

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 3 SCENE 1

1. Mercutio tries to provoke Tybalt to fight – how? And why doesn't Tybalt want to fight him?

*2. Look at lines 65-69 ("*Tybalt, the reason...knowst me not.*"). Explain the meaning of the lines and the **Dramatic Irony** of the situation.

3. Why does Romeo's answer to Tybalt's insults upset Mercutio? What does he think Romeo is doing?

4. Romeo tries to stop Mercutio and Tybalt from fighting by reasoning with them. Paraphrase what he says.

*5. Even when he is dying, Mercutio continues to joke and to make **Puns, which are jokes that 'play' on the different possible meanings of words.** Explain his pun "*Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man.*"

6. After Mercutio dies, why does Romeo decide to kill Tybalt instead of accepting Mercutio's death as an unfortunate accident?

*7. What reasoning does Lady Capulet use in begging the Prince for vengeance for Tybalt's death?

*8. What is Lord Montague's reasoning in his attempt to persuade the Prince not to kill Romeo for his killing of Tybalt?

*9. What is the Prince's decree, and what are the reasons he gives for making it?

ACT 3 SCENE 2

1. While recounting news of the fight, the Nurse confuses Juliet. What misconception does Juliet make?

*2. When Juliet receives news of Tybalt's death, around line 70, what words does she use to describe Tybalt, and what words does she use to describe Romeo? What do her words say about her feelings towards these two men?

*3. When she realizes it was Romeo who killed Tybalt, what contradictory phrases (**Oxymorons**) does she use to describe Romeo – list at least 3? What does the use of these contradictory phrases say about her feelings?

*4. What does the Nurse wish upon Romeo? Quote the lines.

*5. Explain Juliet's reaction to the Nurse's wish. Why does she have this reaction (see lines 111-116)?

6. Explain how this scene ends.

ACT 3 SCENE 3

*1. What is Romeo's reaction when he learns that he has been banished from Verona? He continues to explain his reasoning – why DOES he feel this way?

2. From the beginning of the play, Romeo has acted impulsively. In what way is he still impulsive in this scene (lines 118-124)?

3. Friar Laurence scolds Romeo ("*Art thou a man?*") and in his very long **monologue, which is a speech delivered by one character**, tells Romeo to count his blessings – there are 3 of them. What are these blessings (line 152-159)?

4. Explain Friar Laurence's plan for Romeo & Juliet (lines 163-171 – "*Go get thee...forth in lamentation.*").

ACT 3 SCENE 4

1. What change in plans does Lord Capulet decide upon in this scene? Why?

ACT 3 SCENE 5

- *1. What sound signifies the rising sun & upcoming day, which also signifies that it's time for Romeo to leave? Where is Romeo off to?

2. Lady Capulet misunderstands Juliet's sadness. Why does she think Juliet is sad and crying? What does Lady Capulet plan on doing to avenge Tybalt's death?

3. What is Juliet's response when she is told that she is to marry Paris? How has she changed since Act 1?

- *4. Sum up Lord Capulet's response to Juliet's refusal to marry Paris – including his emotional response as well as his verbal response.

5. Juliet has been abandoned by both parents – how does the Nurse's advice to Juliet also leave her feeling "abandoned" – what IS the advice? What is the Nurse's reasoning behind her advice?

6. After the Nurse leaves and Juliet is alone, what does Juliet decide to do?