

Questions for Romeo and Juliet Inquiry Assignment:

Everyone must do the following questions.

Act I:1 Scene Questions:

The exposition: Class questions

1. What do we learn about the state of this world in the opening scene? Who are the families involved, who are the important characters in those families? What is the atmosphere of the play?
2. What does the following quote show about the Family's fighting? Was it legal or not?

Prince:

Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbor-stained steel --
Will they not hear? What, ho! You men, you beasts,
That quench the fire of your pernicious rage
With purple fountains issuing from your veins,
On pain of torture, from those blood hands
Throw your mistempered weapons to the ground
And hear the sentence of your moved prince.
Three civil brawls, bred of an airy word...

Who do you think this quote targets in Shakespeare's audience, explain citing examples from the text.

3. Examine Romeo's character, using examples from the text, explain what type of person he is. Is he a lover, fighter, a womanizer or a wuss?
4. "She hath Dian's wit" is an example of what literary device? To whom does this literary device appeal in the audience.
5. According to the events in this scene, who is **most** responsible for the fight in the Marketplace, the children or their parents? Explain the degree of responsibility by citing examples from the text.

Act I:I → Answer these questions if this is your assigned scene.

1. Is Montague right to criticize Romeo for his sad behavior? Should Romeo's father be so hard on him for doing what is natural for teenagers? /1
2. Is Romeo in love with Rosaline or is it infatuation? What is the difference between the two? What advice would you give to a friend who was like Romeo? What advice might you give to a friend who was dating Romeo? /2
3. Should Benvolio be reporting Romeo's mood back to Romeo's father? Is it any of Montague's business that Romeo is feeling so blue? /3
4. Have a look at lines 121- 145. What does Montague say about his son's manhood? Is Montague too hard on Romeo or is Romeo justified in his depression? What do you think Montague wants Romeo to be doing instead of being sad? /3
5. To what extent, do Romeo's parents affect Romeo's mood? Could they be pressuring Romeo to be a "better son?" In a PQE paragraph, explain citing examples from the text. /6

Act I:II - III

1. What do Paris and Capulet discuss in the opening of scene II? How does this discussion involve Juliet? Does Capulet make a decision on Juliet's betrothal? Is it fair of him to be deciding her fate? /3
2. We finally find out the object of Romeo's affections, who are Romeo and Benvolio talking about? How does this scene develop our understanding of Romeo as a character? /1
3. Romeo states, "When the devout religion of mine eye/maintains such falsehood, then turn tears to fires;/ And these who, often drowned, could never die, Transparent heretics, be burnt for liars" (I:II:93-96). What type of literary device is Romeo using here? What might this literary device convey to the audience [think about who in the audience he is speaking to]? /3
4. In scene three, Juliet, the Nurse and Lady Capulet are introduced. What does Lady Capulet say to Juliet in this scene? What is Juliet's response to Lady Capulet's demand? /2
5. Juliet says "I'll look to like, if looking liking move,/But no more deep will I endart mine eye/ than your consent gives strength to make it fly"(II:III:100-103). In a pqe paragraph, explain the extent to which Juliet allow her parents to influence her life in this scene. Does the Nurse convince her to change? /6

Act IV-V

1. Romeo meets with his friends Benvolio and Mercutio to go to what event? /1
2. Before they go to the event, they engage in a 'manly' discussion. What does Mercutio say about "Love [being] rough"? Explain how this affects our interpretation of these young men. Are they nice, soft spoken young gentlemen or are they inappropriate, board teenagers? /3
3. The following interaction is extremely important for Mercutio and Romeo:

Mercutio: "That dreamers often lie,"
Romeo : "In bed asleep, while they do dream things true."
Mercutio: O, then I see Queen Mab hath been with you.
She is the fairies' midwife, and she comes
In shape no bigger than an agate stone
On the forefinger of an alderman, ...
This is the hag, when maids lie on their backs,
That presses them and learns them first to bear,
Making them women of good carriage
This is she - ...
Romeo: Peace, peace, Mercutio, peace!
Though talkest of nothing

Mercutio: True, I talk of dreams,
Which are the children of an idle brain,
Begot of nothing but vain fantasy,
Which is as thin of substance as the air,

Who in the audience might these two characters be talking to? How might this affect how they see Mercutio? What might the audience members think about Mercutio's knowledge of the fairies?[think of the tarot card exercise we did] /3

4. Rome and Juliet meet in the fifth scene. How does Romeo handle the interaction? Does Juliet's statement: "You kiss by the book" (I:V: 115), make you think that Romeo is 'playin' Juliet or is truly sincere in his love for Juliet? Explain citing examples from the text. /3
5. In the fifth scene, Capulet is alerted to the presence of Romeo and Benvolio by Tybalt. In a ppe paragraph explain the extent to which Capulet affects Tybalt's ability to evict the intruders? Is Capulet doing this to change his ways or do you think his actions are a result of the Prince's threat? /6

Act II-I:II

1. How does Romeo evade capture at the Capulet mansion? /1

2. Romeo speaks in an aside to the audience:

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!
fair sun and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief... (II:II: 2-4)

What is the most important literary device that is being used here? Why is this device so important for understand Romeo's view of Juliet. You may use other examples from the passage to explain your answer./4

