

ACT 2 SCENE 2

1. Juliet is on the balcony outside her bedroom but cannot hear the words that Romeo says to himself as he looks at her from the hiding place below. Answer the following questions about lines 2-25:

But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief,
That thou, her maid, art far more fair than she.

Be not her maid since she is envious.
Her vestal livery is but sick and green,
And none but fools do wear it. Cast it off!

It is my lady. Oh, it is my love.

Oh, that she knew she were!

She speaks, yet she says nothing. What of that?

Her eye discourses. I will answer it.—

I am too bold. 'Tis not to me she speaks.

Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven,
Having some business, do entreat her eyes
To twinkle in their spheres till they return.

What if her eyes were there, they in her head?

The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars

As daylight doth a lamp. Her eye in heaven
Would through the airy region stream so bright
That birds would sing and think it were not night.
See how she leans her cheek upon her hand.

Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand

That I might touch that cheek!

- a. Romeo repeats the light and dark images he introduced when he saw Juliet for the first time. Why does Romeo compare Juliet to the sun?
- b. Why does he want the sun to kill the envious moon?
- c. Why is the moon envious?
- d. Why does he compare Juliet's eyes to the stars?**
- e. Why is this comparison to stars another example of foreshadowing?**

*2. Highlight lines 33-36. Juliet is still unaware that Romeo is nearby. Paraphrase these lines.

Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
 Deny thy father and refuse thy name.
 Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
 And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

*3. Highlight lines 43-44. Paraphrase lines 38-49. What is Juliet's attitude toward the feud that has separated the two families?

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.
 Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.
 What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot,
 Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
 Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
 What's in a name? That which we call a rose
 By any other word would smell as sweet.
 So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,
 Retain that dear perfection which he owes
 Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,
 And for that name, which is no part of thee

Take all myself.

4. After Juliet asks some pertinent questions (lines 58-84), she realizes that Romeo has overheard her intimate thoughts about him. How does her attitude change in lines 85-105? What is she worried about?

5. **Why does Juliet object to Romeo's swearing on the moon (lines 109-111)?**

O, swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon,
That monthly changes in her circle orb,
Lest that thy love prove likewise variable.

6. **Juliet speaks of her fears in lines 116-119. Explain.**

Well, do not swear. Although I joy in thee,
I have no joy of this contract tonight.
It is too rash, too unadvised, too sudden,
Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be
Ere one can say "It lightens." Sweet, good night.
This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.
Good night, good night! As sweet repose and rest
Come to thy heart as that within my breast.

ACT 2 SCENE 3

1. **Friar Laurence is introduced in a lengthy soliloquy in which he philosophies about nature and about mankind. Paraphrase his speech (lines 7-30).**

The gray-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night,
Checkering the eastern clouds with streaks of light,
And fleckled darkness like a drunkard reels

From forth day's path and Titan's fiery wheels.
Now, ere the sun advance his burning eye,
The day to cheer and night's dank dew to dry,
I must upfill this osier cage of ours
With baleful weeds and precious-juicèd flowers.
The earth, that's nature's mother, is her tomb.
What is her burying, grave that is her womb.
And from her womb children of divers kind
We sucking on her natural bosom find,
Many for many virtues excellent,
None but for some and yet all different.
Oh, mickle is the powerful grace that lies
In herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities.
For naught so vile that on the earth doth live
But to the earth some special good doth give.
Nor aught so good but, strained from that fair use
Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse.
Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,
And vice sometime by action dignified.

2. What does Romeo tell Friar Laurence, and what does he want from the Friar (lines 43-64)?

3. What is Friar Laurence's reaction to hearing of Romeo's new love (lines 65-80)?

*4. Highlight lines 89-92. What reason does Friar Laurence give for agreeing to marry Romeo and Juliet?

In one respect I'll thy assistant be,
For this alliance may so happy prove
To turn your households' rancor to pure love.

ACT 2 SCENE 4

1. This scene shows us more of the nurse's character as she trades quips and puns with Mercutio. What **malapropisms (an inappropriateness of speech resulting from the use of one word for another which resembles it)** does the nurse use (line 115)?

A sail, A sail

2. What message does Romeo urge the nurse to give to Juliet (lines 163-166)?

Bid her devise
Some means to come to shrift this afternoon.

And there she shall at Friar Lawrence' cell

Be shrived and married. (*gives her coins*) Here is for thy pains.

ACT 2 SCENE 5

1. Juliet is very impatient to hear news from Romeo (lines 1-17). What images does she use in her soliloquy to express this?

O' she is lame!

Wind-swift cupid wings

Had she affections and warm youthful blood

But old folks, may feign as they were dead

Unwieldy, slow, heavy, and pale as lead

