

Act One

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.

Prologue

1. In what poetic form is the Prologue presented?
2. What goal does the Chorus have at the end of the Prologue?

Scene One

1. What two families are feuding?
2. In what town is the story set?
3. Who tries to stop the fight in Scene 1? Who wants to keep fighting?
4. What background information does the Prince give about the feuding families?
5. What is the penalty for further fighting? Why do you think he chooses such a harsh penalty?
6. What do we learn about Romeo's behavior from the conversation between Benvolio and Romeo's parents? What does Benvolio vow to do?
7. Why is Romeo so upset?
8. When describing his feelings to Benvolio, Romeo uses oxymorons in lines 170-177 and 184-188. Why do you think he speaks this way?
9. What is Benvolio's advice to Romeo?

Scene Two

1. How old is Juliet?
2. Why has Paris come to visit Capulet? What is Capulet's response?
3. How does Romeo find out about the Capulet party?
4. Why does Benvolio suggest Romeo go to the party? Why does Romeo finally decide to go?

Scene Three

1. What is Juliet's response to her mother about the idea of marriage? What does she mean?
2. What do the Nurse and Lady Capulet want for Juliet?

Scene Four

1. What kind of mood is Romeo in before the boys go to the party? What is Mercutio's advice?
2. How do the boys plan to disguise themselves at the party?
3. Who is Queen Mab? What is she responsible for? Name three things Mercutio says she does to people when they are asleep.
4. What problem does Romeo mention immediately before the boys enter the party? What does Romeo decide to do about this? Why is this important?

Scene Five

1. How does Tybalt recognize Romeo?
2. Why won't Capulet let Tybalt remove Romeo from the party?
3. How long does it take before Romeo and Juliet kiss for the first time?
4. What do you think Juliet means by "You kiss by the book"?
5. What does Juliet say will be her fate if Romeo is married?
6. At this point in the play, what do you think is the main plot of the story? What is the sub-plot at this point?