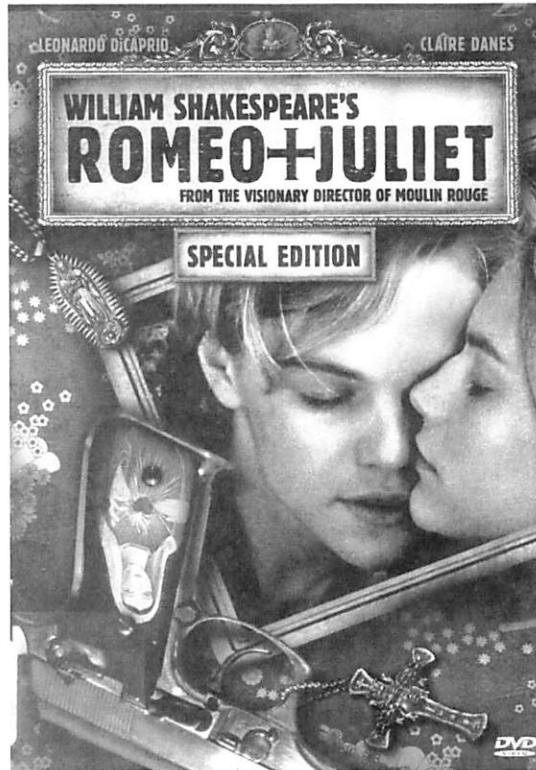


Name: _____

Period: ____

Romeo and Juliet: Complete Study Guide



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DON'T LOSE THIS PACKET!

Notes on the Elizabethan Theater and Shakespeare

How much do you already know? (True or False)

1. The Elizabethans were superstitious and believed the future of a person's life was determined by the placement of the stars at that person's birth.
2. Before coming to London, Shakespeare married an older woman who was already pregnant.
3. William Shakespeare attended Oxford University where he spent years perfecting his writing.
4. Shakespeare wrote over 150 sonnets and 38 plays.
5. When *Romeo and Juliet* was first performed in 1595, Juliet was played by a young boy.
6. Shakespeare's plays came straight from his imagination.
7. Shakespeare's theater, The Globe, burned down in 1613 and was not open again until 1997.

Elizabethan Times: Beliefs about the Universe

Biographical Information on The Bard, William Shakespeare

- When and where was William Shakespeare born?
- Who did he marry? What's unique about their marriage?
- How old was he when he wrote his first play?
- What inspired the themes found in many of his plays?
- Shakespeare wrote _____ plays and _____ poems in his lifetime.
- Shakespeare died in _____.

About Shakespeare's Plays

All of Shakespeare's plays fall into one three categories:

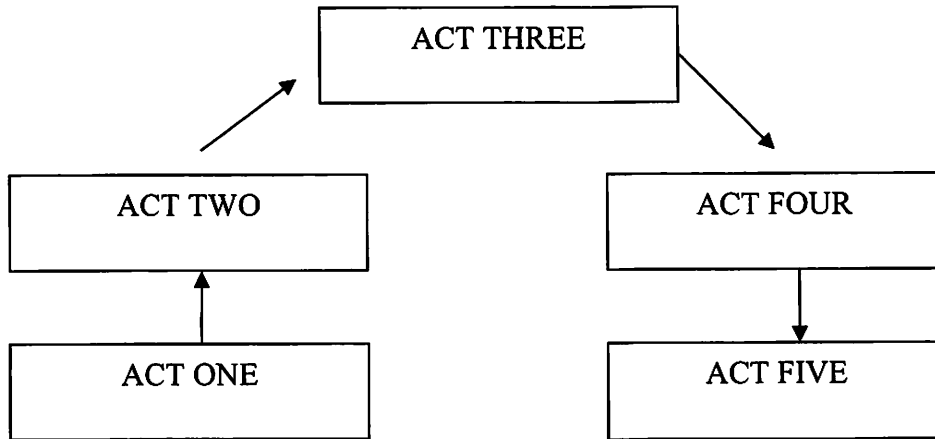
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About Romeo and Juliet

Circle one: This play is a *Tragedy* *Comedy* *History*

What will happen to the main characters?

