

# Romeo and juliet

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Act I 1. Why do Sampson and Gregory fight with Montague's men? Sampson and Gregory are servants of the Capulet family, which has been feuding with the Montague family for quite some time. The feud has reached proportions involving all members and servants of both households.

2. Benvolio and Tybalt come upon the servants fighting. Contrast their reactions to the fight. Benvolio tries to break up the fight, but Tybalt wants to join in and kill all the Montagues.

3. When Montague and Capulet enter and see the disturbance, they want to fight, too. What do their wives say? Lady Capulet tells Capulet he'd better have a crutch instead of a sword, and Lady Montague tells her husband that he " shalt not stir one foot to seek a foe." The wives have had enough of the feud and wish their husbands, now old men, would stop fighting.

4. What ended the opening skirmish? The Prince threatened death to Capulet and Montague for disturbing the peace.

5. Why is Romeo so sad? He is love-sick, hopelessly in love with a girl who " hath sworn that she will still live chaste."

6. In Act I Scene ii, Paris asks Capulet for Juliet's hand in marriage. What is Capulet's reply? He says Juliet is too young (not yet fourteen), and Paris should wait two more years.

7. Why is Capulet giving a feast? He wants to bring out suitable bachelors for Juliet to meet so she may begin to choose a husband. Should Paris seem suitable to her after she has seen other men, Capulet would consent to the marriage.

8. How does Romeo find out about the feast, and why does he decide to go even though (being a Montague) he is not invited? Capulet's servant, unaware of Romeo's identity and unable to read, asks for help reading the invitation list Capulet has given him. Romeo wants to go because Rosaline will be there.

9. Describe Juliet's relationship with her family in Act I. She is a respectful young lady who obviously tries to please her parents if possible. They have a good family relationship.

10. At the end of Act I Scene iv, what does Romeo tell Benvolio, foreshadowing future action in the play? " For my mind misgives/ Some consequence, yet hanging in the stars,/ Shall bitterly begin his fearful date/ With this night's revels, and expire the term/ Of a despised life closed in my breast/ By some vile forfeit of untimely death. . . ." (I. v, 106-111)

11. What does Romeo mean when he says, " Oh, dear account! My life is my foe's debt"? He has learned that Juliet is a Capulet. His love for Juliet has brought him out of his depression, and for that he owes his enemy, a Capulet.

Act II 1. In Act II Scene ii, Romeo and Juliet profess their love for one another. Juliet is to contact Romeo (through a servant) the next day. Why? She will get information about where and when they will be married.

2. Why does Friar Laurence agree to marry Romeo and Juliet? He hopes that it will help to end the feud between the families.

3. What message does Nurse take to Juliet? She tells her to go to Friar Laurence's cell that afternoon to be married to Romeo.

4. What warning does Friar Laurence give Romeo, foreshadowing future events of the play? " These violent delights have violent ends,/ And in their triumph die, like fire and powder/ Which as they kiss consume." He foreshadows the death of Romeo and Juliet.

Act III 1. In Act III, Mercutio and Benvolio get into a conflict with Tybalt. What does Romeo do when he comes upon them? Why? He tries to defuse the situation and to get Tybalt to put his sword away. Tybalt is now his cousin by marriage, and Romeo does not wish to fight with him.

2. How do Mercutio and Tybalt die? Mercutio is slain by Tybalt (under Romeo's arm), and Tybalt is slain by Romeo (avenging his friend's death).

3. What punishment did the Prince give Romeo for fighting? The penalty was supposed to be death, but the Prince was lenient and exiled Romeo instead.

4. Why did Romeo's killing Tybalt put Juliet in a bad position? What did she finally decide? She loved them both and is thrown into confusion as to whether to weep for Tybalt's death or Romeo's banishment. She decides to weep for Romeo.

5. Lady Capulet goes to tell Juliet about the plans for the marriage between Juliet and Paris. What is Juliet's reaction? She says she will not marry now but when she marries, Romeo will be her husband.

6. What is Capulet's reaction when Juliet refuses to marry Paris? He raves about her ungratefulness and tells her if she doesn't marry Paris, he will have nothing more to do with her.

7. What advice does Nurse give to Juliet? Nurse tells Juliet to marry Paris and try to forget Romeo, since he is probably permanently out of her life anyway.

Acts IV & V 1. Why does Juliet go to Friar Laurence's cell? She says she is going to make her confession, but actually she wants to get his advice.

2. What plans do Friar Laurence and Juliet make? They decide that Juliet should go home and agree to marry Paris, but that on the eve of her wedding she should drink a potion the Friar would make for her, a potion which will make her appear to be dead. After the potion wears off, she should go to Mantua to be with Romeo. The Friar will send word to Romeo of these plans.

3. What news does Balthasar bring Romeo? How does Romeo react? Balthasar tells Romeo of Juliet's death. Romeo rushes out to the apothecary to get poison. He goes to where Juliet has been placed so he can be with her when he drinks the poison.

4. What went wrong with the Friar's plan? His letters never got to Romeo; Romeo never found out that Juliet wasn't really dead.

5. What are the circumstances of Paris' death? Paris finds Romeo at the Capulet tomb and accuses him of killing Juliet with grief. Paris wants to fight; Romeo does not. Paris presses Romeo into fighting, and Romeo kills him.

6. After she wakes up from being drugged, why does Juliet kill herself with Romeo's dagger? She sees Romeo dead (from the poison) beside her, and decides to kill herself, too. Since there is no poison left, she uses his dagger.