

ROMEO and JULIET

ACCELERATED STUDY QUESTIONS



NAME: _____

YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN AN EXTRA IF LOST

PERIOD: _____

Act 1, i

1. Why do Sampson and Gregory fight with the Montague's men?

2. Benvolio and Tybalt come upon servants fighting. Contrast their reactions to the fight. Select a quote from each character that highlights their personalities.

| Benvolio | Tybalt |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Quote: | Quote: |
| Key Personality Traits: | Key Personality Traits: |

3. How do Montague and Capulet respond when they see the fight?

4. Who is Escalus and what is his power over the two families?

5. From the conversation between Benvolio and Lord Capulet, what can be concluded about Romeo before we meet him?

6. Which of the first twelve lines spoken by Romeo sum up the theme of the play as a whole?

7. What is your initial impression of Romeo? Does it in any way clash with what you thought you knew about the character?

Act 1, ii

8. Paris asks Capulet for Juliet's hand in marriage. What is Capulet's initial reply and what does he eventually conclude?



9. How does Romeo find out about the feast, and why does he decide to go even though (being a Montague) he is not invited?

Act 1, iii

10. How old is Juliet? (specifically)

11. What is the Nurse's opinion of Paris? Cite a quote from the play to support your answer.

12. What words of Juliet's in this scene show:

A. stress her youthful sense of obedience?

B. hint at the mature strength she is to show later?

13. Show how the Nurse's comic qualities in this scene include

A. glibness

B. insensitivity

C. a tendency to repetition

D. an interest in fine detail

E. a simple though bawdy sense of humor

14. Describe the Nurse's relationship with her employers?

Act 1, iv

15. How are Romeo and his friends planning on not being detected at the Capulet party?

16. Show how Mercutio's bright spirits contrast with Romeo's melancholy. Provide specific examples



17. What is Mercutio's recommended cure for love?
18. What is Mercutio's attitude toward dreams?
19. How does the Queen Mab speech demonstrate vividly, memorably, and imaginatively his contention that "dreamers often lie"?
20. Provide examples in this scene of Mercutio's:
- A. delight in wordplay
 - B. flair for bawdy repartee
 - C. self-mockery
 - D. concern for a friend?
21. Romeo says that he "dreamt a dream," but gives us little details about it. What clue does he give us toward the end of the scene as to its ominous nature? Select specific lines that stand out to you as proof.

Act 1, v

22. Which words of Capulet's add to our understanding of Romeo's character?
23. Contrast Tybalt's and Capulet's response to Romeo's presence at the party. What does their exchange suggest about the personality of each character?

| Capulet | Tybalt |
|---------|--------|
| Quote: | Quote: |

| Conclusions About Capulet: | Conclusions About Tybalt: |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | |

24. The first lines between Romeo and Juliet are written in sonnet form. Analyze the lines below identifying the extended metaphor and what the characters are truly saying. Consider the stage actions implied in the characters' lines.

Romeo:

If I profane with my unworhiest hand
This holy shrine, the gentle sin is this:
My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand
To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss.

Juliet:

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much,
Which mannerly devotion shows in this;
For saints have hands that pilgrim's hands do touch,
And palm to palm is holy palmer's kiss.

Romeo:

Have not saints lips, and holy palmer too?

Juliet:

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use in prayer.

Romeo:

O then, dear saint, let lips do what hands do.
They pray: grant thou, lest faith turn to despair.

Juliet:

Saints do not move, though grant for prayers' sake.

Romeo:

Then move not while my prayer's effect I take.

25. How are Romeo's methods of wooing Juliet different than Paris? Which would be more acceptable at the time?



“O Brawling Love”



Read the lines listed for each of the following characters. In the first column, write the lines as they appear in the play. Then draw some conclusions about each line or set of lines. What insights do they give into each character's experiences with, feelings towards, or attitudes about love and marriage? Put these observations in the third column.

| Characters | Lines | Conclusions |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Romeo 1.1.176-177 | | |
| Romeo 1.1.181-187 | | |
| Benvolio 1.1.235-236 | | |
| Paris 1.2.12 | “Younger than she are happy mothers made” | Paris is eager to marry. Age is not an issue. Women married young at that time. |
| Capulet 1.2.13 | | |
| Capulet 1.2.16-17 | | |
| Benvolio 1.2.47-48 | | |
| Benvolio 1.2. 92-94 | | |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Juliet 1.3.71 | | |
| Lady Capulet 1.3.75-79 | | |
| Lady Capulet 1.3.87-88 | | |
| Nurse 1.3.101 | | |
| Juliet 1.3.103-105 | | |
| Mercutio 1.4.27-28 | | |

Act II, i

1. The Chorus opens Act II with a sonnet in which a distinction is made between Romeo's relationship with Rosaline and his love affair with Juliet. What is the big difference?

