**Romeo and Juliet –Act 1 Answers**

**PROLOGUE**

1. Who speaks the Prologue?

The Chorus speaks the prologue.

2.What is the purpose of the Prologue?

The purpose of the prologue is to introduce the audience to what is going to happen later on in the story.

3.In what poetic form is this Prologue?

A sonnet.

4. Highlight lines 5 and 6. Explain the importance of these two lines.

It tells the audience about the ancient rivalry between the two families and what outcome of the story.

5.Why does Shakespeare tell us how the story is going to end?

In Shakespeare's writing, it is not about the ending of the story, the most important part of it is the journey that the characters take to get there.

6. What themes are established in the Prologue?

The theme of hope, love and despair are established.

**ACT 1 SCENE 1**

1. How does Shakespeare start the play so that he gains the attention of the “groundlings?”

Shakespeare begins the play with a witty conversation between two of the Capulet servants, and this attracts the attention of the reader.

2. Highlight lines 58-59. Our first introduction to Benvolio comes when he says these words. What do they reveal about his character?

It reveals that Benvolio is a peaceful guy that wants to keep the peace in Verona and does not want to fight.

3. Highlight lines 64-65. Our first impression of Tybalt occurs in these lines. What do we learn about his character?

We learn that Tybalt is a short-tempered person that is full of hate for the Montagues.

4. Highlight lines 90-91. What is the tone of the Prince’s speech? In these lines he makes a new decree. What is it, and why is it important?

In the Prince's speech, it is revealed that he is a very powerful and stern person. He wants to keep the peace in the streets of Verona, so the Prince creates a new decree that if either of the families, Capulet or Montague cause another commotion in the streets that they will pay for this with their lives.

5. When we first see Romeo he shows all the signs of a Petrarchan Lover—someone who is in love with the idea of being in love. How does Romeo act (lines 125-136)?

It shows that Romeo has been upset about a woman lately and has spent the past few days in his room being miserable, "With tears augmenting the fresh morning stew."

6. When describing his feelings to Benvolio, Romeo uses Oxymorons—pairs of contradictory words in lines 170-177 and 184-188. Why does he speak in contradictions and paradoxes?

Romeo uses oxymorons is his conversation with Benvolio, because he is trying to illustrate the pain that he is feeling and that the woman he loves is the complete opposite of what is and that he will never get her.

7. We then learn that Romeo is suffering from Unrequited Love—He loves someone who does not love him back. What suggestion does Benvolio make to Romeo to help him get over is unrequited love for Rosaline (lines 221-223)?

When we learn about that Romeo is suffering from unrequited love Benvolio, instead of helping him get Rosaline, he suggests that Romeo should search for other woman and try to forget about Rosaline.

**ACT 1 SCENE 2**

1. In this scene Lord Capulet talks to Paris about marrying his daughter Juliet. What two reasons does he give for not wanting Juliet to marry at this time (lines 8-14)?

Capulet doesn't want Paris to marry her at this time because Juliet is still young and was not yet fourteen which was the legal age to marry in those times. He wanted him to wait two more summer until they were to be wed.

2. Highlight line 16-19. On what condition will Lord Capulet agree to Juliet’s marriage with Paris?

Lord Capulet will only get Paris and Juliet be wed is Paris is able to woo her and get Juliet to want to marry him.

3. What does this reveal about Lord Capulet’s love for his daughter?

This reveals that Lord Capulet love his daughter very much and wants what is best for Juliet and did not want to arrange a marriage for her. This also reveals that Lord Capulet is a very sympathetic person that cares for the outcome of his daughter's future.

4. From the servant who cannot read we learn that Rosaline, with whom Romeo believes he is in love, will be at the Capulet party. Why does this excite Benvolio? What is his plan (lines 84-89)?

This new discovered excites Benvolio because he knows that many gorgeous woman will be there among Rosaline, and he wants Romeo to go there with an "unattained eye" and compare the beautiful women with Rosaline and get over her.

5. Highlight lines 86-89. Explain Benvolio’s analogy:

Benvolio wants Romeo to go to the party with an unattained eye to compare the other beauties of Verona with the one that Romeo loves, Rosaline. He wants to show Romeo that there are more beautiful people than Rosaline and he is determined to do.

6. Why does Romeo agree to go to the party (lines 102-103)?

Romeo agrees to go to the party because he wants to "rejoice in spendour of mine own."

