**Romeo & Juliet Guided Reading Questions**

**ACT I**

**Prologue**
1. What is the function of the Prologue?
2. Who reads the Prologue?
3. Where is the play set?
4. What are the names of the two feuding families?
5. Why are the families fighting?

**Scene 1**
1. How does the scene begin?
2. Who causes the fight? Who tries to stop it? Who keeps it going?
3. What are the main differences between Benvolio and Tybalt?
4. When Capulet and Montague want to fight, who restrains them?
5. Who breaks up the fight in the square?
   a. What kind of mood is he in? What warning does he give?
6. How many times has the fight disrupted the city?
7. Why are Romeo’s parents worried about him?
8. Why is Romeo sad?
9. Who tries to help Romeo? What advice is given to Romeo?

**Scene 2**
1. How old is Juliet?
2. When does Capulet say Juliet will be ready for marriage?
3. Who wants to marry Juliet?
4. Give three reasons why Capulet hesitates to give his permission?
5. Why does Capulet’s servant approach Romeo and Benvolio?
6. Where does the servant invite them?
7. Why does Romeo want to go to the party?
8. Why does Benvolio want Romeo to go to the party?

**Scene 3**
1. Describe the Nurse’s relationship with Juliet.
2. Why is the Nurse impressed with Paris?
3. Why does Lady Capulet encourage the arrangement between Juliet and Paris?
4. What does Juliet promise her mother?
5. Would you encourage this arrangement? Why or why not?

**Scene 4**
1. How will Romeo and his friends escape detection at the party?
2. In Mercuito’s dream, Queen Mab does what?
3. What does Romeo dream?

**Scene 5**
1. How does Capulet treat his guests?
2. What does Romeo think of Juliet at first? To what does he compare her?
3. Who notices Romeo? How? Who does he tell?
4. Why does Capulet let Romeo stay at the party?
5. At the party, Romeo and Juliet join hands. What metaphor does Romeo use to compare their joined hands?
6. How many times do Romeo and Juliet kiss at the ball?
7. Who interrupts them?
8. What does Romeo find out from the Nurse after Juliet goes to see her mother?
ACT II

Prologue
1. What does the chorus do in this prologue?
2. What will help Romeo and Juliet overcome their problems?

Scene 1
1. What does Romeo do in order to avoid his friends?
2. What do Benvolio and Mercuito think Romeo is doing?

Scene 2
1. What does Romeo compare Juliet to?
2. What is Juliet’s enemy?
3. Why doesn’t Romeo reveal himself?
4. Why doesn’t Juliet want Romeo to swear by the moon?
5. About what else is Juliet concerned?
6. What do they plan for the next day?

Scene 3
1. Who does Romeo visit to ask for help? What is he doing when Romeo visits?
2. What does Friar Laurence say about the earth?
3. What are some of the powers of herbs? How does Friar Laurence compare man to herbs?
4. What does Romeo ask Friar Laurence to do?
5. What is his initial reaction to Romeo’s request? Why does Friar Laurence change his mind?

Scene 4
1. What two things did Benvolio discover at Montague’s home?
2. What does Mercutio say about Tybalt?
3. How does Mercutio talk with the Nurse?
4. What does Romeo tell the Nurse?

Scene 5
1. What is Juliet’s state of mind as she waits for the Nurse?
2. What is humorous about the scene when the Nurse returns?

Scene 6
1. What is Romeo willing to risk in order to marry Juliet?
2. What warning does Friar Laurence give Romeo?

ACT III

Scene 1
1. What does Benvolio think the hot weather will cause?
2. How does Mercutio treat Tybalt when he appears?
3. Why does Romeo refuse to fight Tybalt?
4. What happens when Romeo tries to stop Mercutio from fighting?
5. How does Mercutio feel about Romeo then? How does Romeo feel?
6. What is the result of Romeo’s fight with Tybalt?
7. What does Benvolio suggest Romeo should do? Why?
8. Who demands that Romeo be put to death?
9. What is the Prince’s decision? Why do you think the Prince made this decision?
Scene 2
1. What is Juliet doing at the beginning of this scene?
2. How does Juliet first interpret the Nurse’s news that “he’s dead”?
3. What does Juliet say about Romeo after the Nurse tells her that Romeo killed Tybalt?
4. How does Juliet react when the Nurse criticizes Romeo?
5. What upsets Juliet worse than the death of Tybalt?
6. Where is Romeo hiding?
7. What does Juliet ask the Nurse to do?

