

FREE PRINTABLE QUIZ

# Romeo and Juliet

## Act 2, Scene 2 — the balcony scene

William Shakespeare · 20 questions with a full answer key and explanations

### What's inside

- **20 multiple-choice questions**, including passage analysis with the original text printed above it — the way your English class asks it.
- **Answer key** on its own page so you can take the quiz first.
- **Explanations** for every question, so a wrong answer teaches you something.
- Written from LumLysia's study edition of the book — not scraped summaries.

Took Honors English for the GPA boost, only to get crushed by Shakespearean English? Read the entire book in clear modern English—without missing the tiny details that show up on class quizzes.

**Try a book free and high quality quizzes including passage analysis like in your English class.**

**[Read Romeo and Juliet free at lumlysia.com](https://lumlysia.com)**

**Start reading free →**

The first 15 pages of every book are free — no card needed.

# The quiz

Romeo and Juliet — Act 2 · Scene 2. Answers begin on the answer key page.

## PLOT & EVENT

**1. What is the immediate cause for Juliet's second re-entry onto the balcony after her initial departure?**

- A. She remembers a crucial detail she forgot to tell Romeo.
- B. She hears Romeo lamenting her absence and feels pity.
- C. She wishes to confirm the time for sending her messenger.
- D. She cannot bear to be parted from Romeo so soon.

## PLOT & EVENT

**2. The primary reason Juliet advises Romeo not to swear by the moon is because:**

- A. She believes oaths are unnecessary for true love.
- B. The moon is associated with pagan rituals, not Christian vows.
- C. The moon's monthly changes symbolize inconstancy and variability.
- D. She prefers he swear by a more powerful celestial body, like the sun.

## CHARACTER

**3. Which of the following best describes Juliet's primary concern regarding Romeo's identity during their initial conversation?**

- A. His social standing compared to her own.
- B. The danger his presence poses to his life from her kinsmen.
- C. The implications of his family name, Montague, on their love.
- D. His sincerity and the potential for his vows to be false.

## CHARACTER

**4. Romeo's decision to immediately seek out Friar Lawrence at the end of the scene primarily reveals his:**

- A. Desire for spiritual guidance in his new relationship.
- B. Impulsive nature and eagerness to formalize his love for Juliet.
- C. Need for a confidante to discuss his emotional turmoil.
- D. Strategic planning to reconcile the Montague and Capulet families.

**MICRO-DETAIL**

**5. What specific item does Romeo wish he were, so he could touch Juliet's cheek?**

- A. A rose petal
- B. A glove
- C. A strand of her hair
- D. A jewel

**MICRO-DETAIL**

**6. What color does Romeo describe the 'vestal livery' of the envious moon as?**

- A. Silver
- B. Pale
- C. Green
- D. White

**MICRO-DETAIL**

**7. Juliet compares the rashness of their love's contract to what natural phenomenon?**

- A. A sudden storm
- B. A fleeting dream
- C. Lightning
- D. A wilting flower

**MICRO-DETAIL**

**8. What time does Romeo agree to for Juliet to send her messenger the next day?**

- A. The hour of seven
- B. The hour of eight
- C. The hour of nine
- D. The hour of ten

**MICRO-DETAIL**

**9. Juliet compares her inability to speak aloud due to her 'bondage' to the hoarse voice of what mythological figure?**

- A. Siren
- B. Echo
- C. Medusa
- D. Nemesis

**ANALYTICAL**

**10. The recurring motif of 'light and darkness' in this scene primarily serves to:**

- A. Emphasize the secrecy and forbidden nature of Romeo and Juliet's love.
- B. Symbolize the contrasting personalities of the two lovers.
- C. Highlight the passage of time from night to morning.
- D. Foreshadow the tragic end of their relationship.

**ANALYTICAL**

**11. Juliet's comparison of her love to the sea ('My bounty is as boundless as the sea, My love as deep') primarily functions as:**

- A. A hyperbolic expression of her youthful infatuation.
- B. An assertion of her emotional maturity and depth of feeling.
- C. A subtle foreshadowing of the overwhelming and potentially destructive nature of their love.
- D. A conventional Petrarchan conceit common in Renaissance love poetry.

**READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER**

*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. Be not her maid since she is envious; Her vestal livery is but sick and green, And none but fools do wear it; cast it off. It is my lady, O it is my love! O, that she knew she were! She speaks, yet she says nothing. What of that? Her eye discourses, I will answer it. I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks. Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven, Having some business, do entreat her eyes To twinkle in their spheres till they return. What if her eyes were there, they in her head? The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars, As daylight doth a lamp; her eyes in heaven Would through the airy region stream so bright That birds would sing and think it were not night. See how she leans her cheek upon her hand. O that I were a glove upon that hand, That I might touch that cheek.*

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**12. The primary literary device employed in Romeo's declaration, 'It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!' is:**

- A. Metonymy
- B. Synecdoche
- C. Metaphor
- D. Personification

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**13. In the lines '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,' the moon is personified to convey:**

- A. Its celestial power over earthly affairs.
- B. Its role as a symbol of feminine beauty and grace.
- C. Its jealousy and inferiority when compared to Juliet's radiance.
- D. Its association with the night and secrecy.

