

Romeo & Juliet Video Guide

Before and after viewing Acts I-III, fill in the answers to the following:

Act I

1. (Before) Star-crossed lovers means _____
2. To “bite your thumb” is an _____
3. A troubadour is _____

4. People in Shakespeare’s day believed that love first came through the eyes. What do we call it when people fall in love when they first meet?

5. Lord Capulet says, “My will to her consent is but a part.” He is speaking to Paris who wants to marry Juliet and what he means is _____

6. Romeo’s first soliloquy comes at the dance at the Capulet’s. He says, “O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright” as he looks at Juliet. He is saying that she is so beautiful that her light teaches other light, torches for example. What is a soliloquy?

7. (After) What does the prince say will be the sentence if the two families fight again?

8. Why is the nurse insulted when Lady Capulet asks her to leave so she and Juliet can talk in private? _____

Act II

9. (Before) In Shakespeare’s time they also believed that the god Cupid shot an arrow that wounded them, or made them fall in love. Romeo refers to being wounded several times. At the beginning of this act, Mercutio is mocking or laughing at Romeo who has been so lovesick lately over Rosaline. Mercutio does not know about Juliet though. Romeo says, though Mercutio can’t hear him, “He jests at scars that never felt a wound.” What is he

saying? _____

10. Near the end of the balcony scene, Juliet tells Romeo she should have been more “strange.” She means that she should have been less eager in her affections for him. She hopes he will not think that she is too easily won. What expression do we sometimes use when we mean the same thing? _____

11. (After) What does Juliet tell Romeo he must do if he is serious in his love for her?

12. What is Friar Lawrence doing when we first meet him? _____ This will become important later. The Friar knows about the medicinal qualities of plants.

13. What makes Friar Lawrence change his mind and suddenly agree that a marriage between Romeo and Juliet would be a good thing? _____

Act III

14. (Before) A pun is a play on words with either two words that are very similar in sound but have different meanings or with only one word that has two different meanings. Puns are usually funny and play on people’s sense of what they might expect. In this act, Mercutio uses the word “grave.” He tells his friends that if they call for him tomorrow they will find him a grave man. They think he means “serious.” What he really means is “dead.” They find humor, but because of _____ (kind of irony) we do not. We know Mercutio is mortally wounded.

15. (After) Do you think Romeo should have told Tybalt that he was his cousin before the fight began? Explain. _____

16. Mercutio says to Romeo, “I was hurt under your arm.” Why does Mercutio blame Romeo for his death? What was Romeo trying to do? _____

17. Romeo says, “Oh I am fortune’s fool.” He means that he has bad luck. Do you agree or

