

Prologue:

1. What does the prologue reveal about the characters and the plot of the drama?
2. In what format is the prologue written?

Act I, Scene 1

1. Name the heads of the two households or families mentioned in the first line of the prologue.
2. Why does Shakespeare begin the play with a feud between the servants?
3. Who is Benvolio? What does his dialogue and actions reveal about his character?
4. Who started the fight?
5. What threat does Prince Escalus make against the “enemies of peace”?
6. Do you think the threat will or will not end the conflict between the feuding families? Why?
7. What is Romeo’s mood in the first scene and what has caused it?
8. How does Benvolio think Romeo can alter these moods?
9. What is Romeo’s reaction to Benvolio’s suggestions?

Reading Connections:

What predictions do you have based on the reading?	What personal connections can you make to any of the characters?
Name one visual created by the reading?	What questions have developed that you hope will be answered in the next scenes?

Act I.ii

1. What does Paris propose to Capulet?
2. State at least two reasons Capulet uses against the proposal:
3. What is the purpose of the party?
4. What orders does Capulet give the servant?
5. What comic situation arises when Benvolio and Romeo meet the servant?
6. What name, in particular, on the list is of importance to Romeo?
7. What argument does Benvolio use to persuade Romeo to attend the party?
8. How does Romeo answer?
9. What purpose does Romeo have in agreeing to go to the party?

Act I.iii

1. What new characters are introduced?
2. What does the nurse say about Juliet's age?
3. Explain the history between Juliet and the nurse. Describe their relationship.
4. From their initial interactions, how would you describe the relationship between Juliet and her mother? Formal? Informal? Trusting? Close? Explain.
5. How does the nurse describe Paris?
6. What is Juliet's attitude toward marriage? Toward a marriage with Paris?
7. Assume the role of an actor playing the part of Lady Capulet, the Nurse, or Juliet. Describe one action you would make during the performance to build character identity. Who performs the action? When? What does this action reveal?

Act I.iv

1. What new character is introduced? What is his role in the drama?
2. What was the custom in the setting for men attending balls and revels?
3. Contrast the attitudes of Romeo and Mercutio.
4. What does Mercutio say about dreams?
5. What was Romeo's dream and how is it an example of foreshadowing?

Act I.v The Party

1. Where does the scene take place and what is the atmosphere?
2. What impression does Juliet make on Romeo?
3. What is Tybalt's attitude toward Romeo?
4. How does Capulet respond to Tybalt?
5. Summarize the exchange of words and actions between Romeo and Juliet.
6. As Romeo leaves and Juliet watches, what do they discover about each other?
7. What is each of their reactions upon their discovery?

General Questions over Act I

1. Romeo:
What is your general impression of Romeo at this point?

When does Romeo's attitude change and why?

What seems unreal about Romeo's love for Juliet?

2. Lord Capulet:

What kind of man is Juliet's father?

3. Juliet:

What do Juliet's actions in her first meeting with Romeo reveal about her character?

4. As the Act ends, what is the primary initial conflict?

Act II.i and Act II.ii After the Party, Outside Capulet's Property

1. Why does Romeo hide from Benvolio and Mercutio?

2. What is an example of dramatic irony when Benvolio and Mercutio tease Romeo?

3. What description of Juliet does Romeo give?

4. What accident occurs as Juliet speaks?

5. Summarize the conversation and actions of the balcony scene:

6. What lines express their difficulty in parting?

7. When will they meet again?
8. Do you believe in their love? Why or why not?

Act II.iii

Romeo visits his friend Friar Lawrence's Cell where he finds the Friar in his herb garden discoursing on the power and potency of herbs (hint, hint: foreshadowing). Romeo asks the Friar to perform a marriage ceremony. The Friar mistakenly thinks it is to the former love, Roseline. When he finds it is to the daughter of Capulet, the enemy of the great Montague, he agrees because he thinks a bond between their children will lead to peace.

Act II.iv

1. What opinion does Mercutio express as to the cause of Romeo's melancholy?
2. How does Mercutio describe Tybalt?
3. What discovery does Mercutio make about Romeo?
4. Why do the boys tease the Nurse?
5. How does the nurse try to appear to the gentlemen? Why does it fail?
6. What does the nurse tell Romeo about Paris?
7. What instructions does Romeo give to the nurse?
8. What is the Nurse's reaction?

Act II.v and Act II.vi Read the synopsis for these scenes and give a summary of the main action:

General Questions Over Act II

1. How does Romeo approach love?
2. How has Juliet changed from her initial attitude toward love and marriage? Why?
3. Make a timeline of the main events so far? How many days have passed?