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**14. The shift in Romeo's address from 'Juliet is the sun!' to 'I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks' indicates a transition from:**

- A. Idealistic adoration to pragmatic self-awareness.
- B. Public declaration to private contemplation.
- C. Confident assertion to hesitant uncertainty.
- D. Romantic fantasy to cynical realism.

**READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER**

*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. 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy; Thou art thyself, though not a Montague. What's Montague? It is nor hand nor foot, Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part Belonging to a man. O be some other name. What's in a name? That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet; So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd, Retain that dear perfection which he owes Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name, And for thy name, which is no part of thee, Take all myself.*

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**15. Juliet's rhetorical question, 'What's in a name? That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet,' primarily serves to:**

- A. Undermine the significance of social conventions and inherited identity.
- B. Express her frustration with the arbitrary nature of language.
- C. Suggest that true beauty transcends superficial labels.
- D. Argue for the practical necessity of changing one's family name.

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**16. The phrase 'nor hand nor foot, Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part Belonging to a man' functions as a form of:**

- A. Anaphora, emphasizing the physical attributes of a person.
- B. Litotes, downplaying the importance of physical form.
- C. Catalog, illustrating the components of a human being.
- D. Antithesis, contrasting the name with the person.

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**17. The tone of Juliet's soliloquy shifts from one of:**

- A. Desperate pleading to resigned acceptance.
- B. Anguished lament to philosophical reasoning.
- C. Naive idealism to cynical pragmatism.
- D. Passionate declaration to cautious skepticism.

**READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER**

*Thou knowest the mask of night is on my face, Else would a maiden blush bepaint my cheek For that which thou hast heard me speak tonight. Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny What I have spoke; but farewell compliment. Dost thou love me? I know thou wilt say Ay, And I will take thy word. Yet, if thou swear'st, Thou mayst prove false. At lovers' perjuries, They say Jove laughs. O gentle Romeo, If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully. Or if thou thinkest I am too quickly won, I'll frown and be perverse, and say thee nay, So thou wilt woo. But else, not for the world. In truth, fair Montague, I am too fond; And therefore thou mayst think my 'haviour light: But trust me, gentleman, I'll prove more true Than those that have more cunning to be strange. I should have been more strange, I must confess, But that thou overheard'st, ere I was 'ware, My true-love passion; therefore pardon me, And not impute this yielding to light love, Which the dark night hath so discovered.*

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**18. Juliet's repeated use of 'fain' ('Fain would I dwell on form, fain, fain deny What I have spoke') emphasizes her:**

- A. Reluctance to engage in traditional courtship rituals.
- B. Earnest desire to appear modest despite her true feelings.
- C. Wish to retract her words out of fear for Romeo's safety.
- D. Hesitation to fully commit to a relationship with Romeo.

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**19. The phrase 'At lovers' perjuries, They say Jove laughs' serves as:**

- A. A classical allusion to Roman mythology, highlighting the divine indifference to human vows.
- B. A warning to Romeo about the consequences of breaking his promises.
- C. A cynical observation on the inherent untrustworthiness of lovers.
- D. A rhetorical device to test the sincerity of Romeo's intentions.

**PASSAGE ANALYSIS**

**20. Juliet's assertion, 'I'll prove more true Than those that have more cunning to be strange,' suggests her character values:**

- A. Strategic manipulation over genuine emotion.
- B. Open honesty over affected coyness.
- C. Social conformity over personal integrity.
- D. Intellectual wit over emotional depth.

## Answer key

Check your answers here, then read the explanations on the next page.

|              |              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>1. C</b>  | <b>2. C</b>  | <b>3. C</b>  | <b>4. B</b>  | <b>5. B</b>  |
| <b>6. C</b>  | <b>7. C</b>  | <b>8. C</b>  | <b>9. B</b>  | <b>10. A</b> |
| <b>11. B</b> | <b>12. C</b> | <b>13. C</b> | <b>14. C</b> | <b>15. A</b> |
| <b>16. C</b> | <b>17. B</b> | <b>18. B</b> | <b>19. A</b> | <b>20. B</b> |

Scored it? The same quizzes are built into the LumLysia reader, chapter by chapter, with instant feedback and a practice or test mode.

## Answers explained

Why the right answer is right — and what the question is really testing.

### 1. C. She wishes to confirm the time for sending her messenger.

Juliet explicitly re-enters and asks, 'What o'clock tomorrow Shall I send to thee?' to establish the precise time for their next communication regarding marriage.

### 2. C. The moon's monthly changes symbolize inconstancy and variability.

Juliet explicitly states, 'O swear not by the moon, th'inconstant moon, That monthly changes in her circled orb, Lest that thy love prove likewise variable,' directly linking the moon's changing nature to potential inconstancy in love.

### 3. C. The implications of his family name, Montague, on their love.

Juliet's famous 'Wherefore art thou Romeo?' speech directly addresses her concern about his name being her enemy, highlighting the central conflict his identity creates for their love.