What is the format of a Shakespearean Tragedy?



Attending Shakespeare's Plays

- Where would people see Shakespeare's plays?
- Who were "groundlings"?
- At what time of day were plays performed?
- Were women allowed to act in the theater?
- Did the plays have elaborate props or scenery?
- What happened to The Globe in 1613?

○ 1993-1997?

Romeo and Juliet:

Literary Terms and Other Factoids

Allusion- A brief reference to something outside of the text, such as a person, event, or place (real or fictitious) or work of art.

Aside- Words spoken by a character in an undertone, not intended to be heard by other characters on stage. This lets the audience know what a character is *really* thinking or feeling.

Blank Verse- Unrhymed Iambic Pentameter. Basically, the lines are unrhymed and 10 syllables long. They have alternating stresses:

U / U / U / U / U / 10 syllables, 5 "feet"

But soft. What light through yonder window breaks?

Couplet- When Shakespeare rhymes, it's usually in couplets, two consecutive lines of poetry that rhyme.
Example from Juliet: *Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow*
 That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

Dramatic Irony- The tension, humor, or suspense created by a situation in which the audience knows something the character or characters do not know.

End-stopped Line- Punctuation is at the end of it. Example from Juliet's speech, Act II, Scene 2:
O, Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny my father and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

Foil- A character that is set up as a contrast to another so that each will stand out vividly.

Hyperbole- A figure of speech which is an exaggeration. Persons often use expressions such as "I nearly died laughing," "I was hopping mad," and "I tried a thousand times." Such statements are not literally true, but people make them to sound impressive or to emphasize something.

Malapropism- an inappropriateness of speech resulting from the use of one word for another which resembles it.

- He had to use a fire distinguisher.
- Michelangelo painted the Sixteenth Chapel.
- "Don't" is a contraption.
- *Sweet land of liberty, of thee icing.*

Metaphor- a comparison that does not use like or as.

Monologue- long, uninterrupted speech that is spoken in the presence of other characters.
Example) Mercutio's famous speech on Queen Mab in Act I, Scene IV.

Oxymoron- Of Greek Origin: Oxus (sharp, clever); Moron (dull, foolish). Two opposites combined.
Examples: "Loving Hate," "Sweet Sorrow," "Jumbo Shrimp"

Personification- Applying human elements or qualities to non-human things.

Poetry Vs. Prose- PROSE is spoken for the most part by common people and occasionally by Mercutio when he is joking. Most of the other characters speak in POETRY, which is largely written in unrhymed iambic pentameter (i.e., blank verse).

Puns- Play on the multiple meanings of a word or on two words that sound alike but have different meanings. Used for humorous effects.

Repetition- Key words repeated in the course of a speech or conversation for the sake of emphasis.

Run-on Line- No punctuation at the end. Example from Romeo's speech, Act II, Scene 2.

*The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars
As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven
Would through the airy region stream so bright
That birds would sing and think it were not night.*

Simile- A comparison that uses *like* or *as*.

Sonnet: 14-line poem that is usually written in iambic pentameter and that has one of several rhyme schemes. There are two kinds of Sonnets:

- **Italian sonnet (also known as the Petrarchan sonnet)**
 - The first eight lines (octet) pose a question or problem about some subject (for example, love).
 - The concluding six lines (sestet) are a response to the octet.
 - Rhyme Scheme: abba abba cde cde
- **Shakespearean Sonnet**
 - It has 3 four-line units (quatrains) followed by a concluding two-line unit (couplet).
 - Rhyme Scheme: abab cdcd ef ef gg

Soliloquy- a monologue spoken to the audience, often while the character is **alone** on stage. (How is this different from a monologue?)

