

Romeo and Juliet: Study Guide

Study Questions

Act One

Vocabulary: *Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play.*

1. adversary
2. boisterous
3. nuptial

Act One - Prologue and Scene One

1. In what city does this play take place?
2. Why are Romeo and Juliet called "star-cross'd lovers"?
3. Between what two families does the feud exist?
_____ vs. _____
4. Who is fighting at the beginning of the first scene?
5. Who tries to break up the fighting?
6. What decree does the Prince make after the street brawl?
7. Benvolio and Montague describe the way Romeo has been acting. What do they have to say about him?
8. Why is Romeo so sad? Explain. What advice does Benvolio give Romeo about the woman he loves?

Act One -Scene Two

1. Why does Capulet think it will be easy for Montague and him to keep the peace?
2. How does Capulet respond to Paris' proposal to marry Juliet?
3. How do Romeo and Benvolio learn about the Capulet's ball? What do they decide to do?
4. What is the name of the woman Romeo loves?

5. What do Romeo and Benvolio decide to do?

Act One -Scene Three

1. How does Juliet feel about getting married?
2. Following Juliet's answer, what does Lady Capulet then tell Juliet?
3. How old is Juliet? What is Lammastide? On what date does it come?

Act One - Scene Four

1. When and where does this scene take place?
2. According to Mercutio, who or what is Queen Mab, and what does she or it do?
3. What does Mercutio say about dreams?
4. What is Romeo's mood at the end of this scene? Explain.

Act One - Scene Five

1. Where does this scene take place?
2. Who is Romeo talking about in lines 46-55? Explain the irony in these lines.
3. Why does Tybalt become so upset, and how does Capulet respond to his rage?
4. Who said the following lines and why? Paraphrase them in the space provided
 1. "is she a Capulet? O dear account, my life is my foe's debt."
 2. "My only love sprung from my only hate Too early seen unknown and known too late."

Act 2

Vocabulary: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play.

1. cunning
2. vile
3. predominant
4. unwieldy

Act Two - Scene One:

1. Explain the Prologue.
2. Explain the dramatic irony in this scene.
3. What does Mercutio say about "blind love"?

Act Two - Scene Two:

1. Fill in the blanks in this paraphrase of Romeo's soliloquy (lines 1-32)

Shh! What _____ is at the _____? _____ shines through the window like the _____ rises in the _____. Arise, beautiful sun (Juliet) and replace the _____ who is jealous because you, her maid (Diana - Virgin moon goddess) are _____ than she. Don't be a _____ since the moon is _____ of you. Her innocence is sickly, and only a _____ would keep it.

Oh! It's Juliet! I wish she knew that I _____ her. She speaks, but says _____. How strange. She speaks with her eyes. I'll _____ her. No, I'd better not since she isn't _____.

Two of the _____ in heaven have asked her _____ to twinkle for them while they take care of some _____. If her eyes were there, her bright _____ would make the stars seem dull just as the _____ outshines a lamp. Her eyes would shine so _____ that the _____ would think it were _____ and begin to _____. O' I wish that I could touch her _____.

She speaks. O speak again bright _____, for you are as glorious to this _____, being over my _____ (up at the window) as is an angel of _____ is to _____ who look up and see him when he walks on the _____ and sails through the _____.

2. How does Juliet "speak, yet . . . [say] nothing"?
3. Explain Juliet's soliloquy (lines 33-44).
4. How is this an example of dramatic irony?
5. Fill in the blanks in this paraphrase of Juliet's speech (lines 85-106).
6. You know it is _____ or you could see me _____ because you _____ me talking about you. If I followed proper etiquette, I'd _____ I ever said it. But who cares about etiquette! Do you _____ me? Don't say yes unless you really _____ it. If you think that I am too _____. I'll play _____ so you can _____ my affections. The truth is I am foolishly in _____ with you, and you might not take me _____. But _____ me, and I'll _____ myself to be more _____ than those who know how to play hard to _____. I would have been more _____ I must confess, but since you _____ me confess my _____ for you, there is no _____ to be.

7. Paraphrase what Juliet says in lines 116-24.

Even though I'm happy to be with _____, I have no joy of what's happening _____. It is too _____ and _____. It's like _____, which stops existing as soon as you can _____.

8. After Romeo and Juliet vow their love for one another, what do they decide to do and when?

Act Two - Scene Three

1. The sky turns _____ as the _____ gives way to _____. Streaks of _____ speckle the Eastern _____ as the _____ rises in its normal course. Now, before the _____ rises fully and _____ the dew, I must fill this _____ with _____ and _____. The earth is both the place of _____ and _____ for all of _____. We find all kinds of _____ growing from the earth; Some are _____ and some _____, but all are _____. Plants and _____ and _____ have great _____. There is nothing on earth so _____ that it does not have some _____ qualities, and nothing so _____ that it cannot be used for _____. Even goodness itself turns to vice when _____, and _____ put to good use may appear worthy. Within this _____ lies _____ as well as _____; for it has a very pleasing _____, but if you _____ it, it will _____ you. It is the same with _____. He is part _____ and part _____, and when the bad side of his nature is _____ than the good, he'll sooner or later _____ himself.

