

# Romeo and Juliet

William Shakespeare

## What a Week!

The events that take place in *Romeo and Juliet* occur within a span of only five days. List the major events that occur each day that fateful week in Verona.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

## *Romeo and Juliet Character Organization*

	Who is this person?	Three important facts about him or her:
<b>Capulets</b>		
Lord Capulet		
Lady Capulet		
Juliet		
Tybalt		
Nurse		
<b>Montagues</b>		
Lord Montague		
Lady Montague		
Romeo		
Benvolio		
Balthasar		

## Other Characters

	Who is this person?	Capulet X	Montague X	Neither X
Chorus				
Prince Escalus				
Mercutio				
Friar Lawrence				
Friar John				
Count Paris				
Rosaline				
Apothecary				
Gregory				
Sampson				

## Prologue

1. The prologue is spoken by ONE non-singing actor called: \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Quote phrases that suggest a “family feud.” (at least two)
3. In what phrase do we realize there will be a “tragic ending?”
4. Where does the play take place (setting)?
5. From what kind of families do the protagonists come?

## Act I, Scene 1

This is the introductory scene where we will meet some of the principal characters. You can see at once how easily the peace can be broken by the Montagues and Capulets.

From two servants of the house of Capulet, Sampson and Gregory, we learn of the family quarrel even before the two Montague servant enter. Notice that the servants speak in *prose* (ordinary speech). The poetry begins with their betters, Benvolio and Tybalt.

With a succession of puns (play on words), most of them bawdy (vulgar), a quarrel erupts, first with words, then with gestures, and finally, with weapons. Note that Sampson does not draw his sword until Benvolio, Romeo’s cousin, arrives on the scene. Benvolio sensibly tries to quiet the brawling servants, but the fiery Tybalt, Juliet’s cousin, arrives, eager to fight; he hates the very word “peace.”

Paraphrase lines 68-74 in your own words:

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## Act I, Scene 2

We now move from the Montagues to the Capulets. Lord Capulet and County Paris, a young nobleman, relative of the Prince, are in the midst of a conversation

What two topics are they discussing? (write two sentences)

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Paraphrase lines 8-13 in your own words:

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Paraphrase lines 29-33 in your own words:

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Lord Capulet invites Paris to a party that he is giving that evening. Lord Capulet suggests Paris compare Juliet with the other young women who will be there.

A servant who cannot read is sent out with a list of guests to be invited to the feast. By chance the servant meets Romeo and Benvolio to whom he appeals for help. When Romeo sees the name of the fair Rosaline, Capulet's niece, among the guests, he is willing to accept Benvolio's suggestion that they, too, attend the party. But Romeo is sure his friend Benvolio is speaking nonsense when he says that he will see some other lady there who beauty will outshine Rosaline's.

Paraphrase lines 47-53 in your own words:

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If you were a reporter working for a newspaper in Verona, what headline would you write about the scene you just saw/read?

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### *Act I, Scene 3*

This scene introduces Juliet, her mother Lady Capulet, and the Nurse.

The Nurse, garrulous and earthy, takes part in the family conversation and very nearly dominates it. She has taken care of Juliet since her birth almost fourteen years before, and she obviously loves to tell and retell all sorts of details that she remembers. Lady Capulet at first dismisses her, but then calls her back, and allows her to ramble on at length before trying to cut her off.

What is Lammastide? Why is it important to understanding Juliet's age?

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Notice Lady Capulet's bluntness with her daughter:

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"What say you? Can you love the gentleman?"

"Speak briefly, can you like of Paris' love?"

Lady Capulet recognized her obligation to help marry her daughter to an eligible young man, but she seems to take no very idealistic view of life.

Paraphrase lines 91-107 in your own words:

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## The Love Connection

Read the lines listed for each of the following characters. In the second 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 toward, or attitudes about love and marriage? Write these insights in the third column below.

Character	What are the exact words?	Conclusions you can make:
Romeo Act I, Scene I Lines 191-193		
Benvolio Act I, Scene I 245-246		
Paris Act I, Scene II Line 12	"Younger than she are happy mothers made."	Paris is eager to marry. Age is not an issue.
Capulet Act I, Scene II Line 13  Act I, Scene II Line 16-17		
Juliet Act I, Scene III Line 73		
Lady Capulet Act I, Scene III Line 76-83		
Nurse Act I, Scene III Line 105		
Mercutio Act I, Scene IV Line 28		

## Act I, Scene 4

Romeo and friends, with masks and torches, are on their way to the Capulet house, which they will enter uninvited and unannounced.

