YOUR 4-Step CHECK-UP ON ROMEO AND JULIET

Step 1  PLOT AND CHARACTERS

Where are you in your Romeo and Juliet studies? Start by answering these quiz-style questions to check your knowledge of the plot and characters.

1. The play opens with a Prologue. What tragic events does it tell us will take place?
2. Who do Juliet’s mother and father want her to marry?
3. Where does Romeo first see Juliet?
4. Who spots Romeo there and is furious he is present?
5. What does Juliet mean when she says, ‘Wherefore art thou Romeo?’ in Act 2 Scene 2?
6. Who does Romeo ask to conduct his marriage to Juliet?
7. Why does this person agree to his request despite his doubts?
8. Who does Juliet confide in about her forthcoming marriage to Romeo?
9. Who kills Mercutio in a savage fight? How does Romeo react?
10. What is the Prince’s punishment for Romeo?
11. How does Juliet initially misunderstand the Nurse’s news of a death?
12. Why do Capulet and Lady Capulet lose their temper with Juliet?
13. What does the Friar give Juliet to drink the night before her ‘marriage’ to Paris?
14. Why is Juliet frightened of taking the drink?
15. What incorrect information does Romeo find out before the Friar’s letter to him arrives?
16. Why does Romeo visit an apothecary?
17. Who comes to the tomb and ends up fighting with (and being killed by) Romeo?
18. What does Romeo do when he believes Juliet to be dead?
19. Who tries to persuade Juliet to leave the tomb when she awakes?
20. What is the response of the two families, the Montagues and Capulets, at the end of the play?
How much do you know about the language and themes of the play?

1. Here are five quotations from the play. Can you identify who is speaking (and, where relevant, who they are speaking to)?
   a) ‘If he be married,/My grave is like to be my wedding bed’ (Act 1 Scene 5)
   b) ‘A plague a’both your houses!’ (Act 3 Scene 1)
   c) ‘disobedient wretch!/I tell thee what: get thee to church a’Thursday’ (Act 3 Scene 5)
   d) ‘I defy you, stars!’ (Act 5 Scene 1)
   e) ‘See what a scourge is laid upon your hate,/That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love’ (Act 5 Scene 3)

2. Read these further quotations. What theme(s) do you think they are linked to, or explore, e.g. Age and youth? Conflict? Why?
   a) Tybalt (to Benvolio): ‘What, drawn and talk of peace? I hate the word,/As I hate hell, all Montagues, and thee.’ (Act 1 Scene 1)
   b) Juliet (to Romeo): ‘My bounty is as boundless as the sea,/My love as deep’ (Act 2 Scene 2)
   c) Friar (to Romeo): ‘Wisely and slow, they stumble that run fast’ (Act 2 Scene 3)
   d) Romeo (to Benvolio after killing Tybalt): ‘O, I am fortune’s fool.’ (Act 3 Scene 1)
   e) Capulet (to Juliet): ‘And you be mine, I’ll give you to my friend;/And you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets...’ (Act 3 Scene 5)

Step 3 Writing Skills

A student has drafted this paragraph about Juliet’s character.

Juliet is presented as incredibly brave in the night before her planned marriage to ........................................... . Before taking the potion, she evokes the imagery of Tybalt fest’ring in his shroud and her own suffocation, waking up in the tomb. This is an example of how Shakespeare

1. Copy out the paragraph and add in the missing detail in the first sentence
2. Put quotation marks around the quotation the student uses
3. Finish the paragraph, completing the last sentence, adding the technique you think is being used
This scene comes from Act 3 Scene 5 of the play. Romeo is below in the garden, saying goodbye to Juliet after their first night of marriage.

ROMEO
I will omit no opportunity
That may convey my greetings, love, to thee.

JULIET
O think'st thou we shall ever meet again?

ROMEO
I doubt it not, and all these woes shall serve
For sweet discourses in our time to come.

JULIET
O God, I have an ill-divining soul!
Methinks I see thee now, thou art so low,
As one dead in the bottom of a tomb.
Either my eyesight fails, or thou look'st pale.

ROMEO
And trust me, love, in my eye so do you:
Dry sorrow drinks our blood. Adieu, adieu!

Exit

JULIET
O Fortune, Fortune, all men call thee fickle;
If thou art fickle, what dost thou with him
That is renown'd for faith? Be fickle, Fortune:
For then I hope, thou wilt not keep him long.

Why is this scene important? Write one to two paragraphs (between 75 and 100 words) about:

- What it tells us about the plot, characters or relationships at this point
- Any themes or ideas which are suggested from the language
- How the scene could link with other scenes or parts of the play

Well done for completing your 4-Step Check-Up on Romeo and Juliet!

You’ll find lots of help with studying and revising the play, including revision cards and practice tests, on our website www.yorknotes.com