

ACT IV SCENE 1

1. Why is Paris visiting Friar Laurence?
2. Juliet tells Friar Laurence what she will do if the wedding to Paris cannot be avoided. Paraphrase lines 50-67.

Tell me not, Friar, that thou hear'st of this,
Unless thou tell me how I may prevent it.

If in thy wisdom thou canst give no help,

Do thou but call my resolution wise,

And with this knife I'll help it presently.

(shows him a knife)

- *3. Highlight lines 68-70. Paraphrase lines 68-76. The Friar says he has thought of a way out, but what would it require?

Hold, daughter. I do spy a kind of hope,
Which craves as desperate an execution

As that is desperate which we would prevent.

If, rather than to marry County Paris,

Thou hast the strength of will to slay thyself,

Then is it likely thou wilt undertake

A thing like death to chide away this shame,

That copest with death himself to 'scape from it.

An if thou darest, I'll give thee remedy.

1. What is Juliet's answer to the Friar in her effort to convince him that she will do anything to avoid the marriage with Paris (lines 76-88)?

O, bid me leap, rather than marry Paris,
From off the battlements of yonder tower;
Or walk in thievish ways; or bid me lurk
Where serpents are; chain me with roaring bears;
Or shut me nightly in a charnel house,
O'ercovered quite with dead men's rattling bones,
With reeky shanks and yellow chapless skulls;
Or bid me go into a new-made grave
And hide me with a dead man in his shroud—
Things that, to hear them told, have made me tremble—

2. **Summarize Friar Laurence's plan as described in lines 89-120.**

Tomorrow night look that thou lie alone.
Let not the Nurse lie with thee in thy chamber.

(shows her a vial)

Take thou this vial, being then in bed,
And this distilled liquor drink thou off,
When presently through all thy veins shall run
A cold and drowsy humor, for no pulse
Shall keep his native progress, but surcease.
No warmth, no breath shall testify thou livest.
The roses in thy lips and cheeks shall fade
To paly ashes, thy eyes' windows fall
Like death when he shuts up the day of life.

Each part, deprived of supple government,
Shall, stiff and stark and cold, appear like death.
And in this borrowed likeness of shrunk death
Thou shalt continue two and forty hours,
And then awake as from a pleasant sleep.
Now, when the bridegroom in the morning comes
To rouse thee from thy bed, there art thou dead.
Then, as the manner of our country is,
In thy best robes uncovered on the bier
Thou shalt be borne to that same ancient vault
Where all the kindred of the Capulets lie.
In the meantime, against thou shalt awake,
Shall Romeo by my letters know our drift,
And hither shall he come, and he and I
Will watch thy waking, and that very night
Shall Romeo bear thee hence to Mantua.

ACT 5 SCENE 1

1. What premonition does Romeo have at the beginning of this scene (lines 1-11)?

If I may trust the flattering truth of sleep,
My dreams presage some joyful news at hand.
My bosom's lord sits lightly in his throne,
And all this day an unaccustomed spirit
Lifts me above the ground with cheerful thoughts.
I dreamt my lady came and found me dead—

Strange dream, that gives a dead man leave to think—

And breathed such life with kisses in my lips

That I revived and was an emperor.

2. What news does Balthasar bring? How does this disrupt the Friar's plan?

Then she is well, and nothing can be ill.

Her body sleeps in Capels' monument,

And her immortal part with angels lives.

I saw her laid low in her kindred's vault

And presently took post to tell it you.

O, pardon me for bringing these ill news,

Since you did leave it for my office, sir.

***3. Highlight line 24. Paraphrase. Why is this a brazen thing to say?**

Then I defy you, stars!

Thou know'st my lodging. Get me ink and paper,

And hire post horses. I will hence tonight.

4. What does Romeo decide to do after he hears Balthasar's story (lines 34-57)?

O mischief, thou art swift

To enter in the thoughts of desperate men!

I do remember an apothecary—

And hereabouts he dwells—which late I noted

In tattered weeds, with overwhelming brows,

Culling of simples. Meager were his looks,

Sharp misery had worn him to the bones,

And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,

An alligator stuffed, and other skins
Of ill-shaped fishes; and about his shelves
A beggarly account of empty boxes,
Green earthen pots, bladders and musty seeds,
Remnants of packthread and old cakes of roses,
Were thinly scattered to make up a show.
Noting this penury, to myself I said,
“An if a man did need a poison now”—
Whose sale is present death in Mantua—
“Here lives a caitiff wretch would sell it him.”
Oh, this same thought did but forerun my need,
And this same needy man must sell it me.
As I remember, this should be the house.
Being holiday, the beggar’s shop is shut.
What, ho! Apothecary!

ACT 5 SCENE 2

1. What story does Friar John tell Friar Laurence as explanation as to why he could not deliver the letter to Romeo?

I could not send it—here it is again—
(gives FRIAR LAWRENCE a letter)
Nor get a messenger to bring it thee,
So fearful were they of infection.

ACT 5 SCENE 3

***4. Highlight lines 91-96. What does Romeo notice about Juliet? Explain the dramatic irony.**

O my love, my wife!
Death, that hath sucked the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty.
Thou art not conquered. Beauty's ensign yet
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,
And death's pale flag is not advanced there.—

***5. Highlight line 167. What does Juliet realize about the situation?**

What's here? A cup, closed in my true love's hand?
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless end.—
O churl, drunk all, and left no friendly drop
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips.
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,
To make me die with a restorative.
(kisses ROMEO)
Thy lips are warm.

***6. Highlight lines 169-170. Explain the lines.**

I will kiss thy lips.
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them,
To make me die with a restorative.
(kisses ROMEO)
Thy lips are warm.