

Romeo and Juliet Act 1

Prologue

1. Define a Shakespearean sonnet.
2. List at least five things we learn from the prologue.

Scene 1

1. How does Sampson insult Abram and Balthasar?
2. What does Benvolio try to do, and how does Tybalt misunderstand?
3. Why is the prince especially angry at the fighting and what does he threaten the two families with? (quote the lines)
4. Describe Tybalt's character.
5. Why is Montague concerned about his son, Romeo? Where and at what time does Romeo walk? What is Romeo's problem?
6. What advice does Benvolio give Romeo? Quote Benvolio's vow.
7. Why does Shakespeare begin the play with a street quarrel between the two houses? Is there any significance in the fact that the servants take part in this street brawl?
8. What evidence do you find in Romeo's own speeches that he is not really in love with Rosaline? (i.e. no genuine emotion)

Scene Two

1. What is Paris' purpose in visiting Capulet?
2. Explain Capulet's reply to Paris' request.
3. What is amusing about the servant being asked to find those invited to the feast? What else is accomplished by this device?
4. What interest does Romeo have in the Capulet's party?

Scene Three

1. Give an example of a metaphor from Lady Capulet's lines.
2. Read lines 81 - 94 carefully. Explain the book analogy.
3. Quote the lines that show that Juliet is a rather submissive and dutiful daughter and explain what they mean.

Scene Four

1. Describe Mercutio's character. What is his opinion of love and dreams?
2. What premonition does Romeo have? What is foreshadowed in this scene?

Scene Five

1. Quote the lines that show that Romeo definitely does not love Rosaline anymore.
2. How does Tybalt identify Romeo? How does Tybalt react to Romeo's attendance at the party?
3. What is Capulet's reaction to Tybalt's anger, and to Romeo's presence?
4. What is the metaphor used in the two sonnets spoken by Romeo and Juliet?
5. What does Juliet mean when she says, "If he be married/ My grave is like to be my wedding bed"? Why is this ironic? What mood does it create?