

# **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>)