

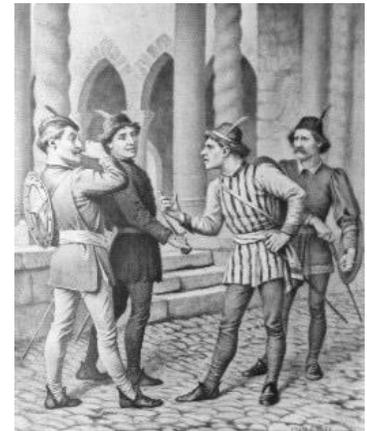
# ***Romeo and Juliet* Questions**

## Prologue

1. What is the purpose of the Prologue?
2. What events does the Prologue foreshadow?
3. What is the name of the poetic form which Shakespeare uses for the Prologue? How many lines are there? Mark the rhyming scheme.

## Act I, Scene 1

1. A pun is a clever play-on-words that has two meanings. Identify the use of puns in the first 30 lines.
2. A metaphor is a comparison between two things without using “like” or “as.” What is compared to “purple fountains” (1.1.83) by the Prince?
3. How effective is the law in preventing and controlling violence, as evidenced by this scene?
4. Romeo describes love as “a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;/Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers’ eyes./Being vexed, a sea nourished with lovers’ tears./What is it else? A madness most discreet./A choking gall, and a preserving sweet” (1.1.187-191). What does this description of love tell you about Romeo and his feelings?
5. What is Benvolio’s advice for Romeo to deal with his melancholy? What does this show about their relationship?



## Act I, Scene 2

1. Capulet gives Juliet’s age and his plan for her future to Paris. What does he tell him? What does this reveal about his personality?
2. At this point, what is Capulet’s attitude toward his daughter?

## Act I, Scene 3

1. Juliet’s first words to her mother as, “Madame, I am here. What is your will?” (1.3.7). What do these words say about Juliet’s nature and relationship to her mother?
2. What do the Nurse’s recollections about Juliet’s childhood reveal about her character?
3. There is much discussion in this scene about marriage. What are the pro-marriage arguments (given by Lady Capulet and the Nurse), and how does Juliet respond to them?

## Act I, Scene 4

1. What do the lines “Is love a tender thing? Is it too rough,/Too rude and boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn” (1.4.25-26) reveal about Romeo? Is he more aware of himself or the person he loves?

### Act 1, Scene 5

1. Contrast Tybalt's and Lord Capulet's responses to Romeo's presence at the Capulet party. What does their exchange suggest about the significance of the feud between the two families of Verona?
2. What does Romeo's reaction to Juliet suggest about his character?
3. In learning of Romeo's identity, she comments "My only love, sprung from my only hate/ To early seen unknown, and known too late!" (1.5.138-139). How does her reaction suggest the workings of fate?



### Act 2, Scene 1

1. What does this scene show about the relationship between Romeo, Mercutio, and Benvolio?

### Act 2, Scene 2

1. Quote and restate Romeo's metaphor involving Juliet. How does his physical location effect what he says about Juliet?
2. In this scene, the play begins to explore the meaning of name and identity. Find one quotation from both Romeo and Juliet where each character questions the meaning of identity.
3. When Juliet speaks about "light love" or her "light" behaviour, what does she mean by the word "light"?
4. What "stony" limits, besides the orchard wall, separate the young lovers? How do they dismiss these obstacles?
5. What troubles Juliet about the arrangement she makes with Romeo?



### Act 2, Scene 3

1. In addition to describing the qualities and dangers of herbs, Friar Laurence also compares these qualities to those in humans. What is the main idea of his soliloquy?
2. Why is the Friar so surprised that Romeo is so "changed" (2.3.79)?
3. Why, in view of his opinion regarding Romeo's feelings, does the Friar agree to marry Romeo and Juliet?

### Act 2, Scene 4

1. In what ways does the conversation between Romeo and Mercutio suggest that they have a strong friendship?
2. What does the name "Prince of Cats" suggest about Tybalt's nature?

### Act 2, Scene 5

1. What is the setting of Scene 5? What effect does juxtaposing these short, varied scenes have on the drama?
2. What is Shakespeare's purpose in the delaying tactics of the Nurse?

## Act 2, Scene 6

1. How do Romeo and Friar's viewpoints about love differ?
2. What does Friar's comment that "These violent delights have violent ends" (2.6.9) foreshadow?

