***Romeo and Juliet***

Prologue:

**Read p. 787**

(Act I):

**Read p.788 - Bottom of p. 791**

Summarize pp. 792-796

**Read p. 796 – 797** (Enter Benvolio and Romeo)

Summarize p. 797 – p. 801

**Read p. 802 – p. 805**

Summarize p. 806 – mid-page 808 (… “This is she-“)

**Read p. 808 – p. 809** (End of Scene 4)

**Read p. 809** (Begin at narrator’s directions at line 16) **- p. 815**

Act II:

Summarize p. 818-819 (End of Act II, Scene I)

**Read p. 820** (note the setting) **- p. 827** (Top / End of Scene II)

Summarize p. 827-844 The rest of Act II

Act III:

**Read lines 1-14**

Summarize rest of p. 845 (beginning at line 15) – end of page

**Read p. 846 – 852**

Skip p. 853- top of 854 (“Ay, ay, the cords.”)

**Read p. 854 – p. 859** (line 22)

Summarize p. 859 – 863 (end of Scene 3)

**Read p. 863 (beginning of Scene 4) – 871**

Summarize p. 872 p. 873 (end of Act III)

Act IV:

Summarize p. 876 – p. 886 (Scenes 1-4)

**Read p. 886 (Scene 5) – p. 888**

Skip p. 890 – p. 891

Act V:

**Read p. 895- p. 898** (end of Scene 2)

**Read p. 899** (“Enter Romeo and Balthasar”) – **p. 901** (“Let him in the tomb.”)

**Read p. 901 – 910** (End)

**Romeo & Juliet**

**William Shakespeare (April 23, 1564 – April 23, 1616**

* Born in Stratford-upon Avon, England to wealthy parents
* Married Anne Hathaway; marriage was an unhappy one
* Children: Susanna and twins Hamnet and Judith; Hamnet died at the age of eleven
* Buried in the Holy Trinity Church in Stratford
* Wrote thirty-seven plays in his lifetime and R&J was one of his early ones (were they ALL his?)

**Romeo and Juliet:**

* Romeo and Juliet was written in 1594 when Europe was just getting over the Black Plague.
* 10,000 people died in London as a result of the Black Plague.
* Shakespeare did not invent the story of Romeo and Juliet. He probably heard it via a poem: Romeus and Juliet (1562) written by a poet called Arthur Brooks. It was ‘a long and plodding poem’, but ‘many of the details of Shakespeare’s plot are lifted directly from Brooks’s poem, including the meeting at the ball, the secret marriage, Romeo’s fight with Tybalt, the sleeping potion, and the lovers’ eventual suicides.’ Such taking from other stories is typical of Shakespeare, who often wrote plays based on well-known stories. But Shakespeare made it more exciting by adding the character of Mercutio, and by fitting the story into four frantic days. Shakespeare may also have known of the Italian version *Giulietta e Romeo* (1530) by Luigi da Porto who set the tale of *Romeo and Juliet* in Verona in Italy.
* Shakespeare wrote in a period called ‘The Renaissance’ (the word means ‘rebirth’), a time when art and literature flourished. Renaissance writers tried to recreate the glories of the Greeks and Romans; in particular, they thought deeply about human nature, and things like love and honor – and this comes out in *Romeo and Juliet*. The play is set in Verona – in Renaissance Italy - considered the height of fashion in Elizabethan England.
* Romeo and Juliet is the first-ever play about romantic love, and contains the first romantic stage kiss.
* Men played all roles, even females, since women weren’t allowed on stage until the 1800s.

**Ted Talk:**

* [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-aAUwAFZlQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-aAUwAFZlQ)

**The Globe Theatre**:

A white flag was flown above The Globe Theater to show that there was a performance that day.