1. How long to they intend to stay at the dance? QUOTE DIRECTLY from the book for your answer.

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Mercutio, one of the most attractive characters in the play, jokes with Romeo, who cannot compete with his friend's puns and wit because he is concentrating on his role of an unhappy lover.

2. How does Romeo describe love?

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Still moody, self-absorbed, sentimental, Romeo says that he will not dance; he will be a mere onlooker. Write down the EXACT line where he says this:

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Paraphrase lines 13-33 in your own words:

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What does Mercutio tell Romeo to do with love? QUOTE DIRECTLY from the play:

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Romeo mentions a dream, and Mercutio is off and running with his famous Queen Mab speech, which does not advance the plot but which shows us Mercutio as a man of lively imagination who is polite, humorous, and earthy. Mercutio is not having a psychotic moment, as depicted in the movie, but rather trying to make the point that dreams are: \_\_\_\_\_.

In the space below, sketch a simple picture of Queen Mab and her carriage according to Mercutio's description. The drawing does not need to be artistic, but it does need to be neat and clear. Label five parts of your drawing.

Benvolio interrupts Mercutio and warns them that they may reach the Capulet house too late due to Mercutio's "wind" (long, pointless story).

What word from the prologue does Romeo repeat in his lines at the end of this scene? What does this word mean when you are talking about Shakespeare?

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Paraphrase lines 116-121 in your own words:

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Is Queen Mab the queen of good dreams, nightmares, or both? Explain.

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Re-read Mercutio's exchange with Romeo at the end of the scene. What does Mercutio think of dreams? Why did Mercutio tell such a strange story to Romeo?

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If you were a reporter working for a newspaper in Verona, what headline would you write about the scene you just saw/read?

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## *Act I, Scene 5*

During the first few moments we see the Capulet servants bustling about before the family as their guests enter. When they do, Capulet, jovial and fully enjoying himself at his own party, orders the music and dancing to begin.

Paraphrase lines 17-31 in your own words:

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Capulet is having a good time being the gracious host and recalling his youth, "For you and I are past our dancing days."

1. Does Capulet seem outraged when Tybalt tells him that Romeo, a hated Montague, is at the party? Quote directly from the play to support your answer.
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2. What is Tybalt's reaction to Romeo's presence at the party? Quote directly from the play to support your answer.
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The most important development in this scene is the meeting of Romeo and Juliet, and for both it is love at first sight. Neither Romeo nor Juliet knows who the other is. Romeo asks a serving man, "What lady's that which doth enrich the hand of yonder knight?" By chance he must have asked a

servant hired for the occasion, not a regular member of the household, because the man does not know Juliet's identity.

Paraphrase lines 59-64 in your own words:

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Romeo and Juliet are both tense and quiet in their first meeting. They are, in a sense, isolated, although there are many people all about them. Note that their first exchange of words is in the form of a sonnet. There is a playful quality about the elaborate literary symbols of pilgrims, palmers, and prayers that does not entirely hide the intensity of feeling that each is experiencing. In its way, this first exchange between them is a kind of sacrament.

4. Oh no! What do Romeo and Juliet find out about each other after the nurse interrupts their meeting? Quote directly from the play to support your answer. (Both Romeo's response and Juliet's response.)

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By the end of Act I, the young people have met, fallen in love, and discovered that they belong to two warring houses. You should now have seen the principal elements that will lead to tragedy. Please state three of these elements and support each element with facts from the play.

1. Hero who \_\_\_\_\_.

Support:

2. Hero who opposes a \_\_\_\_\_.

Support:

3. Hero with a \_\_\_\_\_.

Support:

## Character Development, Act I

Shakespeare reveals details about his characters in four ways:

- Through what they say to other characters in dialogue
- Through what the characters reveal about their thoughts in speeches
- Through what other characters say about them
- Through the actions of that character

Examine the following characters and scenes from Act I below. Quote directly from the play to show what has been revealed about the characters:

### Juliet

Scene	What Juliet says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene III when lady Capulet asks Juliet about marriage		
Scene V when Juliet meets Romeo for the first time		

### Mercutio

Scene	What Mercutio says, does, or what others say about him	What this reveals about him character
Scene IV before he crashes the Capulet's banquet		

### Nurse

Scene	What the Nurse says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene III when Lady Capulet asks Juliet about marriage		

## Act II, Scenes 1 and 2

1. Note the sonnet form of the chorus. What are we told about Rosaline? What is again emphasized in this Prologue? What conclusion do we draw about the young lovers?

