

## STUDY QUESTIONS FOR ROMEO AND JULIET

The following questions should be used to guide you in your reading of the play and to insure that you recognize important parts of the play. Try to answer the questions as best you can and plan to come to class seeking the answers you could not get on your own. During our class discussions, *be sure to record the answers*. It is your responsibility to ask what you do not understand.

\*The lines related to these questions may be on a test. Be able to identify the speaker, describe the circumstances, and be able to interpret or paraphrase the quotation. Words in **bold** print are vocabulary words (as notes) that may also appear on a test.

### ACT 2 SCENE 1

1. Recall that **Dramatic Irony is when the audience knows something the characters do not**. What is ironic about Mercutio's actions in this scene?

### ACT 2 SCENE 2

1. Juliet is on the balcony outside her bedroom but cannot hear the words that Romeo says to himself as he looks at her from the hiding place below. Fill in the blanks in this paraphrase of Romeo's

**Soliloquy:**

"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 \_\_\_\_\_ would make the stars seem dull just as \_\_\_\_\_ outshines a lamp. Her eyes would shine so \_\_\_\_\_ that the \_\_\_\_\_ would think it were \_\_\_\_\_ and begin to \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, I wish that I could touch her \_\_\_\_\_. She speaks. Oh 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 on the \_\_\_\_\_."

\*2. Juliet is still unaware that Romeo is nearby when she speaks her lines “*Oh, Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?...*” Paraphrase these lines (starting around line 35) – what is it Juliet is saying here?

\*3. When Juliet speaks her famous lines starting with “*What’s in a name?*”, what is it that Juliet says about Romeo? What is it she wants Romeo to do?

4. After Juliet asks some pertinent questions (lines 58-84), she realizes that Romeo has overheard her intimate thoughts about him. Finish this paraphrase of her speech.

*You know it is \_\_\_\_\_ or else you’d be able to see the \_\_\_\_\_ on my cheeks because you \_\_\_\_\_ me talking about you. If I followed proper etiquette, I’d \_\_\_\_\_ I ever said anything. But at this point, 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 already \_\_\_\_\_ me confess my \_\_\_\_\_ for you, there is no \_\_\_\_\_ to be.*

5. Explain why Juliet objects to Romeo’s swearing on the moon (“*O, swear not by the moon...*”).

\*6. In this scene, there’s some more **Foreshadowing** going on. Both Romeo and Juliet express some fear they have about the situation and what’s going on. Review the scene. What fear does Juliet express? What fear does Romeo express?

7. What plan do Romeo and Juliet make at the end of the scene?

### **ACT 2 SCENE 3**

1. Friar Laurence is introduced in a lengthy **Soliloquy** in which he philosophies about nature and about mankind. He's gathering herbs as he speaks, and when Romeo enters. Where is it that the Friar believes Romeo has been?

2. What does Romeo tell Friar Laurence, and what favor does he ask of the Friar?

3. Explain what Friar Laurence's reaction is to hearing of Romeo's new love.

\*4. Explain Friar Laurence's reasons for agreeing to marry Romeo and Juliet.

### **ACT 2 SCENE 4**

1. Though he's not "in" this scene, Tybalt shows us that he means to make good on the threat he made towards Romeo for crashing the Capulet party. What has Tybalt done?

2. Compare Romeo's behavior in this scene with his behavior back in Act I, scene 4 (Queen Mab scene).

3. What plan does Romeo charge the Nurse with telling to Juliet?

## ACT 2 SCENE 5

1. Juliet is very impatient to hear news from Romeo. Explain her impatience (why?)
2. The nurse knows Juliet is impatient, but she keeps putting her off. Why does the nurse do this?
3. Why does the Nurse agree to help Juliet marry Romeo? Where is the Nurse off to at the end of the scene? Where is Juliet off to?

## ACT 2 SCENE 6

- \*1. Explain the warning Friar Lawrence gives to Romeo as they wait for Juliet to arrive at the church (*“These violent delights...”*).
2. What event occurs at the end of this Act?