

Name:

Date:

Romeo & Juliet Act I Questions

1. Why do Sampson and Gregory fight with Montague's men?

Gregory and Sampson pick a fight by insulting the Montague servants with a rude gesture ("bite my thumb").

2. How do Benvolio and Tybalt each react to the fight?

Benvolio comes in and tries to break up the fight but is unsuccessful. Tybalt sees Benvolio entering the fight and then challenges Benvolio (Tybalt doesn't realize that Benvolio is just trying to stop the fight).

3. What ends the opening skirmish between the two families?

Prince Escalus commands everyone to put their weapons down. He then goes on to explain that this fighting needs to end; the next person to fight will be put to death.

4. Why is Romeo so sad?

He was rejected by Rosaline.

5. What does Benvolio mean when he says, "By giving liberty unto thine eyes: Examine other beauties" (729)?

While consoling Romeo, Benvolio suggests that he should see other women and therefore forget about or move on from Rosaline.

6. What is Capulet's reply when Paris asks for Juliet's hand in marriage?

Lord Capulet explains to Paris that Juliet is too young (13). He suggests he wait until she is 14 to marry her.

7. Why is Capulet giving a feast?

He wants to invite many guests, including Paris, and therefore Paris can possibly meet a different woman at this party.

8. How does Romeo find about the feast and why does he decide to go even though he is not invited because he is a Montague?

Romeo runs into the servant who was asked by Lord Capulet to invite different people. However, the servant can't read so Romeo reads the list of invited guests. Romeo then notices that Rosaline is among the invited guests and this makes him want to attend.

9. How can Juliet's relationship with her family be described?

Juliet's mother, Lady Capulet, and the Nurse try to convince Juliet to marry Paris; however, Juliet is not interested and this interaction shows that her mother and the Nurse are bossy and try to direct Juliet's life.

10. Romeo says, "Not I believe me. You have dancing shoes with nimble soles; I have a soul of lead..." (739). Interpret what this quote means and what it says about Romeo's current state.

Romeo compares his sorrow over Rosaline to him having a "soul of lead." Thus, he does not want to dance because he is "weighed down" with sadness over Rosaline's rejection.

11. What does Romeo tell Benvolio at the end of the Act that might foreshadow his fate?

Romeo explains to Benvolio that he had a dream where he foresaw his "untimely death." He believes this terrible fate to be caused by the stars and will begin at the party tonight (falling in love with Juliet).

12. What does Romeo mean when he says, "Oh, dear account! My life is my foe's debt" (748)?

Romeo has fallen in love with Juliet; however, she is a Capulet and he a Montague. "My life is my foe's debt" means that his life (since he loves Juliet) belongs to his enemy (the Capulets).

List 3 examples of **Figurative Language** from Act 1:

1. "My lips, two blushing pilgrims" (metaphor).
2. "True, I talk of dreams; which are the children of an idle brain" (metaphor).
3. "Love is a smoke raised with the fume of sighs" (metaphor).