2. What has friar Laurence been out gathering in his basket?

3. How does this demonstration of Friar Laurence's knowledge of herbs and foreshadow future events in the drama?

4. Explain lines 21-22: "Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,/And vice sometime by action dignified"?

5. Why does Romeo go to see Friar Laurence?

6. How does Friar Laurence respond to Romeo's request?

7. What does Friar Laurence mean when he says to Romeo, "Young men's love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes?"

8. Why does Friar Laurence consent to Romeo's request?

Act Two - Scene Four

1. For whom is the nurse looking and why?

2. What warning does she give Romeo?

Act Two - Scene Five

1. The nurse is supposed to be gone only a half hour, but she is actually gone for how long?
2. How is the nurse behaving that is frustrating to Juliet?

Act Two - Scene Six

1. Romeo and Juliet are married in Friar Laurence's cell. How does this scene foreshadow future events?

Act Three

Vocabulary: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play.

1. banishment
2. dexterity
3. idolatry
4. reconcile
5. exile
6. fickle
7. gallant

Act Three - Scene One

1. Tybalt, still enraged at Romeo's intrusion at the Capulet's ball, is determined to fight, but Romeo refuses. Why?
2. How does Mercutio get involved, and what happens to him?
3. How does Romeo react to this?
4. What decree does the Prince make?
5. Explain how this scene serves as the climax or turning point of the drama. (Think of all that has happened between Romeo and Juliet so far.)

Act Three - Scene Two

1. Complete this paraphrase of Juliet's soliloquy (lines 1-31)

Hurry up, _____ and set so that night will come and _____ can leap into my _____ Lovers don't need _____ to make love. If _____ is blind it best agrees with _____. Come on, night, so I can learn to _____ the love game. I'll _____ to Romeo, and we'll both lose our _____. Cover my blushing _____ until I grow _____ enough to act out my true _____. Come night. Come _____, and lie with me this night. Give me my _____ and when he _____ cut him up into little _____, and he will light the _____ so fine that all the _____ will be on love with _____ and not _____. Oh, I have taken the _____ vow, yet I am still a virgin. it's like a child who has new _____, but is not allowed to _____ them.

2. Explain the dramatic irony in the beginning of this scene.
3. How does Juliet react to the nurse's news?
4. What does Juliet plan to do with the cords? (See lines 132-137)
5. How does the nurse console her?

Act Three - Scene Three

1. How does Romeo react to the news of his banishment?
2. Complete this paraphrase of Friar Laurence's speech (lines 108-154).

Stop! - Are you a _____? You look like a man but you cry like a _____ and act like a _____. I'm surprised at you! I thought you were a better man than that. You already killed _____. Will you now kill _____ and by doing so kill _____ who loves you? What are you _____ about? You're alive aren't you? _____ on you! You are a _____ to your manhood, trying to _____ yourself after vowing to love and _____ Juliet. Your _____ that should guide your body and your love is _____ like a _____ soldier trying to load his _____ and kills himself instead of the enemy. What's wrong with you _____? _____ is alive. There, you are lucky. _____ would have _____ you but instead you killed him. There, you are lucky. The Prince could have _____ you to _____, but he only _____ you. There, you are lucky. You have much to be _____ for, but instead of counting your _____, you sulk and _____ like a spoiled child. Stop sulking, and go to your _____ and _____ her. But don't _____ too long, or you won't be able to get pass the _____ to go to _____ where you can stay until I can tell your _____ about your _____, reconcile them, and get the _____ to _____ you so you can come back and live happily. Go, _____ and tell _____ to go to bed early because _____ is coming.

3. What does the nurse give to Romeo?

Act Three - Scene Four

1. What does Capulet tell his wife to say to Juliet?
2. How does the action in this scene complicate matters even further?

3. How does Capulet's attitude now differ from his attitude when Paris first came to ask for Juliet's hand in marriage?
4. Explain the dramatic irony in this scene.

Act Three - Scene Five

1. Complete the paraphrase of lines 94-103.

I'm so _____ about my cousin's death that I'll never be _____ with Romeo until I see him _____. Mother, if you could find a man who sells _____, I would _____ it myself so that Romeo would be _____. My heart hates hearing his _____ and not being able to _____ him, not being able to _____ the love I had for my _____.

Explain the paradoxical phrases in this passage.

2. How does Capulet react to Juliet's refusal to marry Paris?
3. After Lady Capulet breaks the news about Paris, what is Juliet's response?
4. If Juliet's mother does not arrange to delay the marriage, what will Juliet do?
5. What advice does the nurse give Juliet?
6. How does Juliet's attitude toward the nurse change?
7. What "scheme" does Juliet devise to get rid of the nurse and to get out of the house?

Act Four

Vocabulary: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play.

1. lament
2. shroud
3. dismal
4. vial
5. loathsome

Act Four - Scene One

1. Why is Friar Laurence reluctant to marry Paris to Juliet?
2. How does Paris explain the sudden haste of the marriage plans?