* **The Globe Theater held 1,500 people and the poor people would stand in the courtyard (groundlings); rich people would sit in the covered balcony.**
* In 1613, the original Globe Theatre burned to the ground when a cannon shot during a performance of *Henry VIII* ignited the thatched roof of the gallery. The company completed a new Globe on the foundations of its predecessor before Shakespeare's death. It continued operating until 1642, when the Puritans closed it down (and all the other theatres, as well as any place, for that matter, where people might be entertained). Puritans razed the building two years later in 1644
* The foundations of the Globe were rediscovered in 1989, rekindling interest in a fitful attempt to erect a modern version of the amphitheater. Led by the vision of the late Sam Wanamaker, workers began construction in 1993 on the new theatre near the site of the original. The latest Globe Theatre was completed in 1996; Queen Elizabeth II officially opened the theatre on June 12, 1997 with a production of *Henry V*. The Globe is as faithful a reproduction as possible to the Elizabethan model, seating 1,500 people between the galleries and the "groundlings." In its initial 1997 season, the theatre attracted 210,000 patrons.

**Literary Terms:**

**drama:** a play; all lines are written in dialogue

**monologue:** speech or performance given completely by one character

**soliloquy:** given by an actor alone on the stage; it reveals the character’s thoughts, hopes, dreams, goals

**prologue**: an introductory speech that mentions the theme and possibly the main characters

**oxymoron:** two words beside each other with opposite meaning

**pun**: when the author uses the different meaning of a word (ex: “grave” can mean a burial place or serious; when Mercutio is dying in Romeo and Juliet, he says “Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a ‘grave’ man)

**simile:** comparison of two things using “like” or “as”

**metaphor:** comparison of two things without using “like” or “as”

**tragedy:** literary work that ends in catastrophe for the main character, usually due to a tragic flaw or weakness

**tragic flaw:** also called “hamartia”; it is the character defect that causes the downfall of a character

**dramatic irony:** contradiction between what a character thinks and what the reader or audience knows to be true

***Romeo and Juliet***

**Montagues**:

Lord Montague

Lady Montague

Romeo, son of Montague

Benvolio, nephew of Montague and friend to Romeo

Balthasar, servant of Romeo

Abram, servant of Montague

**Capulets**:

Lord Capulet

Lady Capulet

Juliet, daughter of Capulet

Tybalt, nephew of Lady Capulet

Nurse, to Juliet

Peter, servant to Nurse

Sampson and Gregory, servants of Capulet

**The Others**:

Prince Escalus, ruler of Verona

Mercutio, a relative of the Prince and friend to Romeo

Friar Laurence, a Franciscan priest

Friar John, another Franciscan priest

Count Paris, a young noblemen a relative of the Prince

An Apothecary, a druggist

Citizens of Verona, Relatives of both families, Maskers, Guards,

Three Watchmen (Act 5), Attendants

Scenes: Verona and Mantua, cities in Northern Italy

**Note**: For in-class reading, we will need a narrator for the italicized parts of the literature book and a second narrator to read the summaries for parts of the play that we skip.

***Romeo and Juliet*** Prologue: **Read p. 787**

***Prologue***:

**1-**What does it mean when it refers to “**Two households, both alike in dignity**”?

**2**-Where is the setting? (add the country too)

**3**-What does it mean when it says, “**civil blood makes civil hands unclean**”?

**4**-What does it mean when it refers to them as “**star-crossed lovers**”?

**Note:** Astrology was an integral part of English society – every noble family in Italy had horoscopes drawn for their children upon birth, and most governments employed astrologers to advise them. Many people believed that the stars dictated the outcome of your life. The power of the stars in determining the Fate of the characters can be found many times in *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Read p.788 - Bottom of p. 791**

***Act I***:

**The feud**: Life in Elizabethan England was very violent, and feuds were happening all the time. Some historians try to guess which particular feud that Shakespeare was talking about – one between the Danvers and Long families of England was well-known in Shakespeare’s time – but Shakespeare probably simply took the feud from Luigi da Porto, who called the rival families Montecchi and Capuleti – actual feuding families of thirteenth century Verona.

**Note**: Sampson & Gregory = Capulets Abram = Montague

**5**-Exactly what does Sampson do to insult Abram?

**6**-What is an aside and why does Shakespeare use an aside to have Gregory speak to Sampson? What is humorous about the response?

**7**-How are Benvolio and Tybalt different?

**Note: Benvolio, *nephew to Montague, and friend to Romeo***  
Benvolio is an invented name, derived from Italian, loosely translating to "good will". This reflects his role of peacemaker in the play, and can be compared

to *Twelfth Night's* Malvolio ("ill-will").