2. In lines 9-13 of the Prologue, what problems does the Chorus foresee for Romeo and Juliet?



Courtly Love Tradition

A philosophy of love and a code of love-making which flourished in chivalric times, first in France and later in the other countries especially in England. According to the system, falling in love is accompanied by great emotional disturbances; the lover is bewildered, helpless, tortured by mental and physical pain, and exhibits certain "symptoms" such as pallor, trembling, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, sighing, weeping, etc. He agonizes over his condition and indulges in endless self-questioning and reflections on the nature of love and his own wretched state. His condition improves when he is accepted, and he is inspired to great deeds. **Petrarchan Conceit**: (named for Italian poet and creator of Petrarchan sonnet adopted by English writers). It rests upon elaborate and exaggerated comparisons expressing in extravagant terms the beauty, cruelty, and charm of the beloved and the suffering, sorrow, and despair of the forlorn lover. Oxymoron is common.

Look over the following quotes, briefly summarize the main idea then explain how it fits into the Courtly Love Tradition

1. Act I, scene I Romeo describes Rosaline's vow of chastity
She hath, and in that sparing makes huge waste;
For beauty, starved with her severity
Cuts beauty off from all posterity.
She is too fair, to wise, wisely too fair,
To merit bliss by making me despair.
She hath foresworn love, and in that vow
Do I live dead, that live to tell it now.
2. Act I, scene i when Romeo was in love with Rosaline he says:
Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs;
Being purged, a first sparking in lover's eyes.
Being vexed, a sea nourished with lovers' tears.
What is it else? A madness most discreet,
A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.
3. In Act I, scene iv he says:
Is love a tender thing? It is too rough,
Too rude and boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn
4. In Act I, scene 5, when he first sees Juliet, he says:
O she doth teach the torches to burn bright.
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night
As a right jewel in an Ethiop's ear;
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear
...Forswear it sight,
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.



5. Now find **three lines** in this scene that continue to show Romeo's attitudes toward love, his beloved, and/or himself as lover. What do these lines tell you about Romeo?

| Lines (line # and pg #) | Says about Romeo |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

6. Juliet admits that her behavior towards Romeo is “immodest”. Explain what she does that embarrasses her. How does she is she supposed to behave?

7. Find **two lines** showing how Juliet responds to Romeo’s overtures of love. What different emotions does she go through?

| Lines (line#, page #) | Emotions Reflected |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | |
| | |



Act II, iii

“A Barefoot Brother”

Many believe the play is set during the Middle Ages when priests and friars filled several roles. Men of the church ran schools and tutored wealthy children. They also helped both rich and poor people solve spiritual and personal problems. Sometimes priests and friars even served as matchmakers. Some friars were also herbalists. These men used plants (herbs) to try to cure illnesses. They might also be asked to provide protection from diseases, injury in battle, or even mad dogs. Friar Lawrence is a Franciscan monk whose rule originally prescribed by St. Francis was very strict, and, rigidly enforced, would have made all the members of the order pious beggars. It soon became one of the most important of the medieval monastic orders, and produced a long array of distinguished theologians and churchmen. In Act II, scene iii you will see how Friar Lawrence serves as both an advisor and a healer. Notice his philosophy on life and how it applies to the decisions he makes later in this scene and later in the play.

Friar Lawrence:

- 1. Find examples of personification –and– allusion
- 2. Identify:
Time of day –AND– Friar’s chore

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 upfill this osier cage of ours
With baleful weeds and precious-juiced flowers.

- 3. Find examples of opposites.
- 4. What philosophy does Friar Lawrence believe in here?

The earth that’s nature’s mother is her tomb;
What is her burying grave, that is her womb;
And from her womb children of divers kind
We sucking on her natural bosom find,
Many for many virtues excellent,
None but for some, and yet all different.
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;
Nor aught so good, but strained from that fair use,
Revolts from truth birth, stumbling on abuse.
Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,
And vice sometimes by action dignified.

- 5. What does the flower Friar is picking and mankind have in common?
- 6. What does his soliloquy tell us about Friar’s view of humanity?

Within the infant rind of this weak flower
Poison hath residence and medicine power:
For this, being smelt, with that part cheers each part;
Being tasted, stays all senses with the heart.
Two such opposed kings encamp them still
In man as well as herbs—grace and rude will;
And where the worser is predominant,
Full soon the canker death eats up that plant.

