

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 5 SCENE 1

*1. What is the **Irony** of Romeo's first 2 lines – "*If I may trust the flattering truth of sleep, My dreams presage some joyful news at hand*"?

2. Explain the dream Romeo had that he mentions at the beginning of this scene (lines 6-10 – "*I dreamt...was an emperor.*")?

3. ^a What news does Balthasar bring? ^b What is the **hidden meaning** behind his message – "*Then she is well, and nothing can be ill*" – what is it he is *really* saying?

*4. What does Romeo mean when he says, "*Then I defy you, stars!*"

5. Why is Romeo so quick to believe Balthasar's news?

6. What does Romeo decide to do after he hears Balthasar's story (lines 37-57 – “*Well, Juliet...sell it me.*”)?

7. ^a Why is the apothecary hesitant to give Romeo what he wants? ^b What convinces him?

8. What does the apothecary say of the *efficacy* (effectiveness) of the liquid he has given Romeo?

ACT 5 SCENE 2

1. Why has Friar John not been able to deliver Friar Laurence's letter to Romeo? What does this **Foreshadow**?

*2. Explain what Friar Laurence means – “*The letter was not nice, but full of charge, of dear import, and the neglecting it may do much danger.*”

3. What is the Friar's plan at this point? (2 parts)

ACT 5 SCENE 3

*1. Review lines 95-99 (“*Death, that hath...is not advanced there.*”). What does Romeo notice about Juliet? Explain the **dramatic irony**.

*2. Review lines 115-123 (“*Eyes, look...kiss I die.*”). What actions (plural) does Romeo do in these lines?

*3. What does the Friar mean when he tells Juliet, “*A greater power than we can contradict hath thwarted our intentions*”?

4. Why does Juliet kiss Romeo (line 177 – “*I will kiss thy lips...*”)?

*5. How does Juliet meet her end?

6. ^a Which persons do the Watch (guards) arrest as suspicious characters? ^b For what reasons (plural) are they deemed (considered) suspicious (lines 219-222 – “*Here is a...dead men’s tombs.*”)

7. What’s happened to Romeo’s mother, and how?

8. Who are the 3 “witnesses” that the Prince interrogates about what’s happened? Summarize what **each** of the 3 says.

9. Prince Escalus tells Capulet and Montague, "*All are punished.*" How have they **all** been "punished" by these events?

10. What will Lord Montague do?

11. What will Lord Capulet do?

12. Prince Escalus has the last words of the play and notes, "*A glooming peace this morning with it brings.*" What peace is he referring to, and why is it referred to as "glooming"?