**8**-What is the Prince’s decision for the Capulets and Montagues after the fight?

**Escalus, *prince of Verona***  
Escalusis probably an Anglicization of "della Scala", who were the ruling noble family of Verona.His name is similar in the source material which Shakespeare adapted his play from, like many of these characters below, so Shakespeare probably didn't actually name many of these characters himself. The source material was Arthur Brooke's The Tragical History of Romeus and Juliet, an English verse adaptation of an Italian folk story.

**9**-Where was Romeo during the fight? What’s his “issue”?

**Summarize pp. 792-796**:

After the Montagues exit, Romeo enters and confesses to Benvolio that he is in despair because he loves a young woman, Rosaline, who has worn herself to a life of chastity. Benvolio advises Romeo to forget Rosaline and find someone else, but Romeo says that other women only remind him of Rosaline.

**Read p. 796 – 797** (line 44)

**10**-Who wants to marry Juliet and what does Lord Capulet think of this

(especially in relation to Juliet’s age)?

**Summarize p. 797** (“Enter Benvolio and Romeo”) **– p. 801**

The illiterate servant asks Romeo and Benvolio for help. Romeo discovers that Rosaline, Capulet’s niece, has been invited. Benvolio, hoping his friend will fall in love with someone else, persuades Romeo to “crash” the party.

**Note**: Have you ever been to an invitation-only event where you weren’t invited? How did it go?

**Read p. 802 – p. 805**

**11**-Who is a mother figure to Juliet?

**12**-What is a “masker” and why would this be helpful for Romeo as he attends this party?

(p. 804)

**13**-Explain the two examples of figurative language in lines 25-26 on page 805.

**Summarize p. 806 – mid-page 808** (… “This is she“)

Romeo is still lovesick and tells his friends that a dream has filled him with forebodings about the party. Mercutio, trying to get Romeo to forget his troubles, describes Queen Mab, who is the fairy in control of the dream world. Mercutio insists that dreams have no bearing on reality.

**Read p. 808 – p. 809** (End of Scene 4)

**14**. What has Romeo dreamt of (line 111) and how might this be foreshadowing?

**Read p. 809** (Begin at narrator’s directions at line 16) **- p. 815**

**15**. Who did Romeo come to the party to see? Who is he describing when he says, **“O, she doth teach the torches to burn bright!”**? What is your impression of Romeo based on his behavior in the play so far?

**16**- “**This, by his voice, should be a Montague. / Fetch me my rapier, boy.”**

**Note**: A rapier is a sword

Does Tybalt fight Romeo at the party? Why/why not?

**17**-What does Juliet mean when she says in line 97, “**Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand too much**…”?

**18**-What does Juliet mean when she says in line 138, “**My only love, sprung from my only hate!”**?

**19**- What two things do Romeo and Juliet realize at the end of Act I?

**Act II**:

**Summarize p. 818-819 (End of Act II, Scene I)**:

Romeo enters the Capulets’orchard. Mercutio calls for him. When Romeo does not respond, Mercutio and Benvolio depart, believing that Romeo is depressed over Rosaline.

**Read p. 820** (Note the setting) **- p. 827** (Top / End of Scene II)

**Act II,** **Scene 2:**

**20**-When Juliet appears on her balcony, Romeo says **“It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!”** What literary device is he using by this statement?

**21**-(**II.ii.21-25**) What does Romeo really mean when he says, “**O, that I were a glove upon that hand, / That I might touch that cheek**” (22-23)?

**22**-(**II.ii.33**) “**Wherefore art thou Romeo?**” is one of the most misinterpreted questions in all of Shakespeare. According to the side note in your text, what does this line actually mean?

**23**-In two-three sentences, explain what Juliet says about names.

**“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose**

**By any other word would smell as sweet.**

**So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,**

**Retain that dear perfection which he owes**

**Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name;**

**And for thy name, which is no part of thee,**

**Take all myself**.”

**24**-(**II.ii.66-69**) Juliet asks how Romeo got into her place. The orchard walls are high, and Romeo’s life would be in danger if her relatives were to find him there. What is Romeo’s response to these questions?