Scene 3
1. What does Romeo think of the Prince’s decision of banishment, not death?
2. What does Romeo attempt and why?
3. Who stops him? What does he say about Romeo’s desire to die?
4. What is Friar Laurence’s plan?

Scene 4
1. What decision does Lord Capulet make regarding Juliet and Paris?
2. Why has Capulet changed his mind from what he said earlier?

Scene 5
1. What bird does Juliet dread hearing and why?
2. What does Romeo think about the bird and the light?
3. Why does Juliet change her mind?
4. What does Juliet ask Romeo?
5. What does Juliet envision?
6. Why does Lady Capulet think Juliet is crying? What is Lady Capulet’s plan for revenge?
7. How does Juliet react to the news of the marriage plans?
8. How does Lord Capulet react to Juliet’s disobedience?
9. What is the Nurse’s advice? What is Juliet’s reply?
10. What does Juliet really think of the Nurse’s advice?
11. What does Juliet plan to do?

ACT IV
Scene 1
1. What explanation does Paris give Friar Laurence for the rushed marriage?
2. What will Juliet do if the Friar cannot help her?
3. According to Friar Laurence’s plan, what should Juliet do first?
4. On Wednesday night, Juliet should do what?
5. What will the potion do?
6. How long will it last?
7. How will Juliet’s bridegroom and family react?
8. How will Romeo know of the plan?
9. What will Romeo do?
10. Do you think the plan is flawless? Why or why not?

Scene 2
1. How does Juliet explain her obedience to her parents?
2. What happens that ruins the timing of the Friar’s plan?

Scene 3
1. How does Juliet get rid of the Nurse?
2. What four things does Juliet fear?
Scene 4
1. What kinds of preparations are being made?
2. Who’s in charge of making them?

Scene 5
1. How do Juliet’s Nurse and parents react to her “death”?
2. How does Lord Capulet describe Juliet’s death?
3. How does Friar Laurence try to comfort them?

ACT V

Scene 1
1. Where is this scene set?
2. What did Romeo dream?
3. What does Romeo’s servant, Balthasar, tell him?
4. What does Balthasar suggest to Romeo?
5. What is Romeo looking for? Why?
6. Why does Romeo have trouble getting the poison?
7. How much does Romeo offer for the poison?
8. Why does the apothecary sell Romeo the poison?
9. Where does Romeo decide to go?

Scene 2
1. Who did Friar Laurence send to Mantua to inform Romeo of Juliet’s plan?
2. What kept Friar John from seeing Romeo?
3. What must Friar Laurence do now?

Scene 3
1. Why is Paris at the churchyard?
2. What does Romeo tell Balthasar to do? What does Balthasar actually do?
3. To what does Romeo compare the tomb?
4. What does Paris think of Romeo?
5. What happens when Paris confronts Romeo?
6. Who is slain? Who is the slayer? What does he do with the dead body?
7. What does Friar Laurence ask Juliet to do?
8. What does Juliet do?
9. After the watchman arrives, who comes to the tomb?
10. What has happened to Lady Montague?
11. Who tells the truth about Romeo and Juliet?
12. Why does Prince Escalus say, “All are punished”?
13. How do Lord Capulet and Montague react to the deaths?
14. What final words sum up the play?

Final Thoughts
Essay Questions:
1. List all of the characters that have died and their cause of death.
2. Give examples of how each of these factors led to tragedy.
   a. the parent’s feud
   b. Impulsive behavior (when the character’s act rashly, often without thinking of the consequences)
   c. Fate (bad timing or series of unfortunate coincidences)