

Romeo and Juliet Study Guide

Name _____

Act I Scene 1 p.942

1. Underline the series of oxymora in the following lines:

*"Here is much to do with hate, but more with love,
Why then, O brawling love, O loving hate,
Of anything, of nothing first create!
O heavy lightness, serious vanity,
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms,
Feather of lead, bright-smoke; cold fire, sick health,
Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!
This love feel I, that feel no love in this." (168-175)*

What does this reveal about Romeo?

Scene 2 p. 950

1. What is Capulet trying to tell Paris?

*"My child is yet a stranger in the world,
She hath not seen the change of fourteen years.
Let two more summers wither in their pride
Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride." (8-11)*

2. What is Paris' argument? Quote the line which supports your answer.
3. What does Capulet mean in, "*And too soon marred are those so early made.*" (13)
4. What is the meaning of:

*"At my poor house look to behold tonight
Earth-treading stars that make dark heaven light." (24-25)*

5. What does the servant mean when he says:

*"...and if you be not of the house of Montagues, I pray come and crush a cup
of wine." (80-81)*

Scene 3 p.953

1. In a few sentences summarize the conversation between Juliet, her mother, and the nurse.

Scene 4 p.957

1. What does Romeo mean in the following lines? What is the allusion in "*shaft*"? (Allusion - implied or direct reference) What is the play on the word "*bound*"?

*"I am too sore empierced with his shaft
To soar with his light feathers; and so bound
I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe." (19-21)*

2. What do the following lines show about Romeo's state of mind?

*"I fear, too early, for my mind misgives
Some consequence, yet hanging in the stars,
Shall bitterly begin, his fearful date
With this night's revels and expire term
Of a despised life, closed in my breast,
By some vile forfeit of untimely death." (106-111)*

3. What do these lines show about Romeo's belief in fate?

*"But he that has the steerage of my course
Direct my sail." (112-113)*

Scene 5 p.961

1. Who is speaking the lines below and to whom do these lines refer? What do the speakers mean? Give the numbers of the lines.

a. *"...Verona brags him
To be a virtuous and well-governed youth.
I would not for the wealth of all this town
Here in my house do him disparagement." (Lines _____)*

b. *"...If he be married,
My grave is like to be my wedding bed." (Lines _____)*

c. *"My only love, sprung from my only hate! Too early seen unknown, and known
too late!" (Lines _____)*

Act II Scene 1 p.968

1. Briefly sum up what takes place in this scene.

Scene 2 p.971

1. What time is it when Juliet appears at her window? Quote the lines which support your answer.
2. What does Juliet deplore in the following line?

"O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" (33)

What does she wish Romeo to do in this line?

"Deny thy father and refuse thy name." (34)

3. Who says the following? What is meant? Give the numbers of the lines.

- a. *"O that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek." (Lines _____)*
- b. *"What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet." (Lines _____)*
- c. *"I have no joy of this contract tonight.
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden;
Too like the lightning..." (Lines _____)*

Scene 3 p.977

1. What is the meaning of the following passages? Paraphrase in modern English.
 - a. *The grey-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night,
Check'ring the Eastern clouds with streaks of light;
And flecked darkness like a drunkard reels
From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels.
Now, ere the sun advance his burning eye
The day to cheer and night's dank dew to dry,
I must up-fill this osier cage of ours
With baleful weeds and precious-juiced flowers." (1-9)*
 - b. *"O mickle is the powerful grace that lies
In plants, herbs, stones, and their true qualities.
For naught so vile that on the earth doth live
But to the earth some special good doth give." (16-19)*

- c. *"Young men's love then lies
Not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes."* (67-68)
- d. *"Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast."* (94)

Scene 4 p.980

1. What is the letter that Tybalt sent to Romeo's father?
2. How does Benvolio mean that Romeo will answer the letter?
3. What does Mercutio mean when he says, *"Alas, poor Romeo, he is already dead!"*
4. List the traits which Mercutio attributes to Tybalt in his description to Benvolio.
5. According to Romeo, what sort of youth is Mercutio? Quote the lines which support your answer.
6. Explain: *"...to lead into a fool's paradise."* (143-144)
7. Which message does Romeo give the nurse in the following lines:

*"Bid her devise
Some means to come to shrift this afternoon,
And there she shall at Friar Laurence' cell
Be shrived and married."* (155-158)

Scene 5 p. 987

1. What time of day is it?
2. How long has the Nurse been gone on her errand to Romeo?
3. Quote the lines which show Juliet's impatience.

Scene 6 p.989

1. What does Friar Laurence mean,

*"So smile the heavens upon this holy act
That after-hours with sorrow chide us not!"* (1-2)

2. What does the quote tell us about the Friar's state of mind?

3. Is Romeo fearful of the future? Explain the following lines:

*"Then love-devouring death do what he dare-
It is enough I may but call her mine." (7-8)*

4. What is the Friar's warning in the lines:

*"These violent delights have violent ends
And in their triumph die like fire and powder,
Which, as they kiss, consume." (9-11)*

5. What is the Friar's advice to Romeo in the following lines?

*"Therefore love moderately: long love doth so:
Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow." (14-15)*

6. What is the Friar's meaning in lines 35-37?

*"Come, come with me and we will make short work;
For, by your leaves, you shall not stay alone
Till Holy Church incorporate two in one."*

Act III Scene 1 p.992

1. What do the following lines foreshadow?

*"I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire.
The day is hot, the Capulets abroad,
And, if we meet, we shall not 'scape a brawl,
For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring." (1-4)*

2. What does Mercutio tell us about Benvolio in the lines 15-27? Explain.

3. What does Romeo remind Mercutio and Tybalt about in the following lines:

*"Tybalt, Mercutio, the Prince expressly hath
Forbid this bandying in Verona streets." (82-83)*

