

ACT 3 SCENE 1

1. Why do you think Tybalt approaches Mercutio and Benvolio and wants a “word” with one of them ?

2. Mercutio tries to provoke Tybalt to fight. Why doesn't Tybalt want to fight him?

3. After Tybalt insults Romeo, Romeo respond. Explain his lines. What is the “reason” Romeo has for ignoring the insult?

(Romeo) Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee
Doth much excuse the appertaining rage
To such a greeting. Villain am I none.
Therefore, farewell. I see thou know'st me not.

***4. Explain the meaning of the lines and the dramatic irony of the situation.**

Romeo: Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee

Doth much excuse the appertaining rage

To such a greeting. Villian am I none.

Therefore farewell. I see thou knowest me not.

5. Why does Romeo's answer to Tybalt's insults upset Mercutio? What does he think Romeo is doing?

Romeo: I do protest I never hurt you; in fact, I love you better than you can know, until I can speak the reason of my love. So, good Capulet, whose name I cherish as dearly as my own, be satisfied.

6. Romeo tries to stop Mercutio and Tybalt from fighting by reasoning with them . Paraphrase what he says.

ROMEO

(draws his sword) Draw, Benvolio. Beat down their weapons.

Gentlemen, for shame! Forbear this outrage.

Tybalt, Mercutio! The Prince expressly hath

Forbidden bandying in Verona streets.

Hold, Tybalt! Good Mercutio!

7. Even when he is dying, Mercutio continues to joke and to make puns. Explain the pun he makes.

Ay, ay a scratch, a scratch: it is only a scratch

No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door; but 'tis enough, 'twill serve. Ask me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man.

*8. Mercutio repeats the following line (106) three times and then adds the next line. Explain what he means:

"A plague O' both your houses!

They have made worm's meat of me."

9. What does Romeo mean when he says lines 119-120?

This day's black fate on more days doth depend.

This but begins the woe others must end.

10. After Mercutio dies, why does Romeo decide to kill Tybalt instead of accepting Mercutio's death as an unfortunate accident?

*11. What does Romeo mean with these lines?

Either thou or I, or both, must go with him.

*12. Highlight lines 176-177. What reasoning does Lady Capulet use in begging the Prince for vengeance for Tybalt's death?

I beg for justice, which thou, Prince, must give.
Romeo slew Tybalt. Romeo must not live.

*13. Highlight lines 180-183. What is Lord Montagues' reasoning in his attempt to persuade the Prince not to kill Romeo for killing Tybalt?

Montague

Not Romeo, Prince, he was Mercutio's friend.
His fault concludes but what the law should end,

The life of Tybalt.

PRINCE

Romeo slew him; he slew Mercutio.

Who now the price of his dear blood doth owe?

14. What is the Prince's decree, and what are the reasons he gives for making it (lines 182-185)?

And for that offence
Immediately we do exile him hence.

ACT 3 SCENE 2

1. In lines 37-68 the nurse confuses Juliet as she tells Juliet of the fight. What misconception does Juliet make?

NURSE

Ah, welladay! He's dead, he's dead, he's dead!

We are undone, lady, we are undone!

Alack the day! He's gone, he's killed, he's dead!

JULIET

Can heaven be so envious?

NURSE

Romeo can,

Though heaven cannot. O Romeo, Romeo!

Who ever would have thought it? Romeo!

NURSE

I saw the wound, I saw it with mine eyes—

God save the mark!—here on his manly breast.

A piteous corse, a bloody piteous corse.

Pale, pale as ashes, all bedaubed in blood,

All in gore blood. I swoonèd at the sight.

*2. Highlight line 73. When Juliet receives news of Tybalt's death, what is her first reaction?

*3. Highlight Juliet's lines 90-92. When the nurse agrees with Juliet, Juliet has a different reaction to Romeo's killing of Tybalt. Explain.

Shall I speak ill of him that is my husband?
Ah, poor my lord, what tongue shall smooth thy name,

When I, thy three hours' wife, have mangled it?
But wherefore, villain, didst thou kill my cousin?
That villain cousin would have killed my husband.
Back, foolish tears, back to your native spring.
Your tributary drops belong to woe,
Which you, mistaking, offer up to joy.
My husband lives, that Tybalt would have slain,
And Tybalt's dead, that would have slain my husband.
All this is comfort. Wherefore weep I then?
Some word there was, worsè than Tybalt's death,
That murdered me. I would forget it fain,
But oh, it presses to my memory,
Like damnèd guilty deeds to sinners' minds.
"Tybalt is dead, and Romeo banishèd."