**25**-Juliet tells Romeo, “**If though dost love, pronounce it faithfully**” (94) and later says “**O swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon, / That monthly changes in her circle orb**” (109-110). How have Romeo’s actions been like the inconstant moon in this play? Do you think Juliet should go “all in” on this guy? Explain.

**26**-Juliet is going to send someone to Romeo on the following day for what purpose?

**27**-“**Good night, good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow / That I shall say good night till it**

**be morrow**.” Explain the **oxymoron** when Juliet says that, “**Parting is such sweet sorrow**”?

**Summarize p. 827-844 (The rest of Act II)**:

* Early the next morning, Romeo goes to the cell of Friar Laurence, his spiritual advisor. Romeo greets him, and the friar perceives that there is something amiss. Romeo tells of his love for Juliet and asks the friar to marry them. The friar chides Romeo for his quick change of heart (remember Romeo was previously in love with Rosaline), **but he agrees to marry them because he thinks that this union with unite the families and end the feud**.
* Mercutio and Benvolio, looking for Romeo, reveal that Tybalt will challenge Romeo to a duel. They worry for Romeo because Tybalt is an expert swordsman and Romeo is lovesick. The nurse enters and Mercutio insults the nurse. Once Mercutio and Benvolio leave, the nurse askes Romeo if his love is true. He assures her it is and tells her to have Juliet come to Friar Laurence’s cell that afternoon to be married.
* The friar cautions Romeo that the intensity of his love will lead to no good. When Juliet enters, Romeo urges her to describe the extent of their love. Juliet replies that fancy words are unable to do justice to the substance of her love. **The friar quickly leads them off to be married**.

Act III:

**Read Page 845 lines 1-14 only**

Romeo’s friends enter the stage. Again Shakespeare “sets the stage” by having the characters tell us what the weather is like. What is Benvolio trying to convince Tybalt to do and how does Tybalt’s reaction mirror the weather?

**Skip the rest of p. 845 (beginning at line 15) – end of page**.

**Read p. 846 – 852**

**Note:** Tybalt tells Mercutio “**thou consortest with Romeo**.” It has a double meaning. It could mean that he is just saying that you are consorting or hanging out with him or he could also be saying it to annoy him. The word 'consortest' shows how language was used in the 16th century. 'Consort' was associated with hired musicians, who were very poor. Tybalt is implying that Mercutio is poor and of a low class

**28**-What does Romeo mean when he tells Tybalt **“I do protest I never injured thee, / But loved thee better than though canst devise / Till though shalt know the reason of my love**,”

(Act III, Scene I, Lines 66-68)?

**29**-Tybalt is the Prince of Cats in a European cycle of folk tales called *Reynard the Fox.*Mercutio teases him about this. What does he call him?

**30**-Who is involved in the first fight? Who dies?

**Note: Mercutio, *kinsman to the prince, and friend to Romeo***  
Mercutio seems to be derived from the word *mercurial,* meaning volatile, lively, flighty, and fickle.

**31**-Explain Mercutio’s pun on the word “grave” (line 95).

Quotes: Indicate who is expressing the indicated quote, what scene the quote is from and the significance of the quote according to the play.

**32**-“Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm?”

**33**-“A plague a’both your houses!

They have made worms’ meat of me.”

**Note**: The 'plague' which Mercutio wishes upon the two families with his dying breath was probably the bubonic plague – in the days before antibiotics, there were many ‘plagues’ (epidemics). Bubonic plague broke out in England in 1563 and 1578, and there was a bad epidemic in 1593 which killed 5% of the people of London. Shakespeare lost 3 sisters, and brother and his only son, Hamnet (who died when he was just eleven years old) to the plague.

**Note**: What was a time that you were trying to help, but your actions caused things to get a lot worse?

**34**-Who is involved in the second fight? Who dies?

**35**-Why does Romeo exclaim, “**O, I am fortune’s fool!**”?

**36**-How does the second fight really complicate things? Do you feel bad for Romeo? Why did he participate?

**37**-What is Romeo’s punishment? Why is it appropriate compared to the punishment he should be receiving?

**Note**: Duels and street-fights were common too – calling someone a liar, or a coward could lead to a fight. Mercutio’s sudden rage at the word ‘consortest’ ((Act II, Scene I, Line 43) was typical of Shakespeare’s times. Duels were illegal – which explains the prince’s anger.