## Act 3, Scene 1

1. Look back at Benvolio's appearance in Act 1, Scene 1, and compare it to his appearance here. What role does he seem to be playing throughout the play?
2. What is Romeo's response to Tybalt's taunts? Explain his meaning.
3. What dramatic function does Mercutio's death serve?
4. This serious scene includes a pun by Mercutio about death. Quote and explain this pun. How is this response to his wound characteristic of Mercutio?
5. As Benvolio leads him away, Romeo cries out, "O, I am fortune's fool" (3.1.135) To what extent is Romeo a pawn of fate? To what extent is he responsible for the events that are so swiftly unfolding?
6. What is the Prince's reaction to the fight? How is this going to affect Romeo and Juliet?



## Act 3, Scene 2

1. Explain the dramatic irony found at the beginning of this scene.
2. Juliet has mixed emotions concerning Tybalt's death and Romeo's part in it, but what bothers her most?

## Act 3, Scene 3

1. When the Friar protests that banishment is a merciful sentence, what is Romeo's response?
2. Romeo wonders in "what vile part of this anatomy/Doth my name lodge?" (3.3.106-107). What thematic concept does the play continue to explore with this question? Explain your response.
3. When the Nurse arrives bearing news of Juliet's grief, what does Romeo attempt? How is this gesture characteristic of him?
4. How does this scene define masculinity?
5. Despite Romeo's pain, the Friar tells him he still has a "pack of blessings" (3.3.141) to be thankful for? What are the three "blessings"?

## Act 3, Scene 4

1. What dramatic irony is found in this scene?
2. What does this scene reveal about Lord Capulet's personality?

### Act 3, Scene 5

1. How does Shakespeare continue his light/dark motif in this scene? What happens as the day becomes lighter?
2. What images are present in Romeo's descent from Juliet's balcony? What do they foreshadow?
3. What is ironic in Juliet's response to her mother when she informs her of her father's plans for her marriage to Paris?
4. Juliet says, "Well, thou hast comforted me marvelous much" (3.5.230). To whom is she speaking, and what does the tone of this passage reveal about her words?



### Act 4, Scene 1

1. Only three days have passed since the play began. Based on the events that have occurred, what does this say about the characters' decision making abilities?
2. Briefly state the Friar's solution and plan.
3. Analyze the Friar's motivations. Why is he willing to become involved in solving Romeo and Juliet's marriage problems?
4. How does Juliet cleverly outwit Paris in lines 18-37?
5. Study the deathly imagery present in Scene I. What is notable about it? What purpose does this imagery serve?

### Act 4, Scene 2

1. What causes Capulet to say "My heart is wondrous light" (4.2.46-47)?
2. How does fate again create problems for the lovers in Scene 2?

### Act 4, Scene 3

1. Quote at least 3 lines from Juliet's soliloquy that foreshadow her concerns about death.
2. Compare Juliet's isolation with Romeo's. Does her self-imposed "exile" require more or less courage than his banishment?

### Act 4, Scene 4

1. What kind of mood do the actions of scene 4 create? How does this contrast with the mood established in the previous scene?

### Act 4, Scene 5

1. How does scene 5 further the juxtaposition of moods from scenes 3 and 4? Why do you think Shakespeare arranged scenes 3, 4 and 5 like he did?
2. Look back at Paris' and Lord Capulet's expressions of grief in scene 5. Would you describe them as sincere and heartfelt, or artificial? Support your answer.
3. The last part of Scene 5 is a dialogue between the wedding musicians, who banter back and forth about what song to play. What purpose does this Scene, which seems quite out of place, serve?

### Act 5, Scene 1

1. How does Romeo's response upon learning of Juliet's death at line 24 reinforce the belief in fortune and fate?
2. Why does Romeo think the apothecary will sell him poison?
3. What does the speed with which Romeo immediately makes his drastic plans reinforce about his character?



### Act 5, Scene 2

1. What prevents Friar John from delivering Friar Laurence's letter to Romeo? What device is this an example of?

### Act 5, Scene 3

1. Judging from his words in the tomb, how do you think Paris feels about Juliet?
2. Why does Paris think Romeo has come to the tomb?
3. In line 59, Romeo addresses Paris as "Good gentle youth." Is he older than Paris? What makes him seem so?
4. What does the Prince mean when he says, "All are punished" in line 295?
5. At the conclusion of the play, what happens between the Capulets and Montagues?



Possible Passage Analysis Assignments

Speech	Speaker/ Spoken to	Context	Significance (What does it reveal about character change, plot development, symbolism, imagery, theme, and/or literary devices?)
Queen Mab (1.4.53-94)			
First Meeting (1.5.93-106)			
"But, soft!" (2.2.2-23)			
"A plague!" (3.1.95-102)			
"Farewell!" (4.3.14-58)			
"All are punished" (5.3.286-295)			