Examples: Friar Lawrence in Act II and Juliet in Act IV, Scene 3

Splitting Lines- lines split between two characters, typically each character speaks five beats. The splitting of lines usually indicates a close relationship between characters.

Example: Juliet: Take all myself.
 Romeo: I take thee at thy word.

Act One Study Guide for ROMEO & JULIET
PROLOGUE



1. Who speaks the Prologue? What is the Prologue's purpose?

2. In what poetic form is the Prologue?

3. Explain the importance of lines 5 and 6.

4. What themes are established in the Prologue?

ACT 1 SCENE 1—A Public Place in Verona

1. How does Shakespeare start the play so that he gains the attention of the "groundlings?"

2. The servants of the house of Capulet are already using insulting language to generalize about members of the Montague family. What does this show about attitudes in the two houses?

3. What are the attitudes of Gregory and Sampson towards the law? (Lines 38-41)

4. Who is Tybalt, and why is he dangerous?

5. In Scene 1, Lines 76- 81; how are the responses of Lady Capulet and Lady Montague to their husbands different?

6. What warning does the prince give the street brawlers in Scene 1, Lines 82-104?

7. What is unusual about Romeo's behavior, according to Benvolio and Lord Montague?

8 When Benvolio asks Romeo what is the cause of Romeo's strange behavior, what does Romeo tell him? (Lines 165-169)

9 An **oxymoron** is a figure of speech that combines two contradictory elements, such as "deafening silence." List four of the oxymorons in lines 177-182.

10 According to Romeo, why does the young woman he is in love with refuse him? (Lines 213-219)

11 Why does Romeo not want to look at other women? (Line 237)

ACT 1 SCENE 2-- A Street

1. In this scene Lord Capulet talks to Paris about marrying his daughter Juliet. What reasons does he give for not wanting Juliet to marry at this time?
2. What does Lord Capulet mean when he says "the earth has swallowed all my hopes but she" (line 14)?
3. Look carefully at lines 16-19. On what condition will Lord Capulet agree to Juliet's marriage with Paris?
4. Who is Rosaline, and how is she related to the Capulets?
5. What is the dramatic irony in lines 70-85?

ACT 1 SCENE 3--A Room in Capulet's House

1. What is the nurse's relationship with Juliet? How would you describe the Nurse's personality?
2. Look closely at lines 62-63. What is the nurse's one wish for Juliet?
3. When Lady Capulet asks Juliet how she feels about being married, what is Juliet's answer (line 66), and what does it reveal about her character?
4. Look closely at lines 98-100. Explain Juliet's answer to her mother when asked if she can love Paris.

ACT 1 SCENE 4--A Street

1. What does Romeo feel about love (lines 25-26)?
2. How does Mercutio try to snap Romeo out of his depression?
3. Summarize Mercutio's speech on Queen Mab.
4. Look closely at lines 106-111. Why does Romeo feel uneasy about going to the party?
5. What decision does Romeo make in lines 112-113, and what is the thematic importance of this decision?
6. In what ways throughout this scene do we see how Mercutio is a foil to Romeo?

ACT 1 SCENE 5--A Hall in Capulet's House

1. We learn from Romeo's soliloquy that he is struck by love at first sight when he sees Juliet at the party. Paraphrase Romeo's speech (lines 43-52). To what does he compare Juliet?
2. How does this speech about his love for Juliet compare to his speeches about being in love with Rosaline?
3. Are you convinced that Romeo truly loves Juliet? Why or why not?

4. Tybalt recognizes Romeo's voice and tries to start a fight. What two reasons does Lord Capulet give for stopping him (lines 65-69)?
5. Look closely at lines 90-91. What threat does Tybalt make as he agrees to withdraw?
6. In lines 92-105, Romeo and Juliet speak to each other. What type of poem do their lines form?
7. What does Romeo realize in lines 119-120?

