

### The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet Study Guide

Answer the following questions in complete sentences on your own paper. Be sure to answer as completely as possible.

**SETTING:** Verona, Italy, during the fourteenth century

#### ACT I, Prologue

1. What important information is given about the play? The play is two hours long; the families are equals; they have feuded for years; their children fall in love and kill themselves; these deaths end the fighting of the families.
2. Why is this information given at the beginning of the play? The reasons for deaths of the young lovers is the focus of the play.

#### Scene i

3. Why do you think Shakespeare starts the play with a fight? The fighting would keep the interest of the groundlings.
4. Give the roles of the following characters in the fight: Benvolio, Tybalt, Lady Capulet, Lady Montague, Prince Escalus. Benvolio tries to stop the fighting. Tybalt wants the fighting to continue. Lady Capulet and Lady Montague both beg their husbands not to take part in the fighting. Prince Escalus demands they stop fighting.
5. What does Prince Escalus threaten to do if the families are caught fighting again? "*Their lives shall pay the forfeit of the peace.*" *Those fighting will be put to death.*
6. Who is the cause of Romeo's sadness? Why? Rosaline is the cause because she does not return *Romeo's love*.
7. What is Benvolio's advice to Romeo? Look at other women.

#### Scene ii

8. Why does Paris visit Capulet? He wants to marry Juliet.
9. What is Capulet's response to Paris? His daughter needs to wait two more years, or he can win her heart.
10. What does Capulet's servant want Romeo to do for him? What does he offer Romeo as thanks for the help? *Read the paper for him. He invites Romeo to the feast as long as Romeo isn't a Montague.*
11. Why does Benvolio think they should go to the feast? Why does Romeo decide to go? He thinks they should go so Romeo can compare Rosaline to other women at the feast and see that she is not so beautiful. Romeo agrees to go so he can see Rosaline there.

#### Scene iii

12. Why does Lady Capulet visit Juliet? She wants to tell Juliet about the proposal from Paris.
13. What is Juliet's attitude toward this? She has no interest in marriage.
14. How old is Juliet? She is not yet thirteen.
15. What do we find out about the character of the nurse? She talks a lot, she says inappropriate things, and she loves Juliet.