7. What doubts does Friar Lawrence have about Romeo’s proposal?

8. Why does Friar Lawrence finally agree to Romeo’s request?



Act II, iv

1. What news does Benvolio bring about Tybalt?
2. What does Mercutio tell us about Tybalt's character?
3. What assumptions does Mercutio make about Romeo's character?
4. How does Mercutio respond once they find Romeo?
5. **Cultural Tip:** Upper-class women of the time would have been treated with courtesy. They were praised in poetry and love ballads. Lower-class women, however, did not get this respect. Men often used vulgar language when speaking to them. The lower-class women were simply expected to accept such harsh treatment. In this scene Benvolio, Mercutio, and Romeo meet Juliet's nurse. Observe how the boys treat her.

Find two examples of how Mercutio and Benvolio treatment of the Nurse. Write the name of the speaker summarize what they say and provide the page and line numbers for late reference.

| Speaker/ Statement Made |
|--|
| Example One: Line 104—Romeo: "A sail, a sail!"—meaning the Nurse is large woman |
| Example Two: |
| Example Three: |

6. How does the Nurse respond to Romeo and his friend's antics?
7. What two instructions does Romeo give the Nurse in this scene?



Act II, v

8. What is Juliet's problem at the beginning of the scene? How does it only get worse?

9. Identify three things the Nurse says she admires about Romeo.

10. What is Shakespeare's purpose in the delaying tactics of the Nurse?

Act II, vi

11. Friar Lawrence gives several words of advice to Romeo before the wedding. One of these is:

These violent delights have violent ends
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder,
Which, as they kiss, consume. The sweetest honey
Is loathsome in his own deliciousness
And in the taste confounds the appetite.
Therefore love moderately. Long love doth so.
Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow.

A. Look up the word violent. Summarize the main parts of the definition. Then explain what you think Friar's first line means.

B. What are the **two** metaphors Friar uses to relate to this situation, what point is he trying to make with them?

| Metaphor | Meaning |
|----------|---------|
| | |
| | |

C. What is his final advice here?



12. How soon after they meet do Romeo and Juliet marry?

Act III, i

1. At the beginning of the scene what does Benvolio want to do? How does Mercutio respond to this idea?
2. What happens when Tybalt show up and speak to the two men?
3. How does Romeo respond to the men when he shows up? Explain his reaction.
4. Why does Mercutio become involved in the altercation? What irony is present in his fate?
5. How has this scene defined masculinity through the behavior of the characters present?
6. As Benovlio leads him away, Romeo cries out "O, I am fortune's fool." Explain what he means. Do you agree/disagree with this statement. Provide evidence from the play to prove your point.
7. What punishment did the Prince give Romeo for fighting? Why is it less severe than Escalus' original threats?

Act III, ii

8. Review over Juliet's soliloquy during this scene and answer the following questions.
 - A. Identify all the references to light/day and dark/night. Which predominates? Why?
 - B. This soliloquy was often cut in later productions in the play deeming it inappropriate for young actresses to perform. What about this speech is so scandalous?
 - C. Today, it is regarded as a central speech. How does this soliloquy mark an important progression in Juliet's relationship with Romeo? How does Juliet convey strength and determination in her use of words?
 - D. What is the tone of this soliloquy? How is this tone ironic compared with the last scene?



9. Why is there so much confusion between Julie and the Nurse at the beginning of this scene?

10. What purpose does this confusion serve? Take into consideration where Juliet is at the end of this scene emotionally.

Act III, iii

11. Review over Romeo's behavior during this scene and select the words that best describe his behavior

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> angry | <input type="checkbox"/> prayerful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> regretful | <input type="checkbox"/> stubborn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> suicidal | <input type="checkbox"/> controlled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hopeful | <input type="checkbox"/> uncontrolled |

Briefly explain why you chose the adjectives you did, provide the key lines that show this behavior.

12. In Friar's attempts to give Romeo a pep talk, identify three things he tells Romeo to be grateful for.

13. What three things does Friar Lawrence tell Romeo to do?

Act III, iv

"No Time to Woo—"

Identify when the key events have happened so far in the play on the correct day of the week. Then identify what is being planned for the rest of the week.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|
| | | | | |

14. Brainstorm possible reasons for why Lord Capulet makes the decision he does in scene iv.

15. What is occurring, ironically, while the unsuspecting Capulets plan Juliet's marriage to Paris?



Act III, v

16. How does Shakespeare use light/dark motifs in scene v? What happens as it becomes lighter?
17. We know from past events that Juliet is known as an obedient and honest daughter. She does not wish to lie to her parents yet we know she can't tell the truth. Look back over the conversation with Juliet and her mother at the beginning of scene and find TWO EXAMPLES of **VERBAL IRONY** where Juliet says one thing but means another. Use the side notes to guide you.

| Quote Lines/Pg # | Mother's Understanding | Juliet's Meaning |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

18. What is Capulet's reaction when Juliet refuses to marry Paris?
19. What advice does the Nurse give Juliet?
20. Juliet is not equal to her father's anger in Act III scene v, but by the end of the scene she is wiser and more determined. What part does the Nurse play in this development?