Act 2 Study Guide for ROMEO & JULIET

CHORUS

1. Paraphrase the chorus's speech. What type of poem is this?

ACT 2 SCENE I--Near Capulet's Orchard

1. What is Mercutio saying in lines 7-17? What is his tone?

2. What is the dramatic irony found in lines 16-21?

3. What does Mercutio say about "blind love"?

ACT 2 SCENE 2--Capulet's Orchard

1. Juliet is on the balcony outside her bedroom but cannot hear the words that Romeo says to himself as he looks at her from the hiding place below. Answer the following questions about lines 2-25:

- a. Romeo repeats the light and dark images he introduced when he saw Juliet for the first time. Why does Romeo compare Juliet to the sun?

- b. Why does he want the sun to kill the envious moon?

- c. Why is the moon envious?

- d. Why does he compare Juliet's eyes to the stars?



e. How is this comparison to stars an example of foreshadowing?

2. Look closely at lines 33-36. Juliet is still unaware that Romeo is nearby. What is she asking?

3. Look closely at lines 38-49. What does Juliet say about names? What can we infer about her attitude toward the feud that has separated the two families?

4. How does Juliet feel when she realizes Romeo has been listening? (lines 52-53)

5. What will happen if Romeo gets caught outside Juliet's window? Which one, Romeo or Juliet, seems to take this threat more seriously? (Lines 70-74)

6. Explain/paraphrase Juliet's feelings of embarrassment (Lines 95-105). Would you be as embarrassed as she is in a similar situation?

7. Why does Juliet object to Romeo's swearing on the moon (lines 109-111)?

8. What are Juliet's fears in lines 116-119?

9. What do you think changes Juliet's mind in lines 142-149?

10. Juliet is going to send someone to Romeo on the following day for what purpose?

11. Do you think Romeo and Juliet are rushing into things, or are they just being hopelessly romantic?

ACT 2 SCENE 3-Friar Laurence's Cell

1. What is in Friar Laurence's basket?
2. What details in the friar's speech casually suggest that these herbs have the power to heal or kill? How might this relate to Romeo and Juliet?
3. Explain lines 21-22: "Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,/And vice sometime by action dignified"?
4. When Friar Laurence sees Romeo, what comment does Friar Laurence make about seeing Romeo so early in the morning?
5. What does Friar Laurence mean when he says to Romeo, "Young men's love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes?" (67-68)
6. What is Friar Laurence's motive for marrying Romeo and Juliet? (89-92) So far, how do you feel about the friar's schemes?

ACT 2 SCENE 4-A Street

1. Why is Mercutio looking for Romeo?
2. Describe Mercutio's feelings toward Tybalt.
3. How does Mercutio use tricks of poetry to tease Romeo? Does Mercutio's teasing of Romeo remind you of the way friends today tease one another?
- 4.. What part does the nurse play in Romeo and Juliet's schemes?
5. Define *malapropism*. Where does the Nurse say one in her quips with Mercutio?

6. What message does Romeo urge the nurse to give to Juliet (lines 163-166)?

7. The nurse is one of Shakespeare's great comic characters. Do you think she has a strong sense of right and wrong? Or, does she seem to be easily corrupted, someone who will do whatever people want her to do?

ACT 2 SCENE 5--Capulet's Orchard

1. Describe Juliet's mood as she waits for the nurse's return.
2. What type is Juliet's speech, a soliloquy or monologue? (lines 1-17)
3. The nurse knows Juliet is impatient, but she keeps putting her off. Why does the nurse do this?
4. Why does the Nurse agree to help Juliet marry Romeo?
5. What is Juliet's mood at the end of this scene?

ACT 2 SCENE 6--Friar Laurence's Cell

1. Though this should be a happy occasion for Romeo and Juliet, what does the friar say to make us cautious of Romeo and Juliet's future together? Point out lines that foreshadow possible trouble ahead.

