

*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Prologue/Act 1, Sc. 1*

1. In which town is the play set?
2. How much does the prologue tell you about the plot of the play?
3. What does Sampson mean when he says he will not “carry coals?”
4. Complete this sentence: In Shakespearean times, biting your thumb was...
  - a. a gesture of friendship
  - b. an insult
  - c. hitting on someone
5. Is Benvolio a Montague or a Capulet?
6. Does Lady Capulet want her husband to get involved in the fight?
7. How many times have the Capulets and Montagues had street fights recently?
8. How has Romeo been spending his days recently?
  - a. picking fights on the boardwalk
  - b. locked in his room being moody
  - c. dreaming of Juliet
9. Rewrite Romeo’s speech about love in Scene 1, lines 176-180, in your own words:
10. Whom does Romeo say he loves in Scene 1?
11. What three romantic approaches from Romeo has she rejected? (Scene 1, lines 203-205)
12. What does Benvolio tell Romeo to do in order to forget the girl who doesn’t want him?



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*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 1, Sc. 4-5*

1. According to Mercutio, who or what is Queen Mab, and what does she do?
2. What does Romeo say about the value of dreams?
3. What does Mercutio say about the value of dreams?
4. What is Romeo's mood at the end of Scene 4? What makes him feel this way?
5. When Romeo first sees Juliet, what terms does he use to describe her?
6. How does Tybalt recognize Romeo?
7. When Tybalt is ready to seize Romeo and throw him out of the party, what does Capulet say to Tybalt? Why?
8. How does Romeo find out Juliet's last name?
9. How does Juliet find out Romeo's last name?

*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 2, Sc. 1-2*

Student's Name:  
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1. What does the Act 2 Prologue say happened to Romeo's love for Rosaline?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does Romeo mean by “dull earth” in Scene 1, line 2?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Who does Mercutio think that Romeo is in love with in his speech in Scene 1, lines 6-21?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What does Romeo compare Juliet to in his first speech in Sc. 2, lines 2-3?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Rewrite Juliet's speech in Scene 2, lines 33-36, in your own words:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. When Juliet says “That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet,” what does she mean?
  - a. her love for Romeo is true, but dangerous – like the thorn on a rose
  - b. Romeo is wonderful no matter what his name is
  - c. Romeo smells nice and has petal-soft skin
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why is Juliet at first cautious about making promises to Romeo (Scene 2, lines 116-120)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What does Juliet instruct Romeo to send her the next day?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Rewrite Juliet's speech in Scene 2, lines 182-185, in your own words:

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*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 2, Sc. 3-4*

1. At the beginning of Scene 3, what does Friar Lawrence have in his basket?
2. With whom does Friar Lawrence assume Romeo has spent the night?
3. Explain what Friar Lawrence means when he says, “O, she knew well / Thy love did read by rote and could not spell,” in Scene 3, lines 87-88:
4. What positive effect does Friar Lawrence hope Romeo and Juliet’s marriage will have?
5. Who are Laura, Dido, Cleopatra, Helen, and Hero? What does Mercutio say about them?
6. Write down three subjects Mercutio and Romeo make puns about in Scene 4, lines 44-70:
7. How does Mercutio treat the Nurse?
  - a. He adores her and wants her to be his mom.
  - b. He mistakenly thinks that she is Rosaline.
  - c. He makes rude jokes about her.
8. What instructions does Romeo tell the Nurse to pass on to Juliet?
9. Who does the Nurse say also wants to marry Juliet? What does she say Juliet’s feelings are for this other suitor?

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*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 2, Sc. 5-6*

*Scene 5*

1. What time of day is it?
2. How long has the Nurse been gone on her errand to Romeo?
3. Summarize Juliet's complaints about the Nurse, line by line in her speech:

*Scene 6*

4. 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.”

5. 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.”

6. 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.”

7. What happens at the very end of Scene 6?

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## *“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*

### *Act 3, Sc. 1*

1. At the beginning of Act 3, 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.”

2. What does Mercutio tell us about Benvolio in the lines 15-29? Explain.

3. Examine Mercutio’s “a grave man” line. What figure of speech is used? What is the meaning?

4. 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!” (Lines 107-113)

5. What does Benvolio tell Romeo and why?

6. The Prince is personally affected by the deaths. To whom was the Prince related?

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

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*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 3, Sc. 2-4*

1. In her speech at the beginning of Scene 2, what is Juliet looking forward to that night?
2. Write down three of the ways Juliet describes Romeo in Scene 2, lines 73-79:
3. The Nurse says, “Shame come to Romeo!” How does Juliet react to the Nurse?
4. Where is Romeo hiding?
5. What is Friar Lawrence’s opinion of Romeo’s punishment in Scene 3, lines 24-28?
6. In Scene 3, lines 33-40, why does Romeo say that is is less honored than carrion-flies?
7. What three reasons does Friar Lawrence give Romeo to show that he should be happy?
8. In Scene 3, the Nurse gives Romeo a gift from Juliet. What is the gift?

*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 3, Sc. 5/Act 4, Sc. 1-3*

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1. Why does Juliet want to believe the birdsong she can hear is a nightingale, not a lark?
2. What does Juliet mean by an “ill-divining soul” in Scene 5, line 54?
3. Why do Juliet’s parents believe she is upset? How do they want her to cheer up?
4. How does the Nurse describe Paris in Scene 5, lines 218-221?
5. What reason does Paris give for not having spent much time courting Juliet?
6. Name three of the horrible things Juliet says she would find preferable to marrying Paris:
7. Describe the Friar’s plan in your own words:
8. Describe three things Juliet thinks might go wrong if she takes the potion:
9. Write down six words from Juliet’s speech (Scene 3, lines 36-58) that show her feelings about death:

*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 4, Sc. 4-5/Act 5, Sc. 1*

Student's Name:  
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1. What does Capulet mean when he says the Nurse should “go and trim her up” in Scene 4, line 25?
2. Who is the first to find Juliet's body and think that she's dead in Scene 5?
3. In what three ways does Capulet say he can tell Juliet is dead?
4. What does the Friar advise Juliet's parents to do with her body?
5. Describe the dream that Romeo has just had at the beginning of Scene 1?
6. Who brings news from Verona?
7. What does the messenger say about Juliet?
8. Write down three of the ways Romeo describes the apothecary he has seen around in Scene 1, lines 37-41:
9. Why is it difficult to get poison in Mantua? Why does Romeo believe this apothecary will sell him some despite this?

*“Romeo & Juliet” Study Questions*  
*Act 5, Sc. 2-3*

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1. In Scene 2, what is Friar John's excuse for not having delivered the letter to Romeo?
2. What is Friar Lawrence's plan of action once he realizes Romeo hasn't received his letter?
3. Who is the first person to arrive at Juliet's tomb in Scene 3?
4. Explain Paris' logic in thinking that Romeo is responsible for Juliet killing herself:
5. Does Romeo say he's happy or sad in Scene 3, lines 88-90? How does he explain it?
6. Does Juliet wake up just before Romeo dies or just after?
7. Who is present when Juliet awakens? Why doesn't this person stay?
8. Why does Juliet kiss Romeo's lips even after he already died?
9. How does Juliet kill herself?
10. Which two characters are detained by the watchmen after Juliet's death?
11. What's the main point of Capulet's speech in Scene 3, lines 296-298?
12. Rewrite the final six lines of the play in your own words (Scene 3, lines 305-310):