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# Sample

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## Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



### Romeo and Juliet

by William Shakespeare

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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# Romeo and Juliet

## Objectives

*By the end of this unit, the student will be able to*

1. define “courtly love” and “true love” and indicate what role each plays in this drama.
2. understand and explain the term “star-cross’d lover” and its significance in this play.
3. explain how Romeo and Juliet’s love is different from both courtly love and vulgar love.
4. write a character sketch of Romeo illustrating how he grows and matures throughout the play.
5. explain how both the Nurse and the Friar function as confidantes.
6. identify major themes that are developed throughout the play.
7. comment on the role Fate plays in this drama.
8. define “comic relief” and identify specific examples.
9. identify those features that characterize the language of the common people in a Shakespearean play.
10. identify couplets throughout the play.
11. interpret major lines with ease and appreciation.
12. correctly identify prose style.
13. define and cite examples of the following terms and definitions:

allusion  
anaphora  
aside  
climax  
comic relief  
confidant(e)  
couplet  
exposition  
falling action  
figurative language  
foil

foreshadowing  
half rhyme  
irony  
malapropism  
metaphor  
monologue  
omen  
prologue  
prose  
pun  
resolution

rhyme scheme  
rising action  
setting  
soliloquy  
sonnet  
symbol  
theme  
tragic hero  
verse

# Romeo and Juliet

## Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Fate is involved in the play over and over again. How does Fate bring about the death of the lovers? Mention and discuss at least four incidents.
2. Some critics believe that Romeo and Juliet change and mature over the course of the play. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific examples in the play to support your opinion.
3. What view of love do both Mercutio and the Nurse represent? What view of love does Romeo's love for Rosaline represent? What view of love do Romeo and Juliet share? Provide support for each answer.
4. What does the Prince represent, and why must he bear some of the responsibility for the tragic deaths?
5. Point out the ways in which this play presents a clash of generations.
6. What role does Paris play in the drama, and why is his persona important for the action in the play?
7. While the Nurse is Juliet's confidante, the Friar is Romeo's. Compare and contrast these two as counselors.
8. Write a character sketch of Romeo pointing out how he is similar to and different from his friends Mercutio and Benvolio.
9. Point out the language patterns of the common people and identify at least three instances where characters function as comic relief.
10. Some see Fate and Divine Providence as the same thing; that is, some power or outside force determines the course of our lives. While Divine Providence assumes that God is the higher power, the force or power behind Fate is left undefined. Write a paper in which you state your thoughts on this topic. Do you think that some invisible force or power governs the unfolding of our lives, or do our lives just unfold randomly? If you believe our lives are guided, do you believe it is God or some other force that is directing them?
11. Write a paragraph explaining your opinion on whether it is right or wrong for fourteen-year-old girls to get married during the historical time in which this play takes place.
12. Given the time, place, and circumstances in this play, do you think Friar Laurence is wrong in marrying Romeo and Juliet without first informing their parents?

**Act III, Scene II – Capulet’s orchard.**

## Vocabulary

**amorous** – passionate, loving  
**bedaub’d** – covered, smeared  
**beguiled** – fooled, seduced  
**bower** – surround, encompass  
**cockatrice** – a mythological creature said to have the ability to kill with a single look  
**corse** – corpse  
**garish** – elaborate, pretentious  
**monarch** – prince, king, ruler  
**Phaethon** – son of Apollo  
**Phoebus** – Roman god of the sun (Apollo)  
**weal** – security, success, fortune

1. The night is a very significant time for Romeo and Juliet. In her soliloquy, she mentions “night” many times. List 10 ways Juliet uses “night”.

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2. As Juliet waits for night and Romeo’s visit, the Nurse arrives with news. What is the news, and how is it presented?

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3. Juliet’s first reaction is to call Romeo names. What does she call her beloved Romeo? The names she calls Romeo are quite obscure; what do you think they suggest? What is odd about these insults?

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4. After the name calling, what is Juliet’s second reaction? What does this second reaction prove?

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10. What is the Nurse's advice, and how can she give that advice knowing how Juliet feels?

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11. In what way does the Nurse's opinion contrast with Juliet's? What kind of character does this make the Nurse?

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12. When Juliet hears this opinion, what is her decision regarding the Nurse?

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13. Juliet tells the Nurse she is going to Friar Laurence to confess her sins. Why is she really going there?

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