**Skip p. 853- top of 854 (“Ay, ay, the cords.”**)

**Read p. 854 – p. 859** (line 22)

**38**-Because of the Nurse’s babbling, who does Juliet think is dead?

**39**-What is Juliet’s moral dilemma in Scene II?

**Summarize p. 859 – 863 (end of Scene 3**)

At Friar Laurence’s cell, the friar tells Romeo of the prince’s sentence of banishment. Romeo collapses in despair. Death, he says, would be preferable. When the nurse arrives, she reports that Juliet is also distraught. Felling responsible for her grief, Romeo tris to stab himself. The nurse prevents him and Friar Laurence offers a plan: Romeo will go to Mantua while the friar works to reconcile the feuding families, reveal the secret marriage, and obtain the Prince’s pardon for Romeo, who will then return to Verona. But first Romeo will visit Juliet. However, the friar cautions him that Romeo must be off to Mantua very quickly.

**Read p. 863 (beginning of Scene 4) – 871**

**40**-What happens in Scene IV between Lord Capulet and Paris?

**Note**: Romeo and Juliet are now married and they have spent the night together.

**41**-Why does Juliet tell Romeo “**It was the nightingale, not the lark that pierced the fearful hollow of thine ear.**” What does she want and how does Romeo respond?

**42**-Explain the literary term on page 867 in lines 54-57.

**43**-Juliet refuses to do what her parents want. What are two of the things that her father says?

**Note**: Juliet and Paris – in Shakespeare’s time, the father DID have the right to decide whom his daughter married – marriage was a business agreement, and one of the reasons Capulet is so keen to marry Juliet off to Paris is because it represents a sound business investment. Girls were married off very young.

**Summarize p. 872 - p. 873 (end of Act III**)

Juliet pleads with her mother to postpone the marriage, but Lady Capulet refuses. The nurse advises Juliet to marry Paris and forget the inferior Romeo. Juliet resolves to visit Friar Laurence for help.

**Act IV**:

**Summarize p. 876 – p. 886 (Scenes 1-4)**:

-Juliet goes to Friar Laurence’s cell and encounters Paris there. Paris speaks of love and their upcoming marriage, but Juliet responds vaguely. Paris leaves and Juliet tells the friar that she will commit suicide if he cannot help her. The friar devises a plan to prevent Juliet’s marriage to Paris: On the night before the wedding, Juliet will take a drink that induces a deathlike coma for forty-two hours. In the meantime, Friar Laurence will send a message to Romeo, who will return to Verona and wait in the Capulets’ burial vault until Juliet awakes. The lovers will then escape to Mantua.

-Lord Capulet is making preparations for the marriage when Juliet enters and said that Friar Laurence has told her to apologize and she does so and says she will now obey his wishes to marry Paris. Lord Capulet is relieved and decides to move the wedding day up to Wednesday, the very next morning.

-The nurse and Juliet’s mother have been helping Juliet get ready for her wedding. After they leave Juliet expresses doubts about taking the potion. She recovers her courage and swallows the potion saying that she drinks to Romeo.

-As wedding preparations continue, Lord Capulet sends the nurse to waken Juliet.

**Read p. 886 (Scene 5) – p. 888**

**Scene 5:**  
**44**-What does Friar Laurence say to comfort the Capulet family? What does he say to rebuke the family?

**45**-How does Friar Laurence’s emotions differ from Paris and Juliet’s parents?

**46**-Do you think Friar Laurence is doing the right thing? What does he hope his actions will accomplish?

**Note**: Discuss a time where you were “caught” between two different people and were trying to help them both.

**Skip p. 890 – p. 891**

**Act V**:

**Read p. 895- p. 898** (end of Scene 2)

**47**-At the beginning of Act V, where is Romeo (what town) and why is he there?

**48**-Why couldn’t Friar John get the Letter to Romeo? (Think about the what you know about the time period.)

**49**-What misunderstanding does Romeo have and what causes this to happen?

**50**-What is an apothecary and what does he sell to Romeo? How does Romeo persuade him to sell this?

**Apothecaries** – people in those days before proper medicines believed in all kinds of magic potions and cures, and would have totally believed that an apothecary, or a priest who studied plants, could have made potions such as Juliet and Romeo took.

