

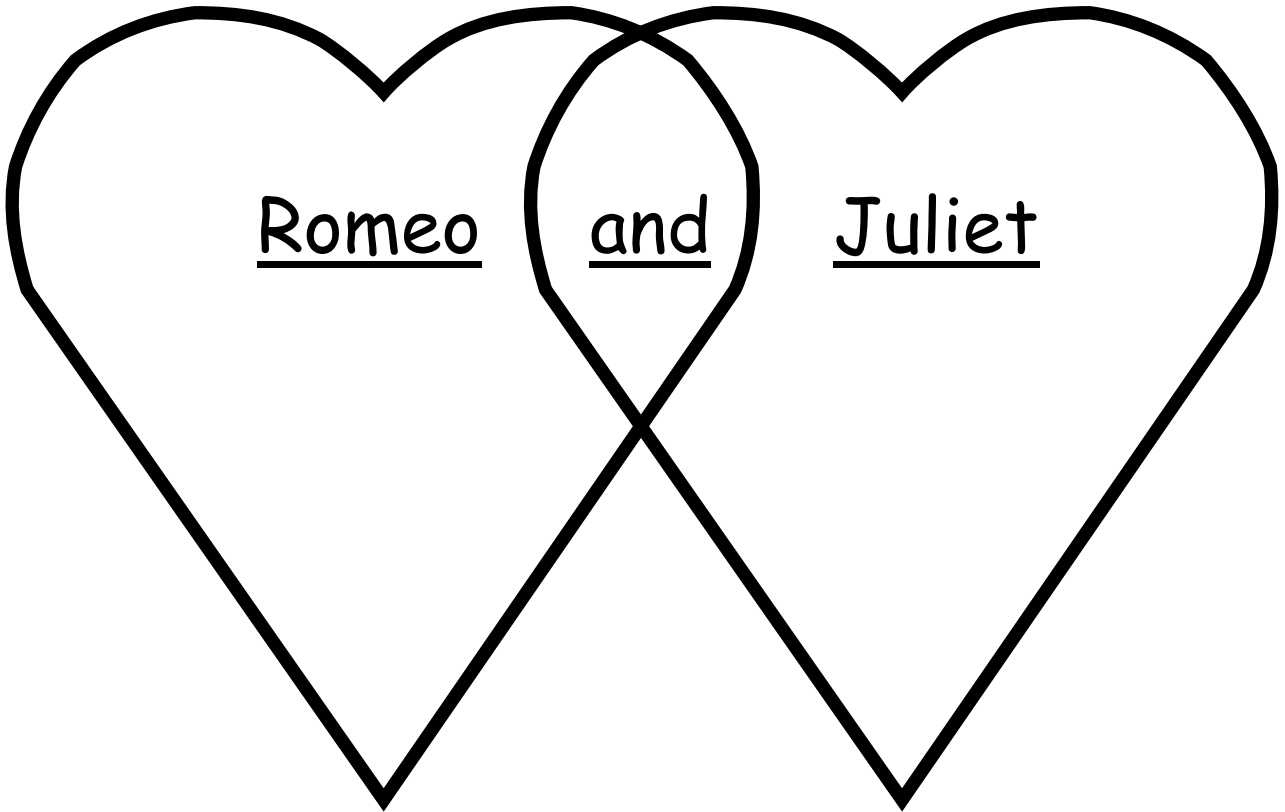
Name:

Date:

Ms. Lopez

Period:

Study Guide
William Shakespeare's



"Two households, both alike in dignity,
 (In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
 Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
 A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
 Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-marked love,
 And the continuance of their parents' rage,
Which, but their children's end, naught could remove,
 Is now the two hours' traffic of our stage;
The which if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend."

-The Prologue

Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet Study Guide

ACT I

Scene i

"Here's much to do with hate, but more with love." (1.1.180)

1. What is meant by the term "star-crossed" lovers? (Prologue line 6)
2. How is Benvolio different from Tybalt when it comes to fighting?
3. According to Prince Escalus, what will be the penalty if the Montagues or Capulets fight in the streets again?
4. What does this first scene reveal about Romeo's behavior? Why is he melancholy?
5. An oxymoron is an effect that is caused by combining two contradictory ideas, such as "pretty ugly." Romeo, the unhappy lover, talks in oxymorons. Find two examples. What is he talking about? Why are contradictions appropriate?