3. Juliet says:

Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say "Ay,"
And I will take thy word. Yet, if thou swearest,
Though mayst prove false. At lovers' perjuries,
They say Jove Laughs. O gentle Romeo,
If thou dost love me pronounce it faithfully. (II:II: 95-99)

What does this passage show us about Juliet as a character? Does she know Romeo's dark-side or is Juliet blinded by love? Explain your answer by sighting examples from the text. /4

4. To what extent do you think Juliet's new-found love is motivated by her parents' promise to Paris? Likewise, to what extent does Montague's description of Romeo's whining motivate him to find love. In a ppe paragraph, and using examples from the scene explain the extent to which each of these characters' love is/is not inspired by their parents. /6

Act II:III-IV

1. Why does Romeo meet with the Friar after meeting with Juliet? /1
2. What does Romeo say to the friar about Juliet? What does he say about his past love for Rosaline? /2
3. The Friar states:

O, she knew well
Thy love did read by rote, that could not spell.
But come, young waverer, come go with me.
In one respect I'll thy assistant be,
For this alliance may so happy prove
To turn your households' rancor to pure love. (II:III:90-95)

What does the Friar say about Rosaline's love for Romeo? What is the friar's motivation to unite Romeo and Juliet? To what extent does the friar affect the Parents' hatred of each other? /3

4. Romeo is talking to his friends at the beginning of the fourth scene. What is he saying about the previous nights affairs? Concentrate your efforts on lines 40-60. What literary devices can you find and how do those devices describe Romeo's interaction with Juliet? /3
5. To what extent is Romeo interaction with Juliet's Nurse, affected by his spite for Juliet's family? Does Romeo change his tone to speak to the nurse? Is he trying to be a good boy, so that he can love and leave Juliet or is he sincerely in love? Explain your answer in a PQE paragraph /6

Act II:V-VI

1. What does Juliet say in her opening soliloquay? How does she feel about Romeo? Why does she feel this way? /3
2. Juliet and the Nurse talk about in the Garden? How does the nurse get Juliet to coax the information out of her? /3
3. To what extent is Juliet's decision motivated by her upcoming arranged marriage? Explain in a ppe paragraph, the extent to which Juliet's parents have pushed her to defiance. /6
4. Why do you think act two ends without the marriage being seen? It is important that the audience knows that there is a marriage, but there is no ceremony – why? /3

Act III: I-2

1. Briefly paraphrase the major events of the opening scene. What happens and why is this such a big deal? /3
2. Mercutio says:

No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a
Church door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve. Ask for me
Tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man...
A plague on both your houses!
They have made worms' meat of me.
I have it, and soundly too. Your houses!

What sort of literary devices are being used here? What does it mean to be "worms' meat." Moreover, should the audience be concerned about the plague that Mercutio places on their houses with his dying breaths? /3

3. To what extent is Romeo responsible what happens to Tybalt? Is it the families' feud that has forced Romeo to act, or is Romeo's fault that he must be exiled. Explain your answer in a ppe paragraph /6
4. In the second scene, Juliet finds out that Romeo has killed her cousin. Is Juliet justified to take Romeo's side in this conflict? Using evidence from the text, explain how she is/is not justified in vouching for Romeo. /3

Act III:III-V

1. Paraphrase the major events in the third scene. What does Romeo tell the friar? What does the friar advise Romeo to do? /3
2. Scene four → What do Capulet and Lady Capulet have planned for Juliet? Explain how this is significant/2
3. What have Romeo and Juliet just done at the beginning of the fifth scene? How is this important for the remainder of the play? Explain your answer, being sure to include references to the religious significance of the act./4
4. What do Juliet's parent demand that she do? Look at lines 155-180. To what extent do Juliet's parents drive Juliet to act? Explain your answer in a ppe paragraph. /6

Act IV

1. What does Juliet think of Paris? How does she express these feelings? /2
2. What do Juliet and the friar plot? How are they going to prevent Juliet from getting married and how are they going prevent her parents from finding out the truth about her marriage to Romeo? What do the do to make sure that Romeo finds out their plan? /2

3. Juliet says:

What if it be poison which the Friar
Subtly hath ministered to have me dead,
Lest in this marriage he should be dishonoured,
Because he married me before to Romeo?

Why is Juliet concerned about the friar's commitment to their relationship?
Is Juliet scared to drink the potion? /2

4. To what extent are Juliet's parents responsible for her decision to drink the potion? /6
5. Paraphrase scenes four and five. What are the major events that happen in these scenes? /3

Act V

1. What does Romeo find out in exile? What does Romeo do when he finds out about Juliet? /2
2. What does Friar Laurence find out about the plan that they have made? What does this mean for Romeo and Juliet?/2
3. Romeo says:

...O, here
Will I set up my everlasting rest
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars
From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, Look your last!
Arms, take your last embrace! And lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
A dateless bargain to engrossing Death! (V:II: 110-115)

Why are Romeo's final words so memorable? Think back to the prologue, what does Romeo say that makes us think about Shakespeare's warning? /2

4. Explain the significance of Romeo drinking poison to kill himself while Juliet must stab herself. Is Juliet more manly than we expect her to be?/3
5. The Prince says:

See what scourge is laid upon your hate,
That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love!
And I, for winking at your discords too,
Have lost a brace of kinsmen. All are punished.

To what extent do the princes' words affect the audience? Do we believe as the prince says, that Heaven has punished the families with love? In a pge paragraph explain the extent to which the Parents are responsible for this catastrophe. /6