capulet’s reaction to Juliet’s “death” differ from his earlier treatment of her?

3. How are Friar Laurence’s lines 65-78 an example of dramatic irony?

4. What is the meaning of the Friar’s final lines in this scene? (94-95)
Act V Questions

Act V, scene i
1. Describe Romeo’s dream. (4-9)

2. Why has Balthasar come to visit Romeo? (17-23)

3. Copy down Romeo’s line 24. What does this suggest about who/what Romeo believes is responsible for what has occurred?

4. Why type of lines are 34-57? What important information is included in them?

Act V, scene ii
1. What disturbing information does Friar Laurence learn in this scene? (5-12)

2. What information do we learn in the final lines in this scene? (24, 27-29)

Act V, scene iii
1. Why is Paris in the churchyard? (12-17)
2. What are Romeo’s instructions to Balthasar? (23-36)

3. Explain what occurs between Romeo and Paris. (49-87)

4. What two important references does Romeo make to themes previously mentioned in the play?

5. How do we know that the potion is wearing off? (94-96)

6. Who does Friar Laurence say is responsible for recent events and what is his new plan? (153-154)

7. Why does his new plan not work?

8. What do we learn about Lady Montague? (210-211)

9. What confirms Friar Laurence’s account of the events? (278, 281, 286-290)

10. According to the Prince, how and why are he, the Capulets, and the Montagues punished? (291-295)

11. What memorial will be built for Romeo and Juliet? (299)
The Play as a Whole

Why are the three letters (Tybalt’s, Friar Laurence’s, and Romeo’s) essential to the tragedy?  

Explain how the names of Tybalt, Benvolio and Mercutio are indicative of their temperaments.  

What is the main external conflict in the play?  What other external conflicts exist?  Which do you feel are the most important?  

What internal conflicts exist?  Which do you feel are the most important?  

### Characters

For each of the characters listed below, determine if they are round or flat and static or dynamic. Write a brief explanation for characters who are round and/or dynamic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Flat</th>
<th>Dynamic</th>
<th>Static</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romeo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tybalt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercutio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benvolio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What a Week!

The events that take place in Romeo and Juliet occur within a span of only six days. List the major events that occurred each day during that fateful week in Verona. Refer to the text of the play as you complete this activity. Some examples have been done for you.

Sunday: Some of the Capulets’ and Montagues’ servants have a fight in the street.

Monday: ____________________________________________

Tuesday: ____________________________________________

Wednesday: ____________________________________________

Thursday: ____________________________________________

Friday: Early Friday morning, the bodies of Romeo and Juliet are found, and the families vow to end their rivalry.
Many people believe that Shakespeare’s tragedy, *Romeo and Juliet*, is a tragedy of fate. They believe that Romeo and Juliet are doomed from the start of the play and their actions are inconsequential in the final outcome. Do you agree? Define the following three terms and then determine which events in the play are caused by chance, fate, and the impulsiveness of the characters.

- **Chance**

- **Fate**

- **Impulsiveness**
Listed below are four characteristics of a tragedy.

- Events imitate real life actions that excite “pity and fear”
- Hero is neither villain nor completely virtuous
- Misfortune brought about by error or frailty
- Hero recognizes the tragedy of the situation

Look back at events and dialogue from the play. In sentence form cite specific actions, dialogue, and images in the play that support or refute each of these characteristics.

Events imitate real life actions that excite “pity and fear” ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Hero is neither villain nor completely virtuous_________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Misfortune brought about by error or frailty___________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Hero recognizes the tragedy of the situation___________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Do you believe Romeo and Juliet can be classified as a tragedy? __________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
Personal Response Journals

As we read through *Romeo and Juliet*, you are responsible for writing one personal response journal entry for every act that is read. They will be due on the review day before each act test. Act IV and V will both be due the day before the final *Romeo and Juliet* test. Since these writings are personal, there are no incorrect responses; however, your response must be on topic and relevant to the questions you are answering.

Your response should be a minimum of one page in length, have the number of the response you have chosen to write about in the title and be neat, written in pen or typed, and legible. If you have large, billowy writing, you will need to write more than one page in order to receive full credit for the assignment.

**Act One**

1. Is Romeo in love with Rosaline or is it infatuation? What is the difference? If you had a friend who was in a similar situation to Romeo’s, what advice would you give that person?
2. When Romeo and Juliet meet at the party, they fall in “love at first sight.” Considering their age, is this real love? What is your opinion of “love at first sight”?
3. If the characters were in modern clothing and spoke modern-day English, which characters, situations, and conflicts would seem realistic? Which would not?
4. Romeo seems to be fickle with his affections. First he passionately loves Rosaline and then he passionately loves Juliet. How would you treat Romeo if he were your friend? What advice would you give him based on your knowledge of “fickle” friendships?
5. Is thirteen too young to fall in love? To marry? Is there a minimum age for these things? What should it be and why?

**Act Two**

6. Do you think Romeo and Juliet do the right thing by marrying before anyone can object? Why or why not?
7. What qualities do you look for in friends? Which of these qualities do Benvolio and Mercutio share? Which of the two would you prefer to have as a friend?
8. Romeo and Juliet see each other despite the fact they know their parents would disapprove. Would their relationship have ended differently if they had tried to inform/reason with their respective parents?
9. Juliet is never seen with any friends her own age. If she had a close friend, what would Juliet say to her about Romeo and their relationship?
Act Three

10. What is Romeo’s reaction to the news that he is banished? Do you feel that this is an appropriate punishment? How would you feel or react if you were banished from your town?

11. If Romeo and Juliet were modern teenagers, they would be unlikely to turn to a monk and a nurse for advice/help. Who would their modern mentors be and why?

12. If you were in Romeo or Juliet’s situation, how would you react?

13. Friar Laurence tries to work out the conflict between the Capulets and the Montagues. Why is it that when people try to help resolve problems between other people, they make matters worse? Have you ever been involved in such a situation?

Act Four

14. Do you think Juliet’s decision to take the sleeping potion was wise? Were there better alternatives? In her position, what would you have done?

15. Should Romeo and Juliet have followed Friar Lawrence’s advice? Why or why not?

16. When is it better to work things out through direct confrontation? When is it better to use indirect means?

17. Write down what you imagine Juliet’s thoughts to be during this difficult time. Include her feelings toward her parents, Romeo, her nurse, Paris, and Friar Laurence.

Act Five

18. Write the letter that Romeo leaves for his father. Remember to include his feelings about the feud, his family and Juliet.

19. Write an interview with either Lord Capulet or Lord Montague that would take place after the deaths of their children. Include questions that would reflect his personality, his relationship with other characters and his feelings at the moment.

20. By the end of the play, which characters, if any, have earned your sympathy? Which do you think should feel guilty and why?

21. Do you consider Romeo and Juliet’s love to be true and strong or weak and superficial? Explain.