

EXTRA WRITING ASSIGNMENTS/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - *ROMEO AND JULIET*

Interpretation

1. What is the setting of *Romeo and Juliet*?
2. Where is the climax of the play? Explain your choice.
3. How much time passes during the play?
4. Think of a different title for the play. Explain your choice.
5. From what point of view is the play written? How does the point of view affect our perception of the story?

Critical

6. Define "tragedy" in the theatrical/literary sense of the word. Explain why *Romeo and Juliet* is a tragedy.
7. Are Romeo's actions believably motivated? Explain why or why not. Juliet's?
8. Was Juliet's disobedience to her father justified? Explain.
9. Evaluate William Shakespeare's style of writing. How does it contribute to the value of the play?
10. Describe Juliet's relationship with the nurse.
11. Describe Romeo's relationship with Mercutio.
12. Explain how William Shakespeare uses Friar Laurence in the play.
13. Explain the difference between being witty and being funny.
14. What things in *Romeo and Juliet* are due to fate, and what effect does that have on our perception of the play?
15. Are the characters in *Romeo and Juliet* stereotypes? If so, explain why William Shakespeare used stereotypes. If not, explain how the characters merit individuality.

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Critical/Personal Response

16. Could the same thing happen to two teenagers today? Explain why or why not.
17. Suppose Romeo and Juliet had not acted so hastily getting married. What effect, if any, would that have had on the play?
18. Had Juliet been older, do you think she would have done the same things she did in the play?
19. Suppose the Prince had made good on his first threat of death for breaking the peace and had not only banished Romeo. How would the story have changed?
20. Who is responsible for Romeo's death? Explain your answer.
22. Who is responsible for Juliet's death?
23. Discuss the importance and the role of these characters in *Romeo and Juliet*: nurse, Mercutio, Tybalt, and Paris.

Personal Response

24. Did you enjoy reading *Romeo and Juliet*? Why or why not?
25. Do you believe in "love at first sight"?
26. Do you believe dreams have meaning in our daily lives? Why or why not?