

“Romeo and Juliet” Act I Homework

Act I:

1. Did you find the “love at first sight” scene convincing? Why or why not?
2. Before Romeo and Juliet meet in Scene 4, Shakespeare must set up obstacles to their love, so that when they do meet, we will groan at the problems they are going to face. What problem or **complication** is presented in Scenes 2 and 3?
3. Scene 4 does not seem to advance the story, but it does introduce us to Mercutio, who will play an important part in the plot later. How would you characterize Mercutio, based on what he has said and done so far? Is he a believable character? Have you known people like him?
4. In what ways is Mercutio a foil to Romeo?
5. Scene 4 sets up a sense of foreboding – a feeling that something bad is about to happen. Identify Romeo’s specific expressions of foreboding, as he sets off for the party.
6. By the end of Act I, a lot of suspense has been generated. If you were watching this play, what questions would you be asking at this point?
7. The action of this play takes place in Italy in the fourteenth century. Which episodes in Act I could you imagine taking place today? What details would have to change, if any?
8. What does the Prologue say will end the rage between Romeo’s and Juliet’s families?
9. Who is Tybalt, and why is he dangerous?
10. What warning does the prince give the street brawlers in Scene 1?
11. In Scene 4, how does Mercutio try to snap Romeo out of his depression?
12. Where do Romeo and Juliet meet?