Act 3 Study Guide for ROMEO & JULIET

ACT 3 SCENE I--A Public Place

1. According to Benvolio, what is the weather like? What is Benvolio worried about as a result?
2. What is unique about Benvolio and Mercutio's conversation at the opening of the act?
3. Look closely at lines 15-31. What is Mercutio saying about Benvolio? What might his tone of voice be here?
4. Why does Tybalt approach Mercutio and Benvolio and want a "word" with one of them (line 39)?
5. Mercutio tries to provoke Tybalt to fight (lines 40-41). Why doesn't Tybalt want to fight him (line 57)?
6. After Tybalt insults Romeo, Romeo responds with lines 63-66. Explain his lines. What is the "reason" Romeo has for ignoring the insult?
7. Look closely at Romeo's lines 69-73. Explain the meaning of the lines and the dramatic irony of the situation.
8. Who starts the fight?
9. Romeo tries to stop Mercutio and Tybalt from fighting by reasoning with them (lines 87-91). Paraphrase what he says.

10. How are Mercutio's lines (94-95 and 97-100) ironic?
11. What is Mercutio's threat as he dies?
12. What does Romeo mean when he says Juliet's beauty has made him "effeminate"?
13. What does Romeo do when Tybalt returns?
14. "I am fortune's fool!" What does Romeo mean by this line?
15. Why do you think the prince chooses Benvolio to explain what had happened?
16. Look closely at lines 178-183. What does Lady Capulet want? Why is her speech written in couplets?
17. What is the Prince's decree, and what are the reasons he gives for making it (lines 189-199)?

ACT 3 SCENE 2--Capulet's Orchard

1. What type of speech is Juliet's in the opening of the scene? What is she anxiously awaiting?
2. In lines 37-68 the nurse confuses Juliet as she tells Juliet of the fight. What misconception does Juliet make?
3. What pun does Juliet make in lines 43-51? Do you find her wordplay appropriate?
4. Look closely at line 73. When Juliet receives news of Tybalt's death, what is her first reaction?
5. What language is Juliet using in lines 75-79, and why?

6. In Juliet's monologue (96-127), Juliet says Romeo's banishment is worse than what?
7. What does Juliet threaten to do after she hears about Romeo's banishment?
8. What will the nurse do to comfort Juliet?

ACT 3 SCENE 3--Friar Laurence's Cell

1. Romeo and Friar Laurence speak of death and banishment. Which would Romeo prefer, and how does the Friar respond?
2. When the nurse enters, what news does she bring of Juliet? How does Romeo react (line 103-108)?
3. Why does the Friar get angry at Romeo (lines 108-118)? What type of speech is this?
4. Friar Laurence tells Romeo to count his blessings. What are they (line 135-140)?
5. What plans are made to resolve Romeo and Juliet's difficulties?

ACT 3 SCENE 4--A Room in Capulet's House

1. How does Lady Capulet interpret the fact that Juliet has shut herself in her room (lines 10-11)?
2. What does Lord Capulet decide to do in lines 12-18? Why does he make this decision (19-28)?
3. How does dramatic irony function in this scene?

ACT 3 SCENE 5--Capulet's Orchard

1. Why does Juliet insist she hears the knight's gale and not the lark?
2. What images in Romeo and Juliet's conversation echo previous speeches of light and dark imagery in the play? Is the mood different from before?
3. According to the Prologue, what is the answer to Juliet's question in line 51? What is Romeo's response?
4. What literary device does Juliet use when talking about Fortune (lines 60-64)?
5. Lady Capulet misunderstands Juliet's sadness, and Juliet does not want her to know that she is married to Romeo. What does Juliet say to keep the truth from her mother (lines 78-102)?
6. What is Juliet's response when she is told the news that she is to marry Paris (lines 116-123)? How has she changed since Act 1?
7. What is her mother's reaction to Juliet's response (line 124-125 and lines 140-141)?
8. Look closely at lines 190-197. What is Lord Capulet's response to Juliet's refusal to marry Paris?
9. What does the Nurse advise Juliet to do (lines 215-227)? What is her reasoning?
10. What does Juliet decide to do, and how does it involve Friar Laurence (lines 232-244)?

