

Act I Study Guide – Romeo and Juliet



ACT ONE -SCENE ONE

1. Between what two families does the feud exist?

_____ vs. _____

2. What decree does the Prince make after the street brawl?

3. What advice does Benvolio give Romeo about Rosaline?

ACT ONE -SCENE TWO

1. How does Capulet respond to Paris' proposal to marry Juliet?

2. How do Romeo and Benvolio learn about the Capulet's ball? What do they decide to do?

ACT ONE -SCENE THREE

1. How does Juliet feel about getting married?

2. How old is Juliet? What is Lammastide? On what date does it come?

ACT ONE - SCENE FOUR

1. When and where does this scene take place?

2. Explain Romeo's speech (lines 106-113).

ACT ONE - SCENE FIVE

1. Where does this scene take place?

2. Who is Romeo talking about in lines 46-55? Explain the irony in these lines.

3. Why does Tybalt become so upset, and how does Capulet respond to his rage?

4. Who said the following lines and why?

A) "is she a Capulet? O dear account, my life is my foe's debt."

B) "My only love sprung from my only hate Too early seen unknown and known too late."

5. Find one example of each of the following literary devices used anywhere in Act One.

1. Pun

6. Hyperbole

2. Alliteration

7. Irony

3. Oxymoron

8. Comic Relief

4. Allusion

9. Foreshadow

5. Metaphor

10. Aside

Act II Study Guide – Romeo and Juliet



Explain the Prologue.

ACT TWO - SCENE ONE:

Explain the dramatic irony in this scene.

ACT TWO - SCENE TWO:

(This is the most famous scene in the entire play.)

1. Fill in the blanks in this paraphrase of Romeo's soliloquy (lines 1-32)

Shh! What _____ is at the _____? _____ shines through the window like the _____ rises in the _____. Arise, beautiful sun (Juliet) and replace the _____ who is jealous because you, her maid (Diana - Virgin moon goddess) are _____ than she. Don't be a _____ since the moon is _____ of you. Her innocence is sickly, and only a _____ would keep it.

Oh! It's Juliet! I wish she knew that I _____ her. She speaks. but says _____. How strange. She speaks with her eyes. I'll _____ her. No, I'd better not since she isn't _____.

Two of the _____ in heaven have asked her _____ to twinkle for them while they take care of some _____. If her eyes were there, her _____ would make the stars seem dull just as _____ outshines a lamp. Her eyes would shine so _____ that the _____ would think it were _____ and begin to _____. O' I wish that I could touch her _____.

She speaks. O speak again bright _____, for you are as glorious to this _____, being over my _____ (up at the window) as is an angel of _____ is to _____ who look up and see him when he walks on the _____ and sails on the _____.

2. Explain Juliet's soliloquy (lines 33-44)

3. How is this an example of dramatic irony?

4. Fill in the blanks in this paraphrase of Juliet's speech (lines 35-106)

You know it is _____ or you could see me _____ because you _____ me talking about you. If I followed proper etiquette, I'd _____ I ever said it. But who cares about etiquette! Do you _____ me? Don't say yes unless you really _____ it. If you think that I am too _____. I'll play _____ so you can _____ my affections. The truth is I am foolishly in _____ with you, and you might not take me _____. But _____ me, and I'll _____ myself to be more _____ than those who know how to play hard to _____. I would have been more _____. I must confess, but since you allude _____ me confess my _____ for you, there is no _____ to be.

5. After Romeo and Juliet vow their love for one another, what do they decide to do and when?

ACT TWO - SCENE THREE

This scene opens with Friar Laurence collecting herbs. He is discussing the properties of the herbs and the purposes for which they may be used. This demonstrates Friar Laurence's knowledge of herbs and foreshadows that this knowledge may serve some purpose in future events in the drama.

The sky turns _____ as the _____ gives way to _____. Streaks of _____ speckle the Eastern _____ as the _____ rises in its normal course. Now, before the _____ rises fully and _____ the dew, I must fill this _____ with _____ and _____. The earth is both the place of _____ and _____ for all of _____. We find all kinds of _____ growing from the earth; Some are _____ and some _____, but all are _____. Plants and _____ and _____ have great _____. There is nothing on earth so _____ that it does not have some _____ qualities, and nothing so _____ that it cannot be used for _____. Even goodness itself turns to vice when _____, and _____ put to good use may appear worthy. Within this _____ lies _____ as well as _____; for it has a very pleasing _____, but if you _____ it, it will _____ you. It is the same with _____. He is part _____ and part _____, and when the bad side of his nature is _____ than the good, he'll sooner or later _____ himself.

2. Why does Romeo go to see Friar Laurence?

3. How does Friar Laurence respond to Romeo's request?

4. Why does Friar Laurence consent to Romeo's request?

ACT TWO - SCENE FOUR

This scene serves as a contrast to the preceding scene in Friar Laurence's cell. Mercutio and Benvolio are in a merry mood as they walk along talking and laughing about Romeo whom they think is still pining away over Rosaline. Benvolio mentions that Tybalt has sent a challenge to Romeo. Mercutio then gives a long description of Tybalt's eagerness to fight. Romeo comes along in a good mood after his talk with Friar Laurence. They engage in a series of puns matching their wits against each other. Along comes Juliet's nurse and Peter (her servant).