3. What is ironic about the conversation between Juliet and Paris?
4. If Friar Laurence cannot help her, what does Juliet threaten to do?
5. Why does Friar Laurence think that Juliet will accept his plan?
6. Describe the friar's plan for Juliet.

Act Four - Scene Two

1. What day is it now?
2. Juliet is so convincing in her deception that her father decides to move the wedding day up from Thursday to Wednesday. What Complication does this change foreshadow?

Act Four - Scene Three

1. Complete this paraphrase of Juliet's soliloquy (lines 14-58)

Farewell! God knows when we shall _____ again. Oh, I'm so _____ that my _____ runs cold. I'll call them back to _____ me. Nurse! - But what can she do? I must do this alone. Come vial. But what if the potion doesn't _____ and I have to _____ Paris after all? I'll use this _____ on myself first! What if the Friar gave me _____ to kill me so that no one will find out that he already _____ me to Romeo? No, the Friar is proven to be a _____ man. He would not do that. But what if I _____ before _____ comes to take me away? That's scary. Will I not _____ in the vault before _____ comes? Or if I _____, my imagination will run _____ in that horrible place where the bones of my _____ have been _____ for hundreds of years; where _____ yet recently burned lies _____ in his shroud; where _____ visit at some hours of the _____. Oh! Wouldn't those horrible _____ and _____ drive a living person _____? If I _____ will I not be so disturbed in the midst of these hideous _____ that I play with my forefather's _____ or pull _____ burial clothes off, and then in a fit of madness dash out my _____ with my _____?

Oh look! I think I see my cousin's (Tybalt's) _____ looking for _____ who cut him up with his _____. Stay back, _____ stay back! Romeo, I come! I _____ this (potion) to you.

2. List Juliet's fears as she is about to drink the potion.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

Act Four - Scene Four

1. What is happening in this brief scene?

Act Four - Scene Five

1. Describe the imagery Shakespeare uses in describing Juliet's "death"?
2. What does Friar Laurence say to comfort the Capulet family?
3. What even are the Capulets now preparing for?
4. Explain the dramatic irony in Friar Laurence's speech (lines 65-83)

Act Five

Vocabulary: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play.

1. ambiguity
2. peruse
3. remnants
4. haughty

Act Five - Scene One

1. How does Romeo's dream, which he describes in his opening speech, compare with the news brought to him by Balthasar?
2. What does Romeo mean when he says, "Then I defy you, stars!"?
3. How does Romeo convince the apothecary to sell him poison?
4. What does he plan to do with the poison?

Act Five - Scene Two

1. Explain the conversation between Friar Laurence and Friar John.
2. What does Friar Laurence now plan to do?

Act Five - Scene Three

1. Why does Paris come to Juliet's burial place?
2. What happens when Romeo and Paris meet?
3. Romeo gives Balthasar two reasons for entering the Capulet's tomb. What are those two reasons?
4. Why does Paris think that Romeo has come to the tomb?
5. Romeo enters the tomb and sees Juliet. He takes the poison, and no sooner does Romeo die, than Friar Laurence comes along - but too late.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN JULIET WAKES UP?
6. Complete this paraphrase of Friar Laurence's speech.
(lines 229-269)

I will be _____, for I don't expect to _____ long. Romeo and Juliet are _____ and _____. I _____ them in _____, and that same day was _____ killed and _____ banished. Juliet pined for her bridegroom and not for _____. You (Capulet) while trying to make her _____ promised her to _____ and would have _____ her to marry him. Then she came to me asking that I _____ to prevent her second marriage, or she would have _____ herself right there in my cell. So I gave her a _____ which was intended to make her _____. Meanwhile, I wrote a letter to _____ telling him to come _____ to take _____ from her borrowed grave when the potion _____. But Friar John, who was sent to _____ the _____, was detained and brought the letter back to me. So I came alone at the time when Juliet was to _____ to take her from the vault and hide her in _____ until I could send another _____ to _____. When I got here, just a few minutes before _____ should awaken, I found both _____ and _____ dead. Juliet woke up, and I tried to get her to leave. I heard some _____ and was _____ away, but Juliet would not _____. It seems that she _____. This is the whole story, and Juliet's _____ also knew of the _____. If this is all my _____ let me be sacrificed to the full extent of the _____.

7. Why doesn't Friar Laurence stay in the tomb with Juliet after she awakens?
8. When Montague first arrives on the scene, what does he tell those gathered?
9. How do Montague and Capulet plan to honor the memories of their children?
10. Describe the conclusion of the drama and explain how poetic Justice operates in the play.
11. What is Romeo and Juliet's tragic flaw? How does it lead to their destruction?

Sources

This study guide was prepared with material from:

- Literary Explorer (<http://drb.lifestreamcenter.net/Lessons/RomJul/index.htm>)
- Mr. Lettiere's English on the Web (<http://www.argo217.k12.il.us/departs/english/blettieri/romeojuliet.htm>)