

ROMEO AND JULIET
William Shakespeare
Summer Reading Guide

William Shakespeare's classic love story, *Romeo and Juliet*, is between two individuals from feuding families in Verona. The play covers the tragic conflicts caused by this relationship. This study guide on *Romeo and Juliet* should be completed and ready to hand in on the second day of school.

1. Define the following words:

adieu

poultice

knave

perjury

scurvy

rancor

intercession

prorogued

bespew

shrive

valor

chide

herald

abhor

2. It's been an eventful day for Juliet. Assume that she sits down to write an entry in her diary immediately after the Sunday evening party (end of Act I).

Write Juliet's entry for her. First, list the events of the day that she might consider important. Then arrange these events in the order that Juliet might discuss them in her diary. Be sure that the tone and content of the diary is keeping with Juliet's personality--polite and obedient yet emotional and strong-willed.

3. Prince Escalus has hired you, a prophet, to predict the futures of any two of the following: Mercutio, Benvolio, Tybalt, Romeo. You choose two; and because you are a shrewd judge of character, you set out to learn as much as you can about each man. You will base your predictions on the information you gather, and you gain this information by either watching or spying on your choices during the events of the first two acts.

Now compose your report to the prince. For each of the choices, write a well-developed paragraph.

4. How is Friar Laurence instrumental in what happens in the play?

5. Why does Capulet in Act III scene 4 urge so rapid a marriage of Paris and his daughter?

6. Give three examples of Romeo and Juliet's maturity.

7. Give three examples of Romeo and Juliet's immaturity.

8. What questions and doubts come to Juliet's mind during the famous "potion" scene?
9. Why may the hustle and bustle of preparation for the wedding feast be described as ironic?
10. Why has Friar John been unable to deliver Friar Laurence's letter to Romeo?
11. Explain what happens in the famous balcony scene Act II scene 2.
12. Describe the graveyard scene in Act 5 scene 3.
13. In the final lines the Prince of Verona is upset with himself. Why does he blame himself?