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*Romeo & Juliet*

**Act 1, Scene 4**

Romeo, Benvolio, and their friend Mercutio, all wearing masks, have gathered with a group of guests on their way to the Capulets’ party. Still sad, Romeo wonders how they will get into the Capulets’ party, since they are Montagues. When that concern goes away, he says that he will not dance at the party. Mercutio begins to tease Romeo, changing all of Romeo’s statements about love into sexual innuendos. Romeo refuses to engage in the conversation, explaining that in a dream he learned that going to the feast was a bad idea. Mercutio responds with a long speech about Queen Mab of the fairies, which visits people’s dreams. Romeo steps in to stop the speech. Mercutio admits that he’s been talking about nothing, saying that dreams are “the children of an idle brain.”

Benvolio refocuses their attention on actually getting to the party. Romeo voices one last concern: he has a feeling that the night’s events will set in motion an action of fate, resulting in untimely death. But, putting himself in the hands of “he who hath the steerage of my course,” Romeo gets into a better mood and continues with his friends toward the party.

**Act 1, Scene 4 Questions**

1. What does Romeo say he will not do at the Capulets’ party?
2. When Mercutio teases Romeo, what does he do with everything Romeo says?
3. What does Romeo have a dream about?
4. Mercutio gives a long speech about what?
5. What is Romeo’s feeling about the party?

**Act 1, Scene 5**

The party is going strong in the Capulets’ home. The servants work hard to make sure everything runs smoothly, and set aside some food to make sure they have something to enjoy, as well. Capulet makes his rounds through the groups of guests, joking with them and encouraging them to dance.

From across the room, Romeo sees Juliet, and asks a servant who she is. The servant does not know. Romeo is instantly obsessed; Rosaline vanishes from his mind and he says that he has never been in love until this moment. Moving through the crowd, Tybalt hears and recognizes Romeo’s voice. Realizing that there is a Montague at the party, Tybalt sends a servant to get his weapon. Capulet overhears Tybalt and scolds him, reminding him that Romeo is well-respected in Verona, and that he will not allow Romeo to be hurt during the party. Tybalt complains, but Capulet scolds him until he agrees to keep the peace. As Capulet moves on, Tybalt promises that he will not let Romeo get away with this.

Meanwhile, Romeo has approached Juliet and touched her hand. Romeo begins to have a conversation with Juliet, comparing her to a saint and himself to a pilgrim. He says that he is a sinner and the only way to erase his sin is to kiss her. Juliet agrees to stay still while Romeo kisses her. In terms of their conversation, she takes his sin from him. Juliet then says that if she has taken Romeo’s sin from him, his sin must now be on her lips, and so they must kiss again.

Just as their second kiss ends, the Nurse arrives and tells Juliet that her mother wants to speak with her. Romeo asks the Nurse who Juliet’s mother is. The Nurse replies that Lady Capulet is Juliet’s mother. Romeo is devastated. As the crowd begins to get smaller, Benvolio shows up and leads Romeo away from the party. Juliet is just as interested with the mysterious man she has kissed as Romeo is with her. She comments to herself that if he is already married, she feels she will die. In order to find out who Romeo is, she asks the Nurse to identify a large group of young men. The Nurse goes off and returns with the news that the man’s name is Romeo, and that he is a Montague. Overcome with sadness that she loves a Montague, Juliet follows her nurse from the party.

Act 1, Scene 5

1. Who does Romeo see from across the room?
2. How does Romeo feel about Juliet the minute he sees her?
3. Who recognizes Romeo’s voice? What does this person want to do?
4. Who keeps Tybalt from confronting Romeo?
5. How does Romeo convince Juliet to kiss him?
6. How does Juliet find out Romeo’s name?
7. How do Romeo and Juliet feel when they find out that they are from opposing families?