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Scene 1 follows shortly after the scene at the feast. Romeo is near the Capulet's garden, avoiding his friends – "Can I go forward when my heart is here? Turn back, dull earth, and find thy center out."

Benvolio, sure that he has seen Romeo leap over the wall into the Capulet orchard, asks Mercutio, who thinks that Romeo is still pining for Rosaline, pretends to try to "conjure" him with many lighthearted and "bawdy" suggestions. Romeo, however, does not answer, although he must hear them, and his friends leave. Benvolio says:

"Go then, for 'tis in vain  
To seek him here that means not to be found."

2. Note Romeo's opening line, rhyming with Benvolio's last one of the preceding scene. This shows he has heard the jests of his friends – "He jests at scars that never felt a wound." Which when translated into your words would say:

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3. Juliet appears from a balcony off her bedroom, and Romeo is conscious only of her. For the first fifty lines they speak about, but not to, each other. Juliet is unaware of Romeo's presence until he comes forward (line 53) after hearing her express her love for him.

Paraphrase lines 2-25 in your own words. What examples of imagery are used?

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5. A famous passage in line 35! What does Juliet ask Romeo to do in lines 35-36?

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Paraphrase lines 41-52 in your own words:

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Paraphrase lines 68-73 in your own words:

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6. Romeo's language in this scene is quite different from the language he used about Rosaline. Prove this statement is true with direct quotes from the play:

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7. Contrast Romeo's language with Juliet's language in Act II, Scene 2:

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8. Why is Juliet embarrassed? (in lines 94-98)

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Paraphrase lines 118-120 in your own words:

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9. In the midst of this happiness In Scene 2, Juliet suddenly feels some kind of an omen (lines 128-131). What are her feelings here?

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10. What have Romeo and Juliet planned for the next day? Where will Romeo go for advice?

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11. Copy the famous passage on line 206-208

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### *Act III, Scenes 3 and 4*

Friar Lawrence, confessor to both Romeo and Juliet, is gathering herbs at dawn, meditating on the “paradox” that the Earth is at once nature’s mother and tomb and that the same plant can be both poison and medicine.

1. What does Romeo tell Friar Lawrence?

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2. Why is the Friar so surprised with Romeo’s request? Quote directly from the play:

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3. Since the Friar is skeptical about Romeo's sudden change, why does he agree to help him? Quote directly from the play.

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4. Scene four is almost entirely a comic one. There is only one serious note to the whole scene which is:

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5. Why does Mercutio clearly despise Tybalt?

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6. How do we know Romeo is now more like himself? Why is this?

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7. The Nurse and Peter appear, looking for Romeo, and Mercutio has more fun at their expense. Left alone with the Nurse and Peter, Romeo is eventually able to stop her talking and get her to listen to his message for Juliet – Quote directly from the play:

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8. What does he tell the Nurse to leave by the wall so that he may join Juliet that night?

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### *Act III, Scenes 5 and 6*

Juliet is impatiently waiting for the return of the Nurse, who has been gone three hours. Juliet uses a beautiful image of light (lines 4-6) in her reference to Love's messengers, which should move even faster than the sun's beams. Quote this imagery from the play:

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1. Why does Juliet become impatient with the Nurse?

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2. What is contrasted here as well as in Scene 3 with Romeo and Friar Lawrence?

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Paraphrase lines 9-15 in your own words:

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The act ends with a brief scene in Friar Lawrence's cell, where he and Romeo welcome Juliet. Romeo is sure that one moment with Juliet can balance all the sorrow that may come to him, that their love can "devour" even death.

## Character Development, Act II

Examine the following characters and scenes from Act I below. Quote directly from the play to show what has been revealed about the characters:

### Romeo

Scene	What Romeo says, does, or what others say about him	What this reveals about his character
Scenes I and II, when Romeo slips away from his friends to meet Juliet		
Scene III where Romeo meets Friar Lawrence		

### Juliet

Scene	What Juliet says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene IV where Juliet learns of Romeo's plans from the Nurse		

### Mercutio

Scene	What Mercutio says, does, or what others say about him	What this reveals about his character
Scene IV when he encounters the nurse		

## Act III, Scene 1

1. In this climatic scene, Mercutio and Tybalt are killed and Romeo is banished, all in a few moments and only twenty-four hours after the street brawl that opened the play. The scene begins with Benvolio, the peacemaker, suggesting to Mercutio that they leave the streets: State lines 1-4 in your own words:

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The high spirited Mercutio pretends that the mild Benvolio is eager for a fight, describing him as a man who will fight for any and all reasons or no reasons at all (lines 15-29).

