*Romeo and Juliet*

Act One

Scene I

1. Benvolio is the peacemaker in the play. His name comes from the Latin words “bene,” which means “good,” and “volo,” which means “I wish.” Find a line that shows Benvolio’s personality.
2. How is Tybalt’s personality different from Benvolio’s?

Find a line that suggests he wants the feud between the familites to continue.

1. Who is Prince Escalus?

What line indicates his feelings about the feuding?

1. Benvolio and Montagues are concerned about Romeo. Explain why.
2. What information is Benvolio able to get from Romeo?
3. Find lines that show Romeo is a romantic young man.
4. What advice does Benvolio give Romeo?

What is Romeo’s Reaction?

1. What kind of friend is Benvolio? How do you know?

Scene II

1. How does Lord Capulet feel about the feud at this time of his life?
2. Why has Paris come to see Lord Capulet?
3. How old is Juliet?
4. What is Capulet’s reply to Paris?
5. Why does Benvolio want Romeo to attend Capulet’s party?

Why does Romeo agree to go?

Scene III

1. What happened to Nurse’s daughter?
2. What purpose do Nurse’s ramblings about Juliet serve?
3. How does Juliet feel about getting married?
4. Would it be a compliment to be called “a man of wax?”

Scene IV

1. Find a line that describes Romeo’s mood as he and his friends go to the party.

What device was Shakespeare using when he compared “sole” and “soul”?

1. What does Mertcutio think of dreams? Do you agree?
2. Reread lines 106-113. What technique is being used here?

Paraphrase the speech.

1. From Romeo’s speech, do you think the Elizabethans believed people had control over their lives or that Fate had things all planned out?

Scene V

1. What lines indicates that Romeo was not really in love with Rosaline?
2. Tybalt’s anger at the presence of a Montague bears out the hot-tempered nature of his character. Give the line that reveals what action he would like to take.
3. What does Lord Capulet’s acceptance of Romeo’s presence tell you about him?
4. What kind of reputation does Romeo have?
5. Juliet does not admit to Nurse that she has fallen in love with Romeo. Why do you think this is so? Would she be more likely to tell Nurse or her mother?
6. Explain lines 134-135 (pg. 605): “Go ask his name. If he be married,/My grave is like to be my marriage bed.”
7. What problems do you think are ahead for Romeo and Juliet?