***Romeo and Juliet Scene-by-Scene Questions***

1. In which northern Italian city is the play set?

2. What is the purpose of the prologue?

3. Describe how the mood is conveyed through specific phrases and words.

4. The prologue is written in the form of a sonnet.

a. Briefly discuss the structure of the sonnet and explain what type of sonnet this is.

b. Suggest why the use of this poetic form is appropriate for Romeo and Juliet.

Act 1: Scene 1:

1. Romeo and Juliet is essentially a love story. Why do you think Shakespeare begins it with a violent street fight?

2. For which family do Gregory and Sampson work?

3. A pun is a play on words. It is a form of joking, using words which sound the same but have different meanings.

a. Write down the words in the first four lines which create the pun. ‘coal’; collier’; ‘choler’ and ‘collar’

b. What does Sampson mean when he says ‘we’ll not carry coals’ in line 1? He says that they will not be treated like lowly servants.

c. What does the word ‘choler’ mean? ‘Choler’ means ‘anger’.

4. There are a number of bawdy jokes made in this scene.

a. What is the purpose of these?

b. Explain the bawdy pun which Sampson makes when he says ‘Ay, the heads of maids, or their maidenheads – take it in what sense thou wilt.

c. Gregory continues with ‘Draw thy tool, here comes of the house of Montagues’. Explain this pun.

5. Benvolio’s name means ‘well-wishing’. How does our first encounter with him help to establish him as a ‘well-wishing’ character?

6. What impression do you have of Tybalt and his attitude to this feud? Refer to the text to substantiate your answer.

7. Prince Escalus scolds Capulet and Montague. What punishment will they suffer if their followers fight in the street again?

8. Romeo is introduced as a typical romantic lover. Describe his behavior, with specific reference to the text and what he says to illustrate this point.

9. What advice does Benvolio give to his lovesick cousin?

Scene 2:

1. Count Paris asks Lord Capulet if he may marry Juliet.

a. Who is Count Paris?

b. How old is Juliet?

c. What condition does Lord Capulet make on Juliet’s behalf concerning the proposal?

2. Why does Romeo decide to gatecrash the Capulets’ feast?

3. How are Benvolio’s words ‘And she shall scant show well that now seems best’ prophetic?

Scene 3:

1. What do we learn of the Nurse’s character in this scene?

2. Lady Capulet, the Nurse and Juliet reveal different attitudes to love and marriage. Write a detailed description of each’s view of love and marriage, making close reference to the text.

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Scene 4:

1. Romeo is still depressed and lovesick. Quote one of his lines which shows his state of mind.

2. Write a paragraph in which you give your impression of Mercutio.

3. What hint is given in this scene that something tragic will happen?

Scene 5:

1. Romeo sees Juliet for the first time. How are his words ‘Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!’ both ironic and ominous?

2. Discuss the metaphor Romeo uses in ‘so shows a snowy dove trooping with crows when he describes Juliet.

3. How does Tybalt react when he recognizes Romeo and what is Lord Capulet’s reaction?

4. Romeo approaches Juliet and their first words form a perfect sonnet.

a. Why is the poetic structure so appropriate here?

b. The language and the images they use are associated with holiness. Quote three examples which illustrate this statement and explain what the ‘holy’ images reflect. ‘holy’; ‘shrine’; ‘pilgrims’; ‘devotion’; ‘palmers’; ‘prayer’; ‘saints’.

5. ‘My only love, sprung from my only hate!/ Too early seen unknown, and known too late!’

a. What does Juliet mean in these lines?

b. In what tone would she say them and why?

**Act 2:**

**Prologue:**

1. ‘And she steals love’s sweet bait from fearful hooks.’ Discuss the effectiveness of this metaphor.

**Scene 1:**

1. What do Benvolio and Mercutio not know about Romeo in this scene?

**Scene 2:**

1. Light and darkness are often used in this play contrasting symbols.

b. Quote two examples of images which refer to light in lines 1 to 22.

2. What does Juliet’s famous line ‘O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?’ mean?

She is asking why his name has to be Romeo.

3. Why does Juliet say that Romeo must not swear by the moon? 4. Juliet is more practical than Romeo in this scene. Give evidence to support this statement.

5. What arrangements do the two lovers make at the end of the meeting?

**Scene 3:**

1. How do we know that Romeo and Friar Lawrence have a close relationship?

2. How does Friar Lawrence react when Romeo asks him to marry him and Juliet that very day?

3. In one respect I’ll thy assistant be/ For this alliance may so happy prove/ To turn your households’ rancour to pure love.

**Scene 4:**

1. Mercutio and Benvolio are concerned because Tybalt has challenged Romeo to a duel. Mercutio then makes a joke and says that Romeo is already dead. How has Romeo ‘died’ according to him?

