*Romeo and Juliet* Study Guide

Test Dates: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part I: Study Questions [Discussion Questions from Class]**

**Prologue**

1. What does the prologue tell us about the story?

2. Who are we introduced to?

3. Where is the play taking place?

4. Who is the “Chorus?”

**Act I**

1. What is your impression of Romeo’s feelings for Rosaline?

2. What is your general impression of Romeo in the beginning of the play?

3. When does Romeo’s attitude change drastically, and what is the cause of this change?

4. Why might have been Shakespeare’s purpose in having Romeo think he was in love with Rosaline?

5. What does Juliet reveal in her conversation with her mother and the nurse?

6. Why do you think so much time is spent establishing Juliet’s age?

7. Identify the subtle change in Juliet’s character at the end of Act I.

8. Shakespeare often advances his plot by chance happening rather than by a sequence of logical events. What important chance happening occurs in scene 2?

**Act II**

1. Explain the influence true love exerts of Romeo.

2. What aspects of Juliet’s character doe we feel most in the balcony scene: her youth, impulsiveness, deep love, underlying sense of tragedy?

3. Discuss the motivations for Romeo and Juliet’s impulsive declarations. Why might Juliet act this way? Why might Romeo leave Rosaline so quickly?

4. Do you think that their secrecy is necessary?

5. What chance happening event occurs in scene 2 of this act?

6. Does the friar’s attitude in scene 6 reflect any evil to come?

7. How does our knowledge that the two lovers will soon die [prologue: line 6] affect our reaction to this scene?

**Act III**

1. What does the reader learn from Benvolio’s opening speech in scene 1?

2. Can we relate to any present-day feuds between 2 parties [The Capulets vs. the Montagues]?

3. How does Romeo act when he first encounters Tybalt?

4. How does Romeo act to the sentence of banishment?

5. What flaw in Romeo’s character does scene 3 reveal?

6. Compare his reaction to the news of his banishment with Juliet’s reaction.

7. What new strengths does Juliet reveal in her conversation with her parents?

8. Why does Juliet no longer consider the Nurse worthy of her confidence?

**Act IV**

1. Describe Juliet’s state of mind during her conversation with the friar.

2. Because the friar prepares a potion contrary to anything known to science, some critics have labeled this a supernatural element in the plot. Is it plausible that the friar should have in his possession a potion capable of making a person appear dead for a set length of time?

3. Evaluate Lord Capulet’s character at this point.

4. What he has accomplished by being so harsh with Juliet?

5. In scene 3, what are Juliet’s reactions to drinking the potion?

6. How might the Capulets have reacted at this point had Friar Lawrence revealed the truth instead of continuing the deception?

**Act V**

1. How might Romeo’s dream be interpreted?

2. What hope is there that tragedy may be averted even after Romeo buys the poison?

3. What happens to ruin that hope?

4. At the end of scene 2, what hope is there that Romeo and Juliet might still be saved?

5. What one flaw in Romeo’s character is strongly evident in Act V?

6. Among the characters remaining alive at the end of the play, who is deserving of punishment?

**Part 2: Vocabulary**

**-**Word Parts-

a. Roots: am, agri

b. Prefixes: audio, bene, hypo, trans, psych

c. Suffixes: -viv-, -ing, -ion

**Part 3: Grammar**

Punctuating Dialogue: Review Grammar Exercises from Class

**Part 4: Universal Themes [Revisit PowerPoint Notes from Class]**

Definition of **Theme**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Definition of **Universal Theme**:

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What universal themes are present within *Romeo and Juliet*? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_