

Essay Questions

Choose ONE of the following to answer in a five paragraph essay. Make sure to include an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, three body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph. Essays will be graded for content and structure.

- 1) Compare and contrast the characters of Romeo and Juliet. How do they develop throughout the play? What makes them fall in love with one another? How genuine/believable is their love?
- 2) Compare and contrast the characters of Mercutio and Tybalt. Why does Mercutio hate Tybalt? Why does Tybalt hate Mercutio? What role does each character have in the play?
- 3) What role does fate play in the story? Are Romeo and Juliet victims of fate, or do their own choices lead to their demise? What things could they have done to change their fate? Give specific examples from the text to support your answer.
- 4) Discuss the parent/child relationships in the play. How does Juliet's relationship with her parents differ from Romeo's relationship with his parents? How do their relationships with their parents affect the outcome?
- 5) Friar Laurence serves many dramatic purposes in the play. Examine the Friar and his role in Romeo and Juliet. Use specific examples from the play to support your answer.
- 6) Juliet's suitor Paris is compared throughout the play to Romeo. Examine carefully the similarities and differences between the two young men who love Juliet.
- 7) Discuss the role of the Nurse in the play. How does her relationship with Juliet change throughout the play? What part does she have in Romeo and Juliet's schemes? How does she affect the outcome of the tragedy?