1. For whom is the nurse looking and why?
2. What warning does she give Romeo?

ACT TWO - SCENE FIVE

Juliet is waiting very impatiently for the nurse's return. Why does she become so irritated when the nurse does return?

ACT TWO - SCENE SIX

Romeo and Juliet are married in Friar Laurence's cell. How does this scene foreshadow future events?

General - Find one example in Act Two of each of the following literary devices:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Conceit | 6. Simile |
| 2. Personification | 7. Dramatic Irony |
| 3. Hyperbole | 8. Paradox |
| 4. Pun | 9. Apostrophe |
| 5. Metaphor | 10. Allusion |

Act III Study Guide – Romeo and Juliet

1. Tybalt, still enraged at Romeo's intrusion at the Capulet's ball, is determined to fight, but Romeo refuses. Why?
2. How does Mercutio get involved, and what happens to him?
3. How does Romeo react to this?
4. What decree does the Prince make?
5. Explain how this scene serves as the climax or turning point of the drama.

ACT THREE - SCENE TWO

1. Explain the dramatic irony in the beginning of this scene.
2. How does Juliet react to the nurse's news?
3. What does Juliet plan to do with the cords? (See lines 132-137)
4. How does the nurse console her?

ACT THREE - SCENE THREE

1. How does Romeo react to the news of his banishment?
 2. Paraphrase Friar Laurence's speech in three sentences.
-

ACT THREE - SCENE FOUR

1. How does the action in this scene complicate matters even further?
2. How does Capulet's attitude now differ from his attitude when Paris first came to ask for Juliet's hand in marriage?
3. Explain the dramatic irony in this scene.

ACT THREE - SCENE FIVE

1. Explain the paradoxical phrases in lines 94-103.
2. How does Capulet react to Juliet's refusal to marry Paris?
3. What advice does the nurse give Juliet?
4. What does Juliet decide to do?

Act IV Study Guide – Romeo and Juliet

ACT FOUR - SCENE ONE

Juliet is no longer the obedient child. The events of the past few days have caused her to mature. With no hope of help from her mother or the nurse she is now taking matters into her own hands. She gives the excuse that since she has displeased her father, she is going to Friar Laurence to confess her sin and be absolved. (Notice how she deals with Paris at the opening of this scene.) Once Paris is gone Juliet pleads with Friar Laurence to help her out of her predicament.

Explain in detail the plan they arrange

ACT FOUR - SCENE TWO

1. What day is it now?
2. Juliet is so convincing in her deception that her father decides to move the wedding day up from Thursday to Wednesday. What Complication does this change foreshadow?

ACT FOUR - SCENE THREE

1. Complete this paraphrase of Juliet's soliloquy (lines 14-58)

Farewell! God knows when we shall _____ again. Oh, I'm so _____ that my _____ runs cold. I'll call them back to _____ me. Nurse! - But what can she do? I must do this alone. Come vial. But what if the potion doesn't _____ and I have to _____ Paris after all? I'll use this _____ on myself first! What if the Friar gave me _____ to kill me so that no one will find out that he already _____ me to Romeo? No, the Friar is proven to be a _____ man. He would not do that. But what if I _____ before _____ comes to take me away? That's scary. Will I not _____ in the vault before _____ comes? Or if I _____, my imagination will run _____ in that horrible place where the bones of my _____ have been _____ for hundreds of years; where _____ yet recently burned lies _____ in his shroud; where _____ visit at some hours of the _____. Oh! Wouldn't those horrible _____ and _____ drive a living person _____? If I _____ will I not be so disturbed in the midst of these hideous _____ that I play with my forefather's _____ or pull _____ burial clothes off, and then in a fit of madness dash out my _____ with my _____?

Oh look! I think I see my cousin's (Tybalt's) _____ looking for _____
who cut him up with his _____. Stay back, _____ stay back!
Romeo, I come! I _____ this (potion) to you.

2. List Juliet's fears as she is about to drink the potion.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

ACT FOUR - SCENE FOUR

The Capulets are busy preparing for Juliet's wedding. The Nurse is told to wake Juliet up and get her ready.

ACT FOUR - SCENE FIVE

The nurse discovers Juliet's apparently lifeless body, and the happy day for the Capulets becomes a day of sorrow.

Explain the dramatic irony in Friar Laurence's speech (lines 65-83)

Act V Study Guide – Romeo and Juliet



ACT FIVE - SCENE ONE

1. How does Romeo's dream, which he describes in his opening speech, compare with the news brought to him by Balthasar?
2. How does Romeo convince the apothecary to sell him poison?
3. What does he plan to do with the poison?

ACT FIVE - SCENE TWO

1. Explain the conversation between Friar Laurence and Friar John.
2. What does Friar Laurence now plan to do?