Actually, Mercutio is describing Tybalt, the “King of Cats” (line 80) who arrives looking for Romeo. Mercutio taunts him, but Tybalt is saving his sword for Romeo (line 86).

2. However, when Romeo arrives, what kind of a mood is he in and why?

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4. What does Romeo refuse to do? Why?

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Benvolio is speechless, but Mercutio, astonished at Romeo’s “calm, dishonorable, vile submission” (line 72) draws on Tybalt.

Describe in your own words what happens during the fight IN THE BOOK (not the movie):

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4. At this point in the play we have the three principal forces of the tragedy converging (coming together). List them with NEW examples. (If you forget they are on page 14 in here)

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5. There is anger and wit in Mercutio's last lines. Quote directly:

Anger: \_\_\_\_\_

Wit: \_\_\_\_\_

Paraphrase lines 102-110 in your own words:

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Line 145 is important in the developing of one particular element of the tragedy. Translate the line into your own words:

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6. Who explains the cause of the quarrel to the Prince? Does this person tell the truth? What is Romeo's the sentence?

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## *Act III, Scene 2*

From the violence of the preceding scene, we move to Juliet, alone in her father's garden, impatiently waiting for the end of the day. Quote passages that describe this:

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Juliet is pleased when the Nurse arrives because she will bring news of Romeo. The Nurse says what she has to say at such length and is so incoherent that Juliet at first thinks that it is Romeo who is dead, then both Tybalt and Romeo. When the Nurse finally tells Juliet the (correct) ugly news, she does so directly, even brutally. Write down the line when the Nurse finally clarifies everything:

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How did Juliet first react to the tragic news?

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Paraphrase lines 125-137 in your own words:

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What request does Juliet ask of the Nurse at the end of the scene?

### *Act III, Scene 3*

What is Romeo's reaction to the banishment?

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Romeo tried to stab himself when he hears of Juliet's grief. What stops him? Quote directly from the play to support your answer:

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What reasons does Friar Lawrence give Romeo as to why he should be thankful?

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Where does the Friar send Romeo, and what are his instructions?

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What line tells us that Romeo is beginning to feel better? Quote directly:

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### *Act III, Scene 4*

On the surface, this scene is a calm one. Lord and Lady Capulet have been talking with Paris, who is willing to postpone his courtship until Juliet recovers from her grief over the death of Tybalt.

Yikes! What is to be the day of Juliet's marriage to Paris? \_\_\_\_\_

### *Act III, Scene 5*

It is dawn, and Romeo and Juliet are saying their farewells after having spent the night with one another. Why is there talk of nightingales and larks? What is the point of talking about these birds?

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Romeo, who was so distraught in the Friar's cell earlier in the act, seems to have gotten control of himself. What lines help to prove that he is more level-headed?

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Juliet, however, feels some kind of strange foreboding. Uh oh. Quote the line which gives this conclusion:

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Lady Capulet talks of Juliet's reactions to Tybalt's death. Paraphrase lines 76-78 in your own words:

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What else does Lady Capulet calmly announce that she plans to do?

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Throughout the first part of the scene all of Juliet's responses are deliberately ambiguous (meaning one thing to Lady Capulet and something quite different to Juliet). List some of these responses:

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When Juliet's mother tells her of the wedding plans (lines 126-130), Juliet is shocked into open defiance (lines 131-138).

Her father and the nurse then enter, and Juliet triggers her father's bad temper. What does he threaten to do if she isn't obedient? Does Juliet's mother try to help her?

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What is the Nurse's advice to Juliet? Quote directly from the play.

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Paraphrase lines 265-270 in your own words:

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## Character Development, Act III

Examine the following characters and scenes from Act I below. Quote directly from the play to show what has been revealed about the characters:

### Romeo

Scene	What Romeo says, does, or what others say about him	What this reveals about his character
Scene II where Romeo takes refuge in the Friar's cell		
Scene IV where Romeo bids Juliet farewell		

### Juliet

Scene	What Juliet says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene II where she waits for Romeo and learns of Tybalt's death		
Scene V where Lord Capulet tells Juliet she is to marry Paris		

### Nurse

Scene	What the Nurse says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene II where she tells Juliet of Tybalt's death		
Scene V where Lord Capulet tells Juliet she is to marry Paris		

## Act 3<sup>o</sup>, Scene 1

The scene opens with the Friar and Paris talking about the coming wedding. Why does Paris believe Capulet is speeding up the marriage?

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What does the Friar say to himself when Paris asked him "Now of you know the reason of this haste?" Translate his answer into your own words:

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Note Juliet's strength of character in dealing with Paris – especially her ambiguous answers.

