

Act Four

Comprehension Check

Directions: To give you a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of the play, answer the following questions using complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to use your Scene Guide to help you.

Scene One

1. Why does Friar Lawrence seem so uneasy about Paris's request? How is this dramatic irony?
2. How does Paris explain the haste?
3. How does Juliet insult Paris without him knowing? What does this reveal about Juliet?
4. When are Paris and Juliet to meet again? For what purpose?
5. What does Juliet threaten to do if Friar Lawrence cannot help her?
6. Why does Friar Lawrence believe Juliet will go for his plan?
7. Describe what will happen to Juliet if she drinks the potion. How long will she stay asleep?
8. Detail Friar Lawrence's plan.

Scene Two

1. What does Juliet tell her father she has been doing?
2. How do the plans change in Scene 2?

Scene Three

1. What is Juliet's "backup plan" if the potion does not work?
2. What thoughts go through Juliet's head about Friar Lawrence giving her the potion?
3. Explain the thoughts that go through Juliet's mind before she takes the potion.

Scene Four

1. What is happening in this scene?

Scene Five

1. Who discovers Juliet's body?
2. Explain the dual level of irony in Friar Lawrence's line "Come, is the bride ready to go to church?"
3. What does Friar Lawrence encourage Capulet to do with Juliet?
4. The end of Scene 5 is designed to provide comic relief. Why do you think Shakespeare closed the act this way?