ACTS IV and V STUDY GUIDE for ROMEO & JULIET

ACT IV, SCENE 1 --Friar Laurence's Cell

1. Why is Paris visiting Friar Laurence?
2. According to Paris (lines 6-15), why is Lord Capulet pushing his daughter to marry so quickly?
3. Look at all the lines that Paris speaks. What kind of character is he?
4. Juliet tells Friar Laurence what she will do if the wedding to Paris cannot be avoided. Paraphrase lines 50-67.
5. What are all the things Juliet would rather do than marry Paris (lines 76-88)?
6. Summarize Friar Laurence's plan as described in lines 89-120.
7. Do you think this plan has the potential to be successful? Explain.

ACT IV, SCENE II--A Hall in Capulet's House

1. What does Lord Capulet decide to do in lines 23 and 24? How will this affect the Friar's plan?
2. What is the dramatic irony in Lines 33-37?

ACT IV, SCENE III--Juliet's Chamber

1. Why does Juliet dismiss both the nurse and the mother from her chamber?
2. What are Juliet's fears regarding the potion the Friar has given her (lines 14-58)?

ACT IV, SCENE IV--A Hall in Capulet's House

1. What are the Capulets preparing for at the beginning of this scene? How does this contrast with Juliet's previous soliloquy?
2. We finally learn the Nurse's name! What is it?
3. How does Lord Capulet treat the Nurse in this scene as compared to before?
4. What is the purpose of this brief scene?

ACT IV, SCENE V--Juliet's Chamber

1. What does the Nurse find when she goes to wake Juliet? What's the dramatic irony of this moment?
2. On Line 24, why does Lady Capulet repeat herself?
3. What do you think about Friar Laurence's first line (Line 33) when he enters the scene?
4. How does Lord Capulet personify death in lines 34-40?

5. Paraphrase Friar's speech, lines 65-83. What consolation does he offer? Why does he encourage them to be merry?

6. What is Friar Laurence's motive in speaking lines 94 and 95?

7. How does this scene end?

ACT V SCENE I--Mantua. A Street.

1. What premonition does Romeo have at the beginning of this scene (lines 1-11)?

2. What news does Balthasar bring? How does this disrupt the Friar's plan?

3. Paraphrase line 24. Why is this a brazen thing for Romeo to say?

4. What does Romeo decide to do after he hears Balthasar's story (lines 34-57)?

5. Why does the Apothecary agree to sell mortal drugs to Romeo? What is Romeo's response?

6. What does the Apothecary mean about the drugs when he says, "if you had the strength of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight:"

7. What is the "poison" that Romeo has "sold" the Apothecary?

ACT V SCENE II--Friar Laurence's Cell

1. Why was Friar John unable to deliver the letter to Romeo explaining Juliet's coma?
2. What are Friar Laurence's adjustments to the plan?

ACT V, SCENE III--A churchyard; in it, a monument belonging to the Capulets

1. Why is Paris at the tomb?
2. What does Romeo find when he enters the tomb?
3. In lines 28-32, what strange excuse does Romeo give his servant for wanting to descend into the tomb alone?
4. What does Paris say killed Juliet? What does he want to do when he sees Romeo?
5. What is Romeo's first reaction to Paris? What does Paris do to provoke Romeo?
6. What happens to Paris?
7. What does Romeo do for Paris?

8. What clues in Romeo's soliloquy indicate that Juliet is still alive?
9. What are Romeo's last words?
10. What is the irony of Friar Laurence's arrival?
11. How does Juliet find out about Romeo and Paris?
12. Why do you think the Friar leaves?
13. Look closely at line 167. What does Juliet realize about the situation?
14. How does Juliet die? What are her last lines?
15. Does the Friar accept responsibility in his monologue for what happened to Romeo and Juliet?
16. According to the prince, who has been punished?
17. How does the play end?
18. Did you cry?

Who's Who?

House of Capulet	House of Montague
Neutral	

***Romeo and Juliet* Timeline**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY

Do you think Romeo and Juliet are rushing into things? Why or why not?