

William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*
Act II Reading Guide

I. Vocabulary: Use a dictionary to define the following words. Do your best to pay attention to the noted part of speech.

1. Beseech (v.)
2. Chide (v.)
3. Impute (v.)
4. Quiver (v.)
5. Sallow (adj.)

II. Characters: Using the opening pages of the text, briefly identify each of the following characters from Act I in the space provided. You may add more detail as you read.

Friar Laurence

Peter

Remember the characters from your previous guide; feel free to add information related to each character to your previous guide if you wish.

III. Plot: Complete the following items regarding the plot of *Romeo and Juliet*. Be as specific as you can.

1. What are Benvolio and Mercutio doing in scene 1? What do Mercutio's remarks reveal about his knowledge of what has transpired? How does Romeo feel about the remarks he has overheard from his friends? (2.1, 2.2)
2. What thoughts does Romeo reveal to the audience in his soliloquy? (2.2)
3. What do Romeo and Juliet determine they will do despite their feud? (2.2)
4. What ideas does Friar Laurence's soliloquy address? (2.3)
5. What does Friar Laurence think of Romeo's statements regarding love and Juliet? Why does he agree to marry them anyway? (2.3)

6. Describe Mercutio's treatment of the Nurse (2.4)
7. What news does the Nurse agree to relay to Juliet? (2.4)
8. Why does Juliet find the Nurse's responses frustrating? What does this reveal about her character? (2.5)
9. What warning does Friar Laurence offer Romeo and Juliet before they are married? (2.6)

IV. Literary Concepts: Using your textbook or a dictionary, define each literary term in the space below.

Allusion

Foreshadowing

Personification

Remember your terms from the previous guide: Aside, Foil, Monologue, Oxymoron, Pun, Soliloquy, Sonnet - They will show up on your quiz!

V. Identify the speaker of each quotation and if a literary device applies, label it as an example of an allusion, foreshadowing, personification, a soliloquy, or a monologue. Note: The example may be of more than one concept. Be sure to list and label each if this is the case.

1. "So smile the heavens upon this holy act/That after-hours with sorrow chide us not" (2.6.1-2).
2. "Not in a grave/To lay one in, another ought to have" (2.3.83-84).
3. "But soft! What light through yonder window breaks?/It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!/Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,/Who is already sick and pale with grief/That thou her maid art far more fair than she" (2.2.2-5).

Name: _____

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4. "Else would I tear the cave where Echo lies,/And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine/With repetition of my Romeo's name" (2.2.164).

5. "My life were better ended by their hate/Than death prorogued, wanting of thy love" (2.2.77).

IV. Identify the speaker for the following passages

6. "Oh, mickle is the powerful grace that lies/ In herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities... Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,/And vice sometime's by action dignified."

7. "Young men's love then lies/Not truly in their hearts but in their eyes."

8. "The hie you hence to Friar Lawrence' cell;/There stays a husband to make you a wife."