4. How does the scene end?

ACT 3 SCENE 3

*1. Highlight line 12. What is Romeo's reaction when he learns that he has been banished?

Ha, banishment! Be merciful, say "death,"
For exile hath more terror in his look,
Much more than death. Do not say "banishment."

2. From the beginning of the play, Romeo acts impulsively. In what way is he still impulsive in this scene (lines 102-108)?

ROMEO

As if that name,

Shot from the deadly level of a gun,

Did murder her, as that name's cursed hand

Murdered her kinsman. O, tell me, Friar, tell me,

In what vile part of this anatomy

Doth my name lodge? Tell me, that I may sack

The hateful mansion. (*draws his dagger*)

3. Friar Laurence tells Romeo to count his blessings. What are they (line 135-140)?

(Friar Laurence)

What, rouse thee, man! Thy Juliet is alive,
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead—

There art thou happy. Tybalt would kill thee,

But thou slew'st Tybalt—there art thou happy.

The law that threatened death becomes thy friend

And turns it to exile—there art thou happy.

A pack of blessings light upon thy back,

Happiness courts thee in her best array,

4. Explain Friar Laurence's plan (lines 146-154).

Take heed, take heed, for such die miserable.

Go, get thee to thy love, as was decreed.

Ascend her chamber, hence, and comfort her.

But look thou stay not till the watch be set,

For then thou canst not pass to Mantua,

Where thou shalt live, till we can find a time

To blaze your marriage, reconcile your friends,
Beg pardon of the Prince, and call thee back
With twenty hundred thousand times more joy
Than thou went'st forth in lamentation.—
Go before, Nurse. Commend me to thy lady,
And bid her hasten all the house to bed,
Which heavy sorrow makes them apt unto.

Romeo is coming.

ACT 3 SCENE 3

ACT 3 SCENE 5

Questions begin with Lady Capulet's entrance, line 68.

1. Lady Capulet misunderstands Juliet's sadness, and Juliet does not want her to know what has happened between Romeo and Juliet. What does Juliet say about Tybalt and Romeo to keep the truth from her mother (lines 67-102)?

2. What is Juliet's response when she is told the news that she is to marry Paris (lines 116-123)? How has she changed since Act 1?

Now, by Saint Peter's Church and Peter too,
He shall not make me there a joyful bride.

I wonder at this haste, that I must wed
Ere he, that should be husband, comes to woo.

I pray you, tell my lord and father, madam,
I will not marry yet. And when I do, I swear
It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate,

Rather than Paris. These are news indeed!

3. What is her mother's reaction to Juliet's response (line 124 and lines 139-140)?

Here comes your father. Tell him so yourself,
And see how he will take it at your hands.

*4. Highlight lines 190-194. What is Lord Capulet's response to Juliet's refusal to marry Paris?

How, how, how, how? Chopped logic! What is this?
"Proud," and "I thank you," and "I thank you not,"
And yet "not proud"? Mistress minion you,
Thank me no thankings, nor proud me no prouds,
But fettle your fine joints 'gainst Thursday next
To go with Paris to Saint Peter's Church,
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.
Out, you green sickness, carrion! Out, you baggage!
You tallow face!

5. What does the Nurse advise Juliet to do (lines 212-225)? What is her reasoning?

Faith, here it is.
Romeo is banishèd, and all the world to nothing
That he dares ne'er come back to challenge you.
Or, if he do, it needs must be by stealth.
Then, since the case so stands as now it doth,
I think it best you married with the county.
Oh, he's a lovely gentleman.
Romeo's a dishclout to him. An eagle, madam,
Hath not so green, so quick, so fair an eye

As Paris hath. Beshrew my very heart,
I think you are happy in this second match,
For it excels your first. Or if it did not,
Your first is dead, or 'twere as good he were,
As living here and you no use of him.

7. After the Nurse leaves and Juliet is alone, what does Juliet decide to do (lines 240-243)?

Ancient damnation! O most wicked fiend!
Is it more sin to wish me thus forsworn,
Or to dispraise my lord with that same tongue
Which she hath praised him with above compare
So many thousand times? Go, counselor.
Thou and my bosom henceforth shall be twain.
I'll to the friar to know his remedy.
If all else fail, myself have power to die.