

Act II – Prologue.

1. The chorus comments on the action of the play. In your own words, discuss the meaning of the first four lines.

2. What problem is alluded to concerning the lovers?

3. What is the suggested answer to their problem?

4. What is the rhyme scheme of the prologue for Act II? What type of poem is the prologue?

5. Identify the half rhyme within the prologue.

Act II, Scene I – *A lane by the wall of Capulet's orchard.*

Vocabulary

purblind – physically blind

Venus – Roman goddess of love and beauty

demesnes – domain, territory

invocation – the act of calling a superior for help

1. Romeo slips away from his friends; the practical, vulgar Mercutio makes some indecent comments about Rosaline. What misapprehension are Mercutio and Benvolio under? What truth does the audience know?

Act II, Scene II – *Capulet's orchard.*

Vocabulary

vestal – celibate, virtuous

livery – appearance

enmity – hatred

perjuries – falsehoods

Jove – chief Roman god, Jupiter

perverse – passionless, indifferent, unsympathetic

ware – conscious of, aware

idolatry – worship

falconer – a hawk trainer

gyves – chains, shackles

1. As the scene opens, Romeo enters and says:

“He jests at scars that never felt a wound.”

What is Romeo referring to? What does this statement suggest?

2. Romeo's first speech is among the most famous of Shakespeare's soliloquies. What is the main idea in Romeo's speech? Put the last seven lines of this speech into your own words.

3. Does Juliet know that Romeo is beneath her window?

4. One of the most famous lines is when Juliet explains:
"O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" What do these lines mean?

5. Juliet makes a secret vow to Romeo; what is this vow? What is the significance of this quote in relation to a major theme of the play?

6. Romeo, after listening to Juliet profess her love, decides to make his presence known. How does Romeo identify himself? Find the quote, then put the passage into modern words.

7. As Juliet knows, Romeo is risking death by being there. When she mentions this fact to Romeo, what is his response?

8. Romeo, still trying to convince Juliet of his safety, says: "I have night's cloak to hide me from their eyes..." What may "night" symbolize?

9. Juliet is embarrassed that Romeo has overheard how she feels about him, but she decides to ignore convention. Although deeply in love herself, how does she show herself to be shrewd and knowledgeable about men? What concern does Juliet reveal in her private thoughts?
10. When Romeo swears by the moon, what does Juliet tell him?
11. What does Juliet mean when she tells Romeo, "...swear by the gracious self,/Which is the god of my idolatry,..."
12. Juliet professes how she idolizes Romeo. What previous scene does this remind you of?
13. What second thoughts does Juliet have? Quote the passage that reveals these thoughts.
14. After an exchange of vows, the Nurse calls and Juliet must leave. What is Romeo's feeling as he stands there?
15. Juliet reappears. What does she tell Romeo?

16. When Juliet reappears, for the second time, she claims:

“Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud;
Else would I tear the cave where Echo lies,
And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine,
With repetition of my Romeo’s name.”

Why is Juliet’s allusion to Echo significant?

17. It is apparent that neither Romeo nor Juliet wants the night to end. What is Juliet’s famous parting line?

18. What decision does Romeo make?

Act II, Scene III – *Friar Laurence's cell.*

Vocabulary

chequering – speckling, spotting

osier – tree of the willow family

shrift – confession

brine – tears

chid'st – scolds, reprimands

doting – excessively loving

1. At the beginning of the scene, Friar Laurence, makes a very profound speech. Choose one full sentence in his speech to interpret. Can any of what the Friar says be applied to the world now?
2. The Friar assumes that Romeo is out so early because he has been up all night with Rosaline. When the Friar is informed that it is not Rosaline, but a Capulet, Romeo wishes to marry, what is the Friar's reaction?
3. How is the Friar making fun of Romeo?
4. Why does the Friar agree to help Romeo and Juliet get married?

Act II, Scene IV – A street.

Vocabulary

cleft – split

fantasticoes – gallants, cavaliers, suitors

roe – fish eggs

fishified – changed to a fish

dowdy – trollop, harlot, prostitute

hams – knees

ell – a measurement of forty-five inches

mar – hurt

troth – loyalty, devotion

bawd – whore, prostitute

lenten – pie made during Lent

vexed – disturbed, troubled

shrived – forgiven, pardoned

convoy – carriage, transportation

prating – gossiping, babbling

lieve – rather, “just as soon”

apace – swiftly, rapidly

1. Once again, Mercutio yammers on and on at the beginning of this scene. Both Mercutio and Benvolio believe that Romeo is still pining over Rosaline. Once Romeo enters, Mercutio, in one passage, makes several allusions. List the allusions then, do a little research to explain what the allusions mean and how they fit in the context of this scene.
2. “Without his roe, like a dried herring: O flesh, flesh, how are thou fishified!” What is the pun Mercutio is making here? What type of pun is this?
3. As Romeo enters, Mercutio and Benvolio are discussing Romeo’s longing for Rosaline and Tybalt’s challenge to Romeo. What change in Romeo’s behavior does Mercutio comment on?

4. The Nurse and Peter arrive looking for Romeo. How does Romeo respond?
5. What do you think the Nurse's malapropism, using "confidence" instead of "conference", suggests about her character, or about the situation?
6. After Benvolio and Mercutio leave, the Nurse asks, "...what saucy merchant was this, that was so full of his ropery?" What is Romeo's answer?
7. The Nurse, expresses certain doubts about Romeo. What are these doubts and how does Romeo respond?
8. What is the message that Romeo gives to the Nurse for Juliet?
9. Romeo tells the Nurse that his "man" will deliver something beyond the abbey-wall. What is Romeo's "man" bringing?

Act II, Scene V – Capulet's orchard.

Vocabulary

lame – incapacitated, physically handicapped

heralds – couriers, messengers

feign – fabricate, act

fi – a curse

beshrew – a mild curse

hie – leave

wanton – magnificent, extravagant

1. Juliet waits anxiously for the Nurse to return. How is Juliet able to justify her Nurse's tardiness?
2. How does the Nurse tease Juliet?
3. Finally, what does the Nurse tell Juliet?
4. The Nurse is off to fetch the rope ladder. What is this rope ladder going to be used for?

Act II, Scene VI – *Friar Laurence's cell.*

Vocabulary

flint – stone with which to make fire

wanton – playful, spirited, exuberant

blazon – compliment, glorify

1. When speaking with Friar Laurence, while waiting for Juliet, Romeo says: "Do thou close our hands with holy words,/Then love-devouring death do what he dare,/It is enough I may but call her mine." After interpreting Romeo's words, what do you think this passage suggests?
2. In expressing his reservations about the marriage, find a quote from Friar Laurence, that could foreshadow future events.
3. What follows after Romeo, Juliet, and Friar Laurence exit from the stage?