

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

Act One Study Guide

1.1

1. Between what two families does the feud exist?
2. Fill in the blanks: _____ and _____, two servants, are walking along Sunday morning complaining about the _____ family. _____ enters the scene, and _____ bites his _____ at him. They fight. _____, a Montague, enters the scene and draws his sword to attempt to stop the servants' brawl. _____, a Capulet, also enters the scene. He draws, but not to stop the fighting: he wants to join it.
3. How many times have the Montagues and Capulets fought recently? What decree does the Prince make after the street brawl?
4. What happened when Benvolio saw Romeo earlier this morning?
5. What kinds of things has Romeo been doing (behaviors), according to his father?
6. What is Romeo's problem (see lines 173, but more specifically lines 216-222)?
7. What advice does Benvolio give Romeo? How does Romeo respond?

1.2

1. How does Capulet respond to Paris' proposal to marry Juliet? Why? (see lines 9, 14)
2. To what is Lord Capulet comparing "Earth-treading stars" in line 25? What does he direct Paris to do in lines 30-33? Why is he doing this? (Hint: focus on the word "mine.") Where else in the play have we seen a similar idea?
3. How do Romeo and Benvolio learn about the Capulet's ball? What do they decide to do?

1.3

1. How old is Juliet?
2. Lammastide: August 1 is Lammas Day. Lammastide may refer to the days leading up to that day. (Ex: Christmas time would be the days leading up to Christmas.) When is Juliet's birthday (month/day)?

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3. What happened 11 years ago? (see lines 25-27) What happened 11 years and one day ago? Why does the speaker think this is funny? (Hint: re-read lines 42-53.)
4. How does Juliet feel about getting married? What is her mother's rebuttal to this? How old is Lady Capulet?
5. List all the words/phrases having to do with books/reading in lines 87-100. What is being compared to books? Why?
6. How does the Nurse feel about Paris's proposal?

1.4: When and where does this scene take place?

1. What kind of mood is Romeo in during this scene? How do you know? Give a line/sentence or two from the text that supports your idea.
2. Explain Romeo's speech (lines 113-120).

1.5: Where does this scene take place?

1. Who is Romeo talking about when he says, 'for I ne'er saw true beauty til this night'? Explain the irony here.
2. Why does Tybalt become so upset, and how does Capulet respond to his rage?
3. Paraphrase Tybalt's final lines in this scene. What literary element is this?
4. To what does Romeo compare himself and Juliet?
5. Why does Juliet ask the Nurse about certain men as they're leaving?
6. Who said the following lines and why?
 - a. "Is she a Capulet?/O dear account, my life is my foe's debt." _____
 - b. "My only love sprung from my only hate/Too early seen unknown, and known too late." _____