Act IV

1. Why does Paris call on Friar Lawrence?
2. What is Juliet's reason for visiting the friar?

3. Outline Friar Lawrence's solution to Juliet's problem in a calendar format.

| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | | |

After reviewing the plan, what do you think of it? Are there other options that Friar and Juliet are not considering? What advice would you give?

4. In Act IV scene ii, Juliet shows further growth in her character. Show how she manipulates her father and the Nurse to gain her objectives.
5. What change does Capulet make in the wedding plans?
6. Read over Juliet's soliloquy in scene iii, what specific fears does Juliet still have before taking the potion?
7. In this scene Juliet almost returns to the safety of childhood when she calls for the Nurse to return, but she quickly realizes that she "must act alone." Show how Juliet's speech before drinking the potion is evidence of her awareness of the ordeal before her.
8. Compare Juliet's isolation with Romeo's. Does her self-imposed "exile" require more or less courage than his banishment?
9. Who first attempts to wake Juliet?
10. In what various ways has Shakespeare created a sense of increased haste and urgency in Act 4? Why might he have done so?

11. Identify how the following characters respond to Juliet's "death" by selecting a quote that identifies their emotions, and then summarize what this quotes shows.

| Character | Quote | Reaction |
|----------------|-------|----------|
| Capulet | | |
| Lady Capulet | | |
| Paris | | |
| Nurse | | |
| Friar Lawrence | | |
| Peter | | |

12. Most of this act is usually cut including focusing on each character's reaction, what purpose though does it serve to have each of these character's emotions revealed?

Act V

1. What news does Balthasar bring Romeo?
2. What plans does Romeo make after hearing of Juliet's death?
3. Why is Romeo confident that the apothecary will sell him poison?
4. What does Romeo's planning here tell you about his character?
5. In Scene ii, why has Friar John been unable to deliver Friar Lawrence's letter to Romeo?
6. Why is Paris at Juliet's tomb? Judging from his words, how do you think Paris feels about Juliet?



7. The first time Paris meets Romeo is in Act V scene iii, in the Capulet vault. Paris tries to arrest his rival rather than fight him: how might this be said to be consistent with his behavior and character as we have known it throughout the play?

8. How does Paris' dying words confirm that his love for Juliet and his words over her body were sincere?

9. How will Capulet and Montague honor the memory of their children?

10. It has been said that Shakespeare's women characters are more mature than their male counterparts. Is this true of *Romeo and Juliet*?

11. How are "all punished" for the events of the play?

“O I Am Fortune’s Fool”



Astrology: Many people today glance idly at their horoscopes but in Shakespeare’s time, astrology was regarded as an important influence on everyone’s lives. People from all walks of life from the peasants to the queen all consulted astrologers. Dr. John Dee was Queen Elizabeth’s own personal astrologer he advised her when she should act and planned the date of her coronation. Astrologers were expected to find answers in the stars about people’s lives: A man suspects his wife of being unfaithful—consult the stars! A merchant wants to know when a ship will arrive—consult the stars! The church even condoned this practice using the advice of astrologers themselves. The stars were a way for God to communicate to man his destiny.

Look at the following quotes below to determine what the characters believe about fate. How has this belief influenced the actions of the characters? The first few quotes are given to you, continue to look for signs of fate as we finish reading the play.

| Quote | Meaning |
|--|--|
| Chorus: “a pair of star-crossed lovers take their life” Prologue | It <i>is</i> Romeo and Juliet’s destiny to die and nothing they can do will stop it. |
| Romeo: “...for my mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars...But he that hath the steerage of my course/ Direct my sail.” 1.4.13-119 | |
| Juliet: “Too early seen unknown and known too late!/ Prodigious birth of love it is to me/ That I must love a loathed enemy.” 1.5. 153-155 | |
| Romeo 3.1.142 | |
| Juliet 3.5.54-57 | |
| Juliet 3.5.60-64 | |
| | |
| | |

Irony in *Romeo and Juliet*

Find **four** examples of each kind of irony throughout the play.

| Situational Irony When one's efforts produces the opposite results of what was expected | Dramatic Irony When the audience knows things the characters do not |
|---|---|
| | |
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| | |
| | |
| | |