What does Juliet tell the Friar she will do if he cannot offer her any hope?

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What is Juliet's response when the Friar speaks of a desperate remedy?

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What is to be the effect of the potion Friar Lawrence gives to Juliet? How long is the effect supposed to last?

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How will Romeo learn of the plan? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Act 3<sup>o</sup>, Scene 2

Back in the Capulet's house, Capulet is sending out a servant with a list of guests to invite to the wedding, just as he had done just two days earlier when he planned the feast at which, by chance, Romeo and Juliet met. Lets hope this servant can read.

How does Juliet seem to her father after she returns from confession? Quote directly from the play to support your answer.

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What does Capulet do when he sees the change in Juliet? How might this throw a wrench into the Friar's place?

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Look at lines 45-51. What is Capulet telling his wife?

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### *Act 3<sup>o</sup>, Scene 3*

How does Juliet get the Nurse and her mother to leave her alone this night before the wedding? List the excuses that she gives.

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Juliet plays her great scene, as she must, alone, in great fear but with great courage. Copy line 21:

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What will Juliet use if the potion does not work? \_\_\_\_\_

List the fears that Juliet expresses before she takes the potion. Quote directly from the play:

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### *Act 3<sup>o</sup>, Scene 4*

This is a busy scene. What is going on?

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What is the contrast between scenes II and IV?

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## Act 3, Scene 5

The nurse, coming to awaken Juliet, at first jokes about her being a sleepyhead until she discovers, she thinks, that the girl is dead. Note the family's grief. Translate line 30-34 into your own words:

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What is the Friar's role in this scene? Support your answer with lines from the play:

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Paraphrase lines 89-93 in your own words:

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## Character Development, Act I

Examine the following characters and scenes from Act I below. Quote directly from the play to show what has been revealed about the characters:

### Juliet

Scene	What Juliet says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene I where Juliet meets with Friar Laurence		
Scene III where she and the Nurse select a dress for her wedding and Juliet takes potion		

### Nurse

Scene	What the Nurse says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene III where Juliet prepares for her wedding to Paris		
Scene V where the Nurse discovers Juliet's body		

## Act V, Scene I

Where does Scene I take place? \_\_\_\_\_

How is Romeo's mood here and of what has he dreamed? \_\_\_\_\_

What is Romeo's response to Balthesar's news? Quote directly from the play:

How do we know how deeply Romeo has been shaken by the news?

What does Romeo decide to do?

Define Apothecary: \_\_\_\_\_

Why will the apothecary help him?

Paraphrase line 80:

Paraphrase lines 92-93 in your own words:

## Act V, Scene 2

What element of the tragedy is shown in this scene? \_\_\_\_\_

Swine flu! Why was Friar John unable to deliver the letter to Romeo?

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## Act V, Scene 3

Where does the final scene take place? \_\_\_\_\_

Who first comes to Juliet's tomb and why? \_\_\_\_\_

What alerts Paris that someone else is approaching the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

Why does Paris challenge Romeo to a duel? Does Romeo wish to fight? \_\_\_\_\_

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What instruction did Romeo give to Balthasar? \_\_\_\_\_

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Romeo, who a few days ago seemed like a boy, speaks to Paris as "God gentle youth," and truly Romeo, like Juliet, has grown up during the course of the play (line 61).

A soliloquy is a form of conversation in which a character talks to himself or reveals his thoughts in the form of a monologue without addressing a listener. Read lines 77-123. With what literary device is the soliloquy filled? State examples:

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Why are Juliet's first words when she arouses so ironic? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does the Friar urge Juliet to go now that Romeo and Paris are gone? \_\_\_\_\_

How does Juliet die? \_\_\_\_\_

The final moments of the play are concerned with the discovery of the deaths and the explanation of them. Paraphrase lines 219-236 in your own words:

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Read the Friar's explanation in lines 252-290. What line indicated that the Prince, too, shares in the responsibility of the deaths? Quote directly: \_\_\_\_\_

The feud is settled as each father offers to build \_\_\_\_\_ which Capulet states "Poor sacrifices of our empty!"

Paraphrase lines 320-335 in your own words:

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## Character Development, Act V

Examine the following characters and scenes below. Quote directly from the play to show what has been revealed about the characters:

### Juliet

Scene	What Juliet says, does, or what others say about her	What this reveals about her character
Scene III where she awakens in the tomb		

### Romeo

Scene	What Romeo says, does, or what others say about him	What this reveals about his character
Scene I where he learns of Juliet's death		
Scene III where he goes to Juliet's tomb		