4. Explain "a grave man". (92) What figure of speech is used? What are the different meanings?

5. Explain the following lines:

*"This gentleman, the Prince's near ally,
My very friend, hath got his mortal hurt
In my behalf - my reputation stained
With Tybalt's slander - Tybalt, that an hour
Hath been my cousin. O sweet Juliet,
Thy beauty hath made me effeminate
And in my temper soft'ned valor's steel!" (102-108)*

6. What do the following lines foreshadow?

*"Romeo, away, be gone!
The citizens are us, and Tybalt slain.
Stand not amazed. The prince will doom thee death
If thou art taken. Hence, be gone, away!" (125-128)*

7. Who says these lines and why?

8. What does the Prince mean in the lines which state:

*"But I'll amerce you with so strong a fine
That you shall all repent the loss of mine."*

9. What is the Prince's loss?

10. What does the Prince promise to do if Romeo is found?

11. What does this line mean? *"Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill."*

How does it apply to the *"capital punishment"* issue in politics today?

Scene 2 p.999

1. Explain the classical allusions in lines 2 and 3.

2. What is Juliet's first reaction when learning of Tybalt's death?

3. What does Nurse think of men in general? Quote the lines which support your answer.

4. What is Juliet's reaction when Nurse curses Romeo? Quote.

5. Where is Romeo hiding and why did he choose to hide there?

Scene 3 p.1003

1. Explain Romeo's statement:

"Tis torture, and not mercy." (29)

2. Which solution to his despair is Romeo contemplating? Quote the lines which support your answer.
3. The Friar proposes to give Romeo "*Adversity's sweet milk*" (55). What is it? But Romeo does not want to listen. The Friar makes the statement that ... (61) Romeo reports that ... (62)
4. "*A pack of blessings light upon thy back;*" (141) List the 3 blessings.

Scene 4 p.1007

1. Explain what is decided in this short scene.

Scene 5 p.1010

1. Explain the line: "*I must be gone and live, or stay and die.*" (11)
2. Juliet has a vision. Who does she see and what does she see?
3. What does Lady Capulet mean in the following:

*"Some grief shows much of love;
But much of grief shows still some want of wit." (72-73)*

4. What is Lady Capulet actually wishing in the line:

"I would the fool were married to her grave!" (140)

5. What are Capulet's feelings towards his daughter when she refuses to take Paris for a husband? Quote the lines which support your answer.
6. What is Capulet's threat in lines 190-196?
7. Is Lady Capulet willing to intercede (to speak in favor of Juliet)? Quote.

8. At the end of Act III, Scene 5, where does Juliet go?
9. If the Friar is not able to help, what does she plan to do? Quote lines in support.

Act IV Scene 1 p.1018

1. How does Paris explain the hasty marriage to the Friar?
2. Explain what Juliet is preparing to do in order to escape marriage to Paris.
3. Explain what the Friar proposes to Juliet.

Scene 2 p.1022

1. Capulet calls his own daughter: "*peevish self-willed harlotry*" (14). This means what?
2. Capulet says: "*I'll have this knot knit up tomorrow morning.*" (24). What day is Juliet to get married? What day had originally been chosen?
3. Explain Capulet's state of mind in the following lines:

*"My heart is wondrous light,
Since this same wayward girl is so reclaimed."* (46-47)

Scene 3 p.1024

1. In this scene what does Juliet do?
2. Which four things does Juliet fear? Quote the lines which support your answers.
3. Quote the line which shows Juliet's devotion to Romeo.

Scene 4 p.1027 1. In one sentence, summarize this scene.

Scene 5 p.1028

1. Who first finds Juliet? Describe Juliet's condition.
2. What does Capulet mean in lines 38-39?

*"Death is my son-in-law, death is my heir;
My daughter he hath wedded."*

3. What does Lady Capulet grieve over in the lines:

*"But one, poor one, one poor and loving child,
But one thing to rejoice and solace in,
And cruel Death hath caught it from my sight." (46-48)*

4. How does the Friar try to comfort Juliet's parents? Summarize briefly his arguments in lines 65-83.

5. What does the Friar mean in lines 94-95?

*"The heavens do low'r upon you for some ill;
Move them no more by crossing their high will."*

6. At the end of Act IV what event takes place?

Act V Scene 1 p.1034

1. Who is Balthasar and what news does he bring Romeo?

2. What news does Romeo expect?

3. Explain the term "apothecary."

4. Was there a law in Mantua which controlled the sale of certain drugs? Quote the line which is proof.

5. What does Romeo mean in lines 80-82?

*"There is thy gold, worse poison to men's souls,
Doing more murder in this loathsome world,
Than these poor compounds that thou mayst not sell."*

Scene 2 p.1037

1. Why was Friar John detained? Quote the line which supports your answer.

2. Did Friar John deliver the letter to Romeo?

3. Which two things will Friar Laurence do?

Scene 3 1038

1. Define the words:
 - a. inauspicious stars (111)
 - b. discern (126)
 - c. sepulcher (141)

2. Explain:

*"A greater power than we can contradict
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.
Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;
And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns." (153-157)*

3. Explain:

*"We see the ground whereon these woes do lie,
But the true ground of all these piteous woes
We cannot without circumstance descry." (179-181)*

4. What is Friar Laurence proposing in lines 266-269?

*"...and if aught in this

Miscarried by my fault, let my old life
Be sacrificed, some hour before his time,
Unto the rigor of severest law."*

5. What does the Prince mean?

*"...Capulet, Montague,
See what a scourge is laid upon your hate,
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love." (291-293)*

6. What does Capulet realize when he says:

"Poor sacrifices of our enmity." (304)