**Romeo and Juliet Discussion Questions**

**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. In her first meeting with Romeo, what do Juliet’s actions reveal about her?

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

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

10. The prologue states that this is the story of “star-crossed lovers.” There are strong foreshadowings of evil in Act I. Locate these foreshadowings and describe their purpose.

**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? What do you foresee happening if they declared their love for each other openly to their families? From what you know about the personalities of the other characters, what responses might they receive from each? What makes you give the response you gave?

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?