### 4. B. Impulsive nature and eagerness to formalize his love for Juliet.

Romeo's final lines, 'His help to crave and my dear hap to tell,' indicate his immediate intent to act on his newfound love and seek the Friar's assistance in marrying Juliet, showcasing his characteristic impulsiveness.

### 5. B. A glove

Romeo says, 'O that I were a glove upon that hand, That I might touch that cheek,' demonstrating his desire for physical closeness.

### 6. C. Green

Romeo states, 'Her vestal livery is but sick and green,' using the color green to symbolize the moon's jealousy and sickness in comparison to Juliet's beauty.

### **7. C. Lightning**

Juliet says, 'It is too rash, too unadvis'd, too sudden, Too like the lightning, which doth cease to be Ere one can say 'It lightens,'" emphasizing the sudden and potentially fleeting nature of their hasty vows.

### **8. C. The hour of nine**

Romeo explicitly states, 'By the hour of nine,' setting a specific time for their next crucial communication.

### **9. B. Echo**

Juliet says, 'Else would I tear the cave where Echo lies, And make her airy tongue more hoarse than mine,' referencing the nymph Echo, who was cursed to only repeat others' words.

### **10. A. Emphasize the secrecy and forbidden nature of Romeo and Juliet's love.**

Romeo's initial soliloquy casts Juliet as the sun breaking through darkness, and later he speaks of 'night's cloak to hide me.' This pervasive imagery underscores the clandestine and dangerous circumstances of their affection, which must remain hidden from their feuding families.

### **11. B. An assertion of her emotional maturity and depth of feeling.**

While hyperbolic, this comparison emphasizes the profound and infinite nature of her love, suggesting a maturity beyond her years and a depth of commitment that contrasts with Romeo's more flowery, sometimes superficial, expressions. It's a declaration of profound, self-replenishing love.

### **12. C. Metaphor**

Romeo directly equates Juliet with the sun, stating she is the sun, which is a direct comparison without using 'like' or 'as,' making it a metaphor.

### **13. C. Its jealousy and inferiority when compared to Juliet's radiance.**

The moon is described as 'envious,' 'sick and pale with grief' because Juliet is 'far more fair than she,' clearly attributing human emotions of jealousy and inadequacy to the celestial body.

### **14. C. Confident assertion to hesitant uncertainty.**

Initially, Romeo is swept up in his poetic adoration and direct address, but then he catches himself, realizing Juliet is not speaking to him, showing a momentary dip from confident assertion to a more uncertain, self-conscious reflection.

### **15. A. Undermine the significance of social conventions and inherited identity.**

Juliet uses the rose analogy to argue that Romeo's inherent qualities (his 'dear perfection') are independent of his family name, which is merely a label. This challenges the societal importance placed on names and lineage, which are the root of their families' feud.

### **16. C. Catalog, illustrating the components of a human being.**

Juliet lists various body parts to illustrate that 'Montague' is not a physical component of Romeo, thereby creating a catalog of what a name isn't and separating the person from the label.

### **17. B. Anguished lament to philosophical reasoning.**

Juliet begins with an 'O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?' which is an anguished lament over his identity. She then transitions into a more reasoned, philosophical argument about the arbitrary nature of names with the 'What's in a name?' and rose analogy.

### **18. B. Earnest desire to appear modest despite her true feelings.**

'Fain' means gladly or willingly. She would gladly follow social decorum and deny what she said, indicating her awareness of societal expectations for maidenly modesty, even though her true feelings have been revealed.

**19. A. A classical allusion to Roman mythology, highlighting the divine indifference to human vows.**

This is a direct classical allusion, suggesting that even the king of the gods finds humor in the broken oaths of lovers, implying a certain leniency or disregard for such vows, which Juliet uses to express her concern about Romeo's potential insincerity.

**20. B. Open honesty over affected coyness.**

'Strange' here means distant or reserved. Juliet is saying she will be more faithful than women who are clever at playing hard-to-get. This highlights her preference for direct, honest affection over the 'cunning' and artificiality of conventional courtship games.

## Keep going — the whole book, in modern English

Took Honors English for the GPA boost, only to get crushed by Shakespearean English? Read the entire book in clear modern English—without missing the tiny details that show up on class quizzes.

**Try a book free and high quality quizzes including passage analysis like in your English class.**

**[Read Romeo and Juliet free at lumlysia.com](https://lumlysia.com)**

### What a LumLysia membership includes

- The complete text side by side with a clear modern translation — or modern only, your choice.
- Literary lens annotations already done for you (feminist, psychoanalytic, historical, formalist, reader-response).
- Chapter recaps and timelines so you never lose the thread.
- Quizzes for every chapter, including passage analysis, with practice and test modes.
- Quote finder, essay helper and a chat tutor that only talks about your book.

**Free:** the first 15 pages of every book — no card needed.

**\$9.99 / month** — every book, every tool, cancel anytime.

**\$24.99 / semester** (4 months) — the cheaper way if your class runs all term. Students with a school email get 20% off the semester pass.

**Try a book free →**

[Browse every book in the library · lumlysia.com](https://lumlysia.com)

Share this PDF with your class — it's free.