Name: Date:

Act II



|  |
| --- |
| **Directions:** Answer the following questions as you read through Act II of *Romeo & Juliet*. Answer in complete sentences on a separate sheet of white lined paper; provide page numbers and quotes where noted to support your responses. |

Scene ii:

1. Juliet is on the balcony outside her bedroom but cannot hear the words that Romeo says to himself as he looks at her from the hiding place below. Answer the following questions about lines 2-25:
2. Romeo repeats the light and dark images he introduced when he saw Juliet for the first time. Why does Romeo compare Juliet to the sun?
3. Why is the moon envious?
4. Why does he compare Juliet’s eyes to the stars?
5. Why is this comparison to stars an example of foreshadowing[[1]](#footnote-1)?
6. Juliet is still unaware that Romeo is nearby. Paraphrase the following lines:

*O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?*

*Deny thy father and refuse thy name.*

*Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,*

*And I’ll no longer be a Capulet.*

1. What is Juliet’s attitude toward the feud that has separated the two families?
2. After Juliet asks some pertinent questions, she realizes that Romeo has overheard her intimate thoughts about him. How does her attitude change? What is she worried about?
3. Why does Juliet object to Romeo’s swearing on the moon?
4. Juliet speaks of her fears. Explain them.

Scene iii

1. Friar Laurence is introduced in a lengthy soliloquy[[2]](#footnote-2) in which he philosophizes about nature and about mankind. Paraphrase the following line: *Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied, And vice sometime by action dignified.*
2. What does Romeo tell Friar Laurence, and what does he want from the Friar?
3. What is the Friar’s reaction to hearing of Romeo’s new love?
4. What reason does Friar Laurence give for agreeing to marry Romeo and Juliet?

Scene iv

1. What message does Romeo urge the nurse to give to Juliet?

Scene v

1. Juliet is very impatient to hear news from Romeo. What images does she use in her soliloquy to express this?
2. The Nurse knows Juliet is impatient, but she keeps putting her off. Why does the Nurse do this?
3. Why does the Nurse agree to help Juliet marry Romeo?

1. To show or indicate beforehand; prefigure [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. an utterance or discourse by a person who is talking to himself or herself or is disregardful of or oblivious to any hearers present (often used as a device in drama to disclose a character's innermost thoughts) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)