Scene ii

"I'll go along ..." (1.2.107)

1. What does Count Paris ask of Capulet? What is Capulet's response?

2. How old is Juliet?

3. Is Capulet a good father? Look at how he feels about Juliet.

4. How do Romeo & Benvolio find out about Capulet's party? Why does Benvolio want Romeo to go to the Capulet's party? Why does Romeo decide to go?

Scene iii

"I'll look to like, if looking liking move" (1.3.103)

1. Why does Lady Capulet wish for Juliet to marry Paris? Find **two** reasons.

2. With what does the Nurse compare Paris (a metaphor)? Quote it. Is he handsome?

3. What is your first impression of Juliet? Is she an obedient daughter or a rebel? Use specifics to support your answer.
4. What is meant by Juliet saying, "I'll look to like, if looking liking move?" (line 103)

Scene iv

**"Some consequence yet hanging in the stars
Shall bitterly begin his fearful date with this night's revels ..."** (1.4.114-6)

1. How does Mercutio feel about Romeo's pining away for love?
2. As a form of entertainment, the men speak with *puns*; that is, they play with the meanings of words. Mercutio is quick witted and is a master of puns. Find two puns used in this scene, and record their speakers and meanings.
3. What does Mercutio's long speech about Queen Mab reveal about his character? Why does he tell this story?

4. This scene ends with foreshadowing (a clue to what will happen next). What does Romeo fear at the end of this scene? (for my mind misgives / Some consequence ... lines 113-4)

Scene v

"My only love sprung from my only hate!" (1.5.152)

1. Tybalt believes Romeo has come to the Capulet party to "scorn at our solemnity." (line 71) What does Tybalt want to do? How is this ironic?
2. Both Romeo and Juliet were reluctant to attend the ball. How is this ironic?
3. When Tybalt asks for his rapier, Lord Capulet stops him. Why?
4. When Romeo sees Juliet, with what does he first compare her? (metaphors and similes abound)
5. Why does Romeo say, "My life is my foe's debt" when he discovers Juliet is a Capulet?

6. Why does Juliet say, "my grave is like to be my wedding bed?" (line 149) How is this *ironic foreshadowing*?

ACT II

Scene i

"He jests at scars that never felt a wound" (2.2.1)

1. Why does Romeo stick around instead of going home with Mercutio and Benvolio?
2. Do Mercutio and Benvolio know about Juliet? Prove it.

Scene ii

"Yet I should kill thee with much cherishing." (2.2.198)

1. What images does Romeo compare Juliet to? (*metaphors* and *similes* abound)
2. How does Romeo find out that Juliet has fallen deeply in love with him?

3. What does Juliet mean by saying, "That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet?" (lines 46-47)

4. Why does Juliet ask Romeo not to swear by the moon? (lines 114+)

5. Juliet hesitates and says, "It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden; / Too like the lightning which doth cease to be / Ere one can say it lightens?" (lines 125-7) She refers to their love as "This bud of love ..." (line 128). What does she mean by this simile and metaphor?

6. What do Romeo and Juliet plan for tomorrow evening?

7. What oxymoron does Juliet speak to Romeo as he is leaving? (line 199-201) How is it an oxymoronic situation?

Scene iii

"Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast." (2.3.101)

1. To what does Friar Laurence compare mankind in his soliloquy?

2. According to the Friar, who are the "two opposèd kings [that] encamp" man? (line 28)

3. What doubts does Friar Laurence have about Romeo's proposal?

4. Why does Friar Laurence agree to Romeo's plan? (So this alliance may so happy prove / To turn your household's rancor to pure love." lines 98-9)

Scene iv

"Alas, poor Romeo, ... his heart cleft with the blind bow-boy's butt shaft ..."
(2.4.14-17)

1. What has Tybalt sent to the Montague household? What skill does Tybalt possess?

2. How does Mercutio treat Benvolio, Romeo, and the Nurse in this scene?

3. What are the plans that Romeo and the Nurse make for that afternoon?

Scene v

"Then ... [hurry] to Friar Laurence' cell;/ There stays a husband
to make you a wife." (2.5.73-74)

1. Why is Juliet so impatient concerning the Nurse's whereabouts? Why is it taking such a long time for the Nurse to reveal her news?
2. Describe the Nurse, including her looks and personality.

Scene vi

"These violent delights ... / ... like fire and powder,
Which, as they kiss, consume" (2.6.9-11)

1. Explain the *irony* of Romeo's line: "Do thou but close our hands with holy words / Then love-devouring death do what he dare—" (lines 7-8).
2. Why does Friar Laurence say, "Therefore, love moderately, long love doth so, / Too swift arrives as tardy as too slow." (lines 14-15) Do you agree?