2. When Romeo enters, how does he show that his depressed mood has changed?

3. What is the message which the Nurse must give to Juliet?

**Scene 5:**

1. How do we know that Juliet is impatient and agitated at the beginning of the scene?

2. In what ways does the Nurse tantalise and tease Juliet?

**Scene 6:**

1. What warning does Friar Lawrence give Romeo concerning strong emotions?

**Act 3:**

**Scene 1:**

1. At the beginning of the scene, Mercutio accuses Benvolio of being quarrelsome and hot-tempered. Discuss the irony of this.

2. When Romeo arrives on the scene, how Tybalt insult him?

3. How does Romeo react to the insult? Explain and account for his reaction carefully.

4. Quote a line which shows that Mercutio is shocked and disgusted by Romeo’s response to Tybalt’s insults.

5. How is Mercutio fatally wounded?

6. Mercutio continues to use puns even as he is dying. Explain his pun in ‘Ask for me tomorrow and you will find me a grave man.’

7. After killing Tybalt, Romeo says ‘O, I am fortune’s fool!’

a. What does he mean?

b. Do you agree with him?

8. Benvolio explains what happened during the fight. Is his description accurate? Discuss.

9. What punishment foes Prince Escalus decide upon at the end of the scene?

**Scene 2:**

1. At the beginning of the scene, Juliet wants time to move quickly. Why is she so impatient for the night to come?

2. The Nurse comes in saying ‘He’s dead, he’s dead, he’s dead…’

a. To whom is she referring?

b. What conclusion does Juliet immediately jump to?

3. Where is Romeo at this point and what arrangements do Juliet and the Nurse make?

**Scene 3:**

1. Friar Lawrence tells Romeo that he has not been condemned to death but to banishment. How does Romeo respond to this news?

2. The Nurse arrives and explains how grief-stricken Juliet is. How does Romeo react to this?

3. What is Friar Lawrence’s opinion of Romeo at this point? Do you agree with him?

4. How does Friar Lawrence console Romeo at the end of the scene?

**Scene 4:**

1. What decision does Capulet make in this scene?

2. How does his decision contradict his behaviour earlier in the play?

**Scene 5:**

1. After spending the night with Juliet, Romeo must leave quickly. As he climbs down the ladder, Juliet says: O God, I have an ill-divining soul/ Methinks I see thee, now thou are so low/ As one dead in the bottom of a tomb.

a. What do her words mean?

b. Why is this image of foreboding so appropriate?

2. Lady Capulet thinks that Juliet is mourning for Tybalt. What plan does she have to take on Romeo and how does Juliet react?

3. Juliet speaks to her mother and refers to Romeo, saying ‘And yet no man like he doth grieve my heart.’

a. How does her mother understand her words?

b. What does Juliet actually mean?

4. How does Juliet react when her mother tells her that Paris will marry her in three days’ time?

5. Describe Lord Capulet’s treatment of Juliet in this scene.

6. Juliet finally turns to the Nurse for help. How does the Nurse respond?

7. How do Juliet’s last words ‘If all else fail, myself have the power to die’ reflect her state of mind?

**ACT IV GUIDED READING**

Act 4, Scene 1 1.

The friar claims he is uneasy about Paris' wedding to Juliet because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Juliet threatens to do what in Act 4, Scene 1?

3. The friar suggests Juliet consent to the marriage with Paris in order to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Juliet claims she would do all of the following to be with Romeo EXCEPT what?

5. The potion Juliet plans to take will do what?

6. After Juliet takes the potion, the friar will do what?

**Act 4, Scene 2 1. In Act 4, Scnee 2**,

1.Juliet apologizes to her parents for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. In Act 4, Scene 2, Capulet hopes the friar was able to do what?

3. Juliet claims she met Paris at the friar's cell and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Capulet is so thrilled with Juliet's behavior in Act 4, Scene 2 that he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. After Act 4, Scene 2, Juliet asks the nurse to do what?

6. At the end of Act 4, Scene 2, Capulet plans to do what?

**Act 4, Scene 3**

1. In Act 4, Scene 3, Juliet asks the nurse to leave her alone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. What does Juliet say to her mother and the nurse instead of "goodnight"?

3. At the end of her speech in Act 4, Scene 3, Juliet drinks to who/what?

5. In Act 4, Scene 3, Juliet has a fleeting suspicion that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Before she falls unconscious, Juliet thinks she sees \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Act 4, Scene 4**

1. At the beginning of Act 4, Scene 4, Lady Capulet and the nurse are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The nurse tells Capulet to go to bed so that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Capulet calls the servant "loggerhead," which means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Capulet is in a rush in Act 4, Scene 4 because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. What name does Capulet call the nurse in Act 4, Scene 4?

6. Finally, at the end of Act 4, Scene 4, Capulet tells the nurse to do what?

**Act 4, Scene 5**

1. Who discovers that Juliet appears to be dead?

2. In Act 4, Scene 5, Capulet compares Juliet to what?

3. Why is Juliet ready to go to church, but "never to return"?

4. In Act 4, Scene 5, the friar claims that Juliet is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Friar Laurence advises the Capulets to do what in Act 4, Scene 5?

6. Why do the musicians refuse to play at the end of Act 4, Scene 5?