

Romeo and Juliet Act I Review Exercise

Characters

Be able to identify the following characters: Romeo, Juliet, Mercutio, Tybalt, Benvolio, Montague, Capulet, Prince Escalus, Paris, Nurse, Lady Montague, Lady Capulet

Themes and Motifs

Consider how the following themes and motifs are introduced and developed in Act I (see the handout "Themes and Motifs in Romeo and Juliet" for help):

- the nature of love (its basis and causes)
- passion vs. reason
- grudges and feuds
- fate
- youthful rebelliousness

Quote ID

In addition to identifying the speaker and person(s) spoken to for each quotation below, identify any people, things, or places in boldface and include them in your discussion of the quotation's significance.

1. "Many a morning hath **he** there been seen, /With tears augmenting the fresh morning's dew, /Adding to clouds more clouds with his deep sighs"

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

2. "What is it else? A madness most discreet, /A choking gall, and a preserving sweet."

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

3. "From forth the fatal loins of **these two foes**/A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;/Whose misadventured piteous overthrows/Doth with their death bury their parents' strife."

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

4. "**My only love**, sprung from **my only hate**!/Too early seen unknown, and known too late!/Prodigious birth of love it is to me/That I must love a loathèd enemy."

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

5. "Go **thither**, and with unattainted eye/Compare her face with some that I shall show,/And I will make thee think **thy swan** a crow."

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

6. "**You men**, you beasts,/That quench the fire of your pernicious rage/With purple fountains issuing from your veins!"

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

7. "And too soon marred are **those so early made**./Earth hath swallowèd all my hopes but **she**;/She is the hopeful lady of my earth."

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

8. "What say **you**? Can you love **the gentleman**?/This night you shall behold him at our feast."

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

9. "If I profane with my unworhiest hand/**This holy shrine**, the gentle sin is this:/My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand/To smooth that rough touch with a tender kiss."

Speaker: _____ Person Spoken To: _____

Context: _____

Significance: _____

Interpretation Questions

Translate the following lines into contemporary prose. Answering the questions will help in translating them.

1. "I'll look to like, if looking liking move;/But no more deep will I endart mine eye/Than your consent gives strength to make it fly." Juliet 1.3

Identify the subject, verb, and object in the clause "if looking liking move." _____

What double meaning does the word "look/looking" have in the first line? _____

What figurative comparison is being made in the last two lines, and what does *it* in the last line refer to? _____

Translation: _____

2. “And in this state she gallops night by night/[...]O’er ladies’ lips, who straight on kisses dream,/Which oft the angry Mab with blisters plagues,/Because their breath with sweetmeats tainted are.” Mercutio 1.4

What do the pronouns *who*, *which*, and *their* refer to? _____

Where would the phrases “with blisters” and “with sweetmeats” normally be placed? _____

Identify the verbs in the last three lines. Which one of them is conjugated inappropriately according to contemporary rules about subject-verb agreement? _____

Translation: _____