Quotes: Indicate who is expressing the indicated quote, what scene the quote is from and the significance of the quote according to the play.

**51**-“Well, Juliet I will lie with thee tonight.”

**52**-“I pay thy poverty and not thy will.”

**53**-“And drink it off, and if you had the strength

Of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight.”

**Read p. 899** (“Enter Romeo and Balthasar”) – **p. 910** (“Let him in the tomb.”)

**54**-When they enter the tomb, how does Paris react towards Romeo and what plea does Romeo make to Paris?

**55**-What is Romeo’s last sentence?

**Sepulcher** (line 141) – a small room or monument built of stone in which a dead person is laid or buried.

**56**-Why does Juliet kiss Romeo’s lips?

**57**-Which other character has died that we discover in Act V (line 210)? What is the cause of the death?

**58**-How does Balthasar’s letter help the Friar?

**59**-What will the Capulets and Montagues do to symbolize the end of their feuding?

Quotes: Indicate who is expressing the indicated quote, what scene the quote is from and the significance of the quote according to the play.

**60**-“For never was a story of more woe

Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.”

***Possible Post Reading***:

**61**-Pick either Juliet’s monologue on p. 820 or the Friar’s monologue on p. 879-880. Read through the speech you’ve chosen, and find two literary devices.

Explain how each of those literary devices contribute to the overall meaning of the speech. Explain this in Strong Answer Format.

**Claim:** Meaning of the speech

**Data**: First literary device (properly cited – Act, scene, lines – II, i, 132)

**Warrant**: Explain what kind of device it is and explain how this contributes to the meaning of the speech (2 sentences)

**Data**: Second literary device (properly cited – Act, scene, lines – II, i, 132)

**Warrant**: Explain what kind of device it is and explain how this contributes to the meaning of the speech (2 sentences)

**Conclusion**: Summarize what you’ve written!

**62**. Five types of love exist in Romeo and Juliet: unrequited love, romantic love, parental love, friendship, and love of family honor. Identify the participants in each of these love relationships. contrast two of these types of love as depicted in the play. Do these types of love still exist today? How have they changed, if at all?

**63**. Which character in *Romeo and Juliet* do you think is most responsible for the tragedy?  Give specific reasons why.

**64***.* Romeo and Juliet are the most famous pair of lovers in Western literature, but is their love real or is it just infatuation? What effect does the accelerated time scheme have on the play’s development?  Some people claim that Romeo and Juliet are just melodramatic teenagers. Others argue that the Romeo and Juliet's love is the kind of love everyone should aspire to find. What proof (evidence) does the play provide that their love is "real love," not just infatuation?  
  
**65**. How is loved portrayed in the media? How is this similar to or different from how love is portrayed in Romeo and Juliet? How accurate is this portrayal?  
  
**66**. How might this story be different if it were told from the perspective of one of the characters?

**67**. How would you have handled this situation if you were Romeo or Juliet?

**68**. In your opinion, what is the job of a good parent? Explain using textual evidence.

**69**. What responsibility should the Nurse and/or the Friar bear for the play's tragic ending? The Prince announces that "some shall be pardoned and some punished." Do either the Nurse or the Friar deserve punishment? Who else, in your opinion, might bear some responsibility for the two lovers' deaths?

**70**. How did Romeo’s actions affect others? What does this show about how one person’s actions affect others?

**71.** Why do humans turn to secrecy in order to solve their problems and how does this affect everyday life?

**72**. Why has this story become one of the most famous love stories ever told?

**73**. Is this a story about love or family honor or both?

**Note**: Students have to take a picture or pictures and use no words to represent a scene or act from to play or to tell the story.

Or

Have students in groups have to do each act from the entire work using pictures and videos or other pieces of that represent important issues / themes / symbols in each part of the play.