7. What coincidence takes place in this scene? Explain what theme is being developed.

The coincidence taking place in this scene is that both Romeo and Juliet will be attending the party at the Capulet house and the theme being developed here is fate.

**ACT 1 SCENE 3**

In this scene Lady Capulet is informing Juliet and her nurse of Count Paris’ proposal of marriage.

1. What is the nurse’s relationship with Juliet?

The Nurse acts like a mother figure to Juliet and helps around a lot much like Calpurnia from To Kill a Mockingbird.

2. How would you describe the nurse’s personality?

The Nurse is a very comical person in the play and brings relief to the readers, she is also a very witty person and made many sexual references.

3. Highlight lines 62-63. What is the nurse’s one wish for Juliet and why?

The Nurse's only wish for Juliet is that God treats her well and that she lives long enough to see Juliet be wed.

4. When Lady Capulet asks Juliet how she feels about being married, what is Juliet’s answer (line 67), and what does it reveal about her character?

It is revealed that Juliet has no interest in being married and it shows that she considers being married an honour, but still does not want to be wed.

5. The nurse and Lady Capulet are both excited and pleased by Paris’ proposal but for different reasons. The nurse says Paris is “a man of wax” and at the end of the scene encourages Juliet to “Go, girl, seek happy nights to happy days.” What does the nurse see in Paris, and what does it reveal about her attitude toward love and marriage?

The statement that the Nurse made shows that the Nurse is more interested in the looks of men more than their personality and inner beauty.

**ACT 1 SCENE 4**

1. Highlight lines 106-111. Why does Romeo feel uneasy about going to the party? What dream-like premonition has he had?

Romeo feels uneasy about going to the party because the previous night he had has a premonition about bad things happening at the party and he feels that some consequences will happen if he does go.

2. Comment on this speech in terms of the Elizabethan attitude toward the stars and astrology.

People in the Elizabethan Era believed that the stars controlled the fate of all humans.

3. What decision does Romeo make in lines 112-113, and what is the thematic importance of this decision?

Romeo's mind tells him that he shouldn't go to the masquerade but his heart tells him that it is the right thing to do by going to the ball. By making the decision to go the ball, he crosses destinies with Juliet, and consequentially they fall in love. Then later falls out of love with Rosaline.

**ACT 1 SCENE 5**

1. We learn from Romeo’s soliloquy (a speech delivered while the speaker is alone, calculated to inform the audience of what is passing in the character’s mind)that he is struck by love at first sight when he sees Juliet at the party. Paraphrase Romeo’s speech (lines 43-53). To what does he compare Juliet?

Romeo has fallen out of love with Rosaline and fell deeply in love with Juliet. Romeo compares her to a beautiful snowy dove among a group of ugly black crows and sees her as a magnificent jewel and goddess. He also compares her hand to a saints and feels that if they touch hands his hands will be purified. He also says during his monolog that he has never seem true beauty until that night.

2. How does this speech about his love for Juliet compare to his speeches about being in love with Rosaline?

This compares that the love that he felt for Rosaline meant nothing to his now that he has bet Juliet. It shows that he no longer cares for Rosaline now and has fallen deeply in love with Juliet.

3. Tybalt recognizes Romeo’s voice and tries to start a fight. What two reasons does Lord Capulet give for stopping him (lines 65-69)?

Lord Capulet says that Romeo "is a gentlemen, and to say the truth that Verona brags of him to be a virtuous and well-governed youth." Also, Lord Capulet does not want Tybalt to make a huge commotion at the party that he hosted at his house.

4. Highlight lines 90-91. What threat does Tybalt make as he agrees to withdraw?

As Tybalt agrees to withdraw at the moment, he swear that he will get his revenge back at Romeo later on.

5. In lines 92-105 Romeo and Juliet speak to each other. Their lines form a sonnet. Paraphrase the lines of the sonnet.

During the sonnet Romeo compares Juliet to a saint, and tries to kiss Juliet. When Romeo tries to kiss Juliet, Juliet offers her palm to him and they're palms touch. Romeo, however creatively persuades Juliet into kissing him and they touch lips.

6. Dramatic Irony is when the audience knows something the characters do not. What is ironic about Juliet’s line 134?

"Come hither, Nurse. What is yond gentleman?"

This is ironic because this gentlemen that she speaks of, is a Montague.