

***ROMEO AND JULIET* HOMEWORK QUESTIONS**

Act 1

Prologue

1. Where is the play set and what is troubling the city?
2. How will the troubles of the city be ended?
3. What is meant by the term “star-crossed”?
4. Why do you think Shakespeare would start the play by giving away the ending?

Scene 1

1. Contrast the behaviors of Benvolio and Tybalt in this scene.
2. What does the Prince do to try to stop the fighting?
3. Why are the Montagues worried about Romeo?
4. What is making Romeo so sad?

Scene 2

1. What kind of person is Paris? Give examples from the text to support your answer.
2. Does Benvolio believe that Romeo is truly in love with Rosaline? Give examples from the text to support your answer.
3. How does Benvolio plan to cure Romeo of his love sickness?

Scene 3

1. After seeing Juliet in this scene, how would you describe her? Use examples from the text to show her character.
2. What purpose does the Nurse play in this scene? What do we learn about her character? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Scene 4

1. What do we learn about Romeo’s character in this scene?

2. What kind of person is Mercutio? If you were going to compare him to a character in a film or in a book, which character would you choose? Explain your answer.
3. At the end of the scene, what does Romeo fear?

Scene 5

1. What do we learn about the character of Tybalt?
2. How does Romeo act when he sees Juliet? Why is this unexpected considering his earlier behavior?
3. Describe an example of dramatic irony in this scene.

ACT 2

Prologue

1. What kind of love is described in the line: "Alike bewitched by the charm of looks"?
2. What challenges will the two new lovers have?
3. What does the chorus imply when he says, "she as much in love, her means much less"?
4. What does the chorus tell us will happen in Act 2?

Scene 1

1. Explain how this scene is an example of dramatic irony. (Mercutio is conjuring Romeo with his lover's name (Rosaline) but the audience knows that Romeo is now in love with Juliet.)
2. What do you think Benvolio and Mercutio mean when they say that Romeo's love for Rosaline is blind?

Scene 2

1. What does Romeo mean when he says, "He jests at scars that never felt a wound"?
2. Explain two comparisons that Romeo makes in his first long speech.
3. Explain the rose imagery in Juliet's speech.
4. Which of the two is the more practical? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

5. What are their plans for the following day?

Scene 3

1. Explain what the Friar means in lines 23 to 30. Can you think of an example from a film or a book in which someone appeared to be good on the outside but was bad on the inside—or the opposite?
2. Do you think that the Friar is convinced that Romeo really loves Juliet? Use examples from the text to explain your answer.
3. What reason does the Friar give for agreeing to marry Romeo and Juliet?

Scene 4

1. What has Tybalt done?
2. What is Mercutio's opinion of Tybalt? Use examples to support your answer.
3. What does Mercutio mean in lines 92 to 95?
4. What are Romeo's wedding plans?

Scene 5

1. What excuses does Juliet imagine for the Nurse taking so long to return?
2. What is the dramatic purpose in having the Nurse take so long to tell her news?

Scene 6

1. What is ironic in Romeo's lines 5-7?
2. What warning does the Friar give to Romeo?
3. After reading this scene, do you think that the love Romeo and Juliet feel for each other is real or not? Explain your answer.

ACT 3

Scene 1

1. Give two examples of dramatic irony in this scene and use examples from the text to explain your answer.

2. What is your reaction to Romeo's lines 111 – 116? Do you think he is fair in blaming Juliet for what has happened?
3. What does Romeo mean when he says, "O, I am fortune's fool!" Do you agree with him? Explain your answer.
4. What will happen if Romeo doesn't leave Verona right away?

Scene 2

1. How does Shakespeare use dramatic irony in this scene?
2. What do you think of Juliet's reaction to the Nurse's criticism of men and her comment, "Shame come to Romeo."
3. For Juliet, why is banishment worse than death?

Scene 3

1. This is a tough scene for the actor playing Romeo as he can look like a complete wuss moaning about being banished, whereas Juliet is coping with a banished husband, a murdered cousin, and a family in mourning in front of whom she has to watch every thing she says. The Friar accuses him of being "womanish" and behaving like a "beast." Have the students discuss how they feel about Romeo's reactions here. What do they think he should have done? Or how do they think he should have reacted?
2. List the reasons for being grateful and happy that the Friar outlines in his long speech.
3. What does the Friar hope to do while Romeo is away?

Scene 4

1. How does Capulet appear to dismiss the fact of Tybalt's death? (unlucky, well, we were born to die.)
2. Why do you think he might be moving so quickly to get Juliet and Paris married?
3. How does Capulet's decision make a change to what he said earlier about when Juliet would marry?
4. What do you think Juliet's reaction will be?

Scene 5

1. In what way does Juliet hope that Fortune is fickle?
2. From Juliet's conversation with her mother, give two examples of how she talks about Romeo in a way that is misinterpreted by her mother.
3. What is Juliet's reaction to the news that she is going to marry Paris on Tuesday?
4. What reaction to the marriage news was Capulet expecting?
5. Are you surprised by Capulet's reaction to Juliet's refusal to marry? Explain your answer.
6. What advice does the Nurse give Juliet?
7. How does Juliet feel about the Nurse at the end of the act?
8. What will Juliet do if the Friar can't help her?

ACT 4

Scene 1

1. What does Paris say is Capulet's reason for hurrying the marriage?
2. What does Juliet plan to do if the Friar can't come up with a solution to their problem?
3. What is the Friar's plan?

Scene 2

1. How does Juliet behave when she returns from Friar Lawrence?
2. What decision does Capulet make when he sees the change in Juliet?

Scene 3

1. How does Juliet finally get rid of her mother and the Nurse?
2. What does she plan to do if the potion doesn't work?
3. List the fears that Juliet has to overcome before she drinks the potion.

Scene 5

1. What is your reaction to the speeches from the Nurse, Capulet, Lady Capulet and Paris?

2. Why do you think that Shakespeare has Capulet do such a close examination of Juliet to show that she is dead?
3. Why do you think the musician scene is in the play? Would you keep it in if you were directing the performance?

ACT 5

Scene 1

1. Why do you think that Shakespeare made Romeo so happy at the beginning of this scene?
2. How does Romeo convince the apothecary to sell the poison?
3. Where does Romeo intend to die?

Scene 2

1. Why didn't the letter get delivered to Romeo?
2. What is the Friar's plan?

Scene 3

1. What does Paris say that he will do every night at Juliet's tomb?
2. What lie does Romeo tell Balthasar?
3. Why does Paris blame Romeo for Juliet's death?
4. What does the Friar mean when he says, "A greater power than we can contradict / Hath thwarted our intents"? Why do you think he says this?
5. Where does the Friar plan to take Juliet?
6. After the Prince reads Romeo's letter he addresses Capulet and Montague. Why does the Prince feel that he has been punished by the deaths, too?
7. What do Capulet and Montague promise to do in the future?