Act III.i A Public Place

1. What is Benvolio's concern about the weather?
2. Who enters and tries to stir up a feud? What is his reason?
3. What characters try to act as peacemakers?
4. Describe Romeo's treatment of Tybalt:

5. What does Mercutio call Tybalt? What does it mean?
6. What does Romeo try to do when the two men fight? What happens as a result?
7. How does Mercutio take the fatal wound?
8. Did Tybalt intend to kill Mercutio? Justify your opinion with evidence.
9. What action does Romeo take and why?
10. After the next fatality, how does Romeo act and what does Benvolio tell him?
11. Romeo yells, “I am fortune’s fool.” Do you agree? Is it fortune that has caused his situation?
12. Summarize how the parents react once the deaths are revealed:
13. What is the Prince’s proclaimed sentence for Romeo?

Act III.ii Juliet’s chamber

1. What does Juliet ask for in the first sixteen lines?

2. Who enters and what is revealed to Juliet?
3. What is Juliet's immediate reaction when she finds it is Tybalt who is dead?
4. How does the audience know that Juliet will remain true to Romeo?
5. Where is the Nurse sent?
6. What action on the part of the Nurse would change the audience's feelings toward her?

Act III.iii

1. How does Romeo act when he finds out he has been exiled?
2. Whose grief at misfortune is more uncontrolled—Romeo or Juliet's? Explain.
3. What arguments does the friar use in attempting to convince Romeo that his despair is not justified?
4. After the Nurse gives Romeo Juliet's message, how does he react?
5. What plan is devised to reunite Romeo and Juliet?

Act III.iv Synopsis

Paris once again requests Juliet's hand in marriage from Capulet. Capulet agrees because he believes it will bring cheer to her and the family and take away the grief of Tybalt's death.

Act III.v Juliet's Chamber

1. As Romeo departs, what does Juliet think she sees?
2. What does Juliet's parents announce?
3. What is Juliet's reaction? Record one line of her dialogue that demonstrates her feeling:
4. How do her parents react to her refusal?
Lady Capulet:

Lord Capulet:
5. What does the Nurse suggest Juliet do? What does this make you think of the Nurse?
6. What does Juliet actually intend to do?

General Questions Over Act III

1. Explain how this Act meets the plot structure of a classic Tragedy.

- The main characters in a Tragedy are usually afflicted with a “Tragic Flaw,” some character trait that ultimately lead them to trouble. What is Romeo’s tragic flaw? What is Juliet’s? Compare the two.

Character	This personality trait	leads to this problem.
Romeo		
Juliet		
What about you? What part of you gets you into trouble?		

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Act IV.i Friar Laurence’s Cell

- Why does Paris visit Friar Laurence?
- Point out double or hidden meanings in Juliet’s remarks to Paris.

3. If the Friar cannot help Juliet, what does she intend to do?
4. What is Friar Laurence's plan for Juliet?
5. How does Juliet react?
6. How will Romeo know the truth?

Act IV.ii Juliet and her father

Read the synopsis in your packet for this scene and summarize the main action.

Act IV.iii

1. What request does Juliet make of the nurse?
2. List all of the questions and concerns Juliet has before she drinks the potion:
3. Why does she go ahead and take the potion?
4. What are your feelings toward Juliet in this scene?

Act IV.iv Read the synopsis and write a summary for the action of this scene.

Act IV.v Finding Juliet

1. What is Juliet's condition when the nurse attempts to awaken her?
2. How do you think the audience is supposed to feel toward Lady and Lord Capulet as they lament the death of their daughter, considering their last words to her?
3. Why hadn't Juliet taken the nurse into her confidence concerning the Friar's plan?

General Questions Over Act IV

1. How does Juliet show strength and courage?
2. What do you think of Friar Laurence's plan? What could go wrong?
3. What is an alternative to Juliet's suicide or potion options?

Act V.i Back to Romeo, in Mantua

Read the synopsis and give a summary of this scene.

What does Romeo plan to do upon reaching Juliet's crypt?

Act V.ii Friar Laurence's Cell

1. What happened to Friar John on his mission?
2. Whose safety is Friar Laurence worried about? Why?
3. What does he order Friar John to do?

Act V.iii

1. Why has Paris come to the Capulet's tomb?
2. What does Paris order his page to do once he sees Romeo?
3. Why does Paris feel justified in his determination to slay Romeo?
4. How does Romeo try to persuade Paris to leave?
5. What happens to Paris? What does this reveal about Romeo's state of mind?
6. Describe Romeo as he takes the potion.
7. What does the Friar urge Juliet to do after she awakens?
8. Why does the Friar leave? Is this the right thing for him to do? Why or why not?
9. How does Juliet first try to take her life?
10. How does she finally kill herself?

11. Who does the watch arrest?
12. Where is Lady Montague?
13. In your opinion, should the Friar be cleared of any responsibility?
14. Who is the final speaker and what is his message?

General Questions Over Act V

1. Analyze the classical plot structure of the fifth act in a Tragedy. How does Romeo and Juliet meet the criteria?
2. What is the real tragedy of the story?
3. Why is this one of the most enduring dramas of the past four centuries? What is its appeal?