ACT III

Scene i

"O, I am fortune's fool!" (3.1.142)

1. Who begins the fight in this scene?
2. Mercutio says, "Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man" (lines 101-102). Explain the *pun* and discuss what this reveals about Mercutio's character.
3. Who is killed by whom in this scene?
4. Why wouldn't Romeo fight Tybalt? Why did Romeo finally fight Tybalt?
5. Why does Romeo cry out, "O, I am fortune's fool" (line 142)? What is meant or implied about the role of fate or free will in this statement?
6. What punishment does Prince Escalus give to Romeo?

Scene iv

"Things have fallen out, sir, so unluckily" (3.4.1)

"O' Thursday be it, then." (3.4.33)

1. Why does Capulet change his mind about Juliet marrying at this time?

2. What do the Capulets think is bothering Juliet? What is the dramatic irony of this situation?

3. Why will the wedding be a small one, and on Thursday instead of Wednesday?

Scene v

"More light and light—more dark and dark our woes." (3.5.36)

1. Why are Romeo and Juliet debating the type of bird they heard sing?

2. What does Juliet mean when she says, "For in a minute there are many days" (line 45)?

3. As Romeo leaves, Juliet tells him, "Methinks I see thee, now thou art so low, / As one dead in the bottom of a tomb" (lines 55-6). How is this statement foreshadowing?

4. What does Lady Capulet wish to do to the banished Romeo?

5. How is Lady Capulet and Juliet's discussion *ironic*?

6. What is *ironic* about Lady Capulet saying about Juliet, "I would [wish] the fool were married to her grave!" (line 145)?

7. How does Capulet react to Juliet's refusal to marry Paris?

8. What advice does the Nurse give Juliet regarding Romeo and Paris?

ACT IV

Scene i

"For Venus smiles not in a house of tears." (4.1.8)

1. What is Paris' explanation about his hasty marriage to Juliet?

2. Give at least one example of verbal irony when Juliet is talking to Paris. (Quote it)
3. What does the Friar plan for Juliet do she doesn't have to marry Paris?

Scenes ii and iii

"I'll have this knot knit up tomorrow morning." (4.2.25)

"Romeo, Romeo, Romeo! ... I drink to thee." (4.3.59-60)

1. How does Juliet behave towards her parents now?
2. What does Capulet happily and impulsively do?
3. What doubts does Juliet have about taking the potion?

Scenes iv and v

"Death lies on her like an untimely frost
Upon the sweetest flower of all the field." (4.5.33-4)

1. Why may the hustle and bustle of the wedding be described as ironic?

2. How do Lord and Lady Capulet mourn Juliet's death? How does the Nurse mourn?
3. How does Lord Capulet use personification in regards to death (lines 44-45)?
4. Why didn't Juliet confide in the Nurse about her supposed "death?"
5. What does Friar Laurence tell the mourning family about Juliet's death?

ACT V

Scene i

"Well, Juliet, I will lay with thee tonight." (5.1.37)

1. What did Romeo dream about?
2. What does Balthasar tell Romeo?
3. What does Romeo mean when he says, "I defy you, stars!" (line 24)

4. How does Romeo convince the apothecary to sell him the illegal drug?

Scene ii

"Poor living cor[p]se, enclosed in a dead man's tomb!" (5.2.30)

1. What happened to Friar John on the way to Mantua?
2. What does Friar Laurence then plan to do and how does it renew our hopes?

Scene iii

"Thus with a kiss I die" (5.3.120)

1. Why is Paris at Juliet's tomb?
2. What does Paris think killed Juliet?
3. Why does Paris wish to kill Romeo?
4. What happens to Paris? What does Romeo realize about him?

5. How did Paris feel about Juliet? How do we know?

6. When Romeo says, "I set up my everlasting rest / And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars / From this world-wearied flesh" (lines 110-112), he is saying he will die and leave fate and all its difficulties behind. Earlier in the play, Romeo spoke of himself as "fortune's fool." How is Paris another victim of fate (lines 81-2)?

7. Why does Friar Laurence leave the tomb?

8. How does Juliet first attempt to kill herself? How does she succeed?

9. What happened to Lady Montague, Romeo's mother?

10. What will Montague and Capulet do to remember Romeo and Juliet?



"For never was a story of more woe
Than this of Juliet and her Romeo."
(5.3.320-321)

