

FREE PRINTABLE QUIZ

Romeo and Juliet

Act 3, Scene 1 — Mercutio's death

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.

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The quiz

Romeo and Juliet — Act 3 · Scene 1. Answers begin on the answer key page.

PLOT & EVENT

1. How is Mercutio fatally injured during his duel with Tybalt?

- A. Tybalt stabs him when Mercutio trips over his own scabbard.
- B. Tybalt delivers an envious thrust underneath Romeo's arm as Romeo tries to part them.
- C. Tybalt's partisans surround Mercutio and attack him together.
- D. Benvolio accidentally strikes Mercutio while drawing his sword to stop the fight.

PLOT & EVENT

2. What punishment does Prince Escalus pronounce upon Romeo at the end of the scene?

- A. Immediate execution by the watch.
- B. A heavy monetary fine paid directly to the Capulet family.
- C. Imprisonment until a trial can be held before the council.
- D. Immediate exile from Verona on pain of death if found.

CHARACTER

3. Why does Romeo refuse Tybalt's initial challenge and insult?

- A. He is physically unarmed and cannot defend himself.
- B. He fears the Prince's decree more than any insult.
- C. He values the name Capulet and holds a secret reason to love Tybalt.
- D. He believes Mercutio has already resolved the dispute peacefully.

CHARACTER

4. How does Lady Capulet respond when Benvolio explains how the fight occurred?

- A. She praises Benvolio for giving an honest and balanced report.
- B. She claims Benvolio lies because of his Montague kinship and demands Romeo be executed.
- C. She begs Prince Escalus to forgive both families to end the bloodshed.
- D. She admits Tybalt started the fight but asks for Romeo to pay a fine.

MICRO-DETAIL

5. According to Mercutio's teasing speech, why did Benvolio supposedly fall out with a tailor?

- A. For charging him double the price for a cloak.
- B. For wearing his new doublet before Easter.
- C. For cutting his silk doublet too short.
- D. For refusing to mend his rapier belt.

MICRO-DETAIL

6. What epithet does Mercutio repeatedly use when addressing or referring to Tybalt before their fight?

- A. King of Cats
- B. Prince of Shadows
- C. Captain of Compliments
- D. Lord of Vipers

MICRO-DETAIL

7. How does Mercutio describe his mortal wound to Romeo right after being stabbed?

- A. A fatal blow that pierced clean through his heart.
- B. Not deep enough to draw blood or cause alarm.
- C. Not so deep as a well nor so wide as a church door, but enough to serve.
- D. A mere scratch that will heal before tomorrow morning.

MICRO-DETAIL

8. What curse does Mercutio repeat several times as he faces his impending death?

- A. 'A shame on all Verona!'
- B. 'A plague o' both your houses.'
- C. 'God send you bitter sorrow!'
- D. 'Death take the Capulets!'

MICRO-DETAIL

9. What relation was Mercutio to Prince Escalus, as noted by Romeo and Benvolio?

- A. The Prince's foster brother.
- B. The Prince's sworn knight.
- C. The Prince's near ally and kinsman.
- D. The Prince's chief counselor.

ANALYTICAL

10. How does Romeo view his own conduct immediately following Mercutio's fatal wounding?

- A. He congratulates himself on remaining peaceful despite extreme provocation.
- B. He laments that Juliet's beauty has made him effeminate and softened his valour's steel.
- C. He blames Benvolio for failing to draw his sword and protect Mercutio.
- D. He regrets leaving Friar Laurence's cell without a proper escort.

ANALYTICAL

11. What rationale does Montague offer Prince Escalus to argue against executing Romeo?

- A. Romeo acted in self-defense after Tybalt ambushed him without warning.
- B. Romeo was insane with grief and cannot be held legally accountable.
- C. Romeo merely executed the lawful penalty on Tybalt for murdering Mercutio.
- D. Romeo has already agreed to enter a monastery to atone for his deed.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

BENVOLIO. I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire: The day is hot, the Capulets abroad, And if we meet, we shall not scape a brawl, For now these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.
MERCUTIO. Thou art like one of these fellows that, when he enters the confines of a tavern, claps me his sword upon the table, and says 'God send me no need of thee!' and by the operation of the second cup draws him on the drawer, when indeed there is no need.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

12. What atmospheric detail does Benvolio associate with the rising tension in Verona?

- A. A sudden summer thunderstorm.
- B. The oppressive heat of the day stirring 'mad blood'.
- C. The dark alleys of the tavern quarter.
- D. A public festival drawing huge crowds.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

13. How does Mercutio counter Benvolio's plea to leave the public street?

- A. By accusing Benvolio of being an impatient, quarrelsome man who easily starts fights.
- B. By claiming that the Capulets are cowards who will never show their faces.
- C. By insisting that Prince Escalus has revoked the penalty against street fighting.
- D. By demanding that Benvolio draw his sword and duel him instead.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

ROMEO. Tybalt, the reason that I have to love thee Doth much excuse the appertaining rage
To such a greeting. Villain am I none; Therefore farewell; I see thou know'st me not. TYBALT.
Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries That thou hast done me, therefore turn and draw.
ROMEO. I do protest I never injur'd thee, But love thee better than thou canst devise Till thou
shalt know the reason of my love. And so good Capulet, which name I tender As dearly as mine
own, be satisfied.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

14. What underlying reality motivates Romeo's tender regard for the name Capulet?

- A. His secret marriage to Juliet, making Tybalt his kinsman.
- B. A formal peace treaty signed between Montague and Capulet.
- C. A promise he made to Prince Escalus earlier that morning.
- D. His desire to purchase property owned by Lord Capulet.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

15. How does Tybalt interpret Romeo's calm refusal to fight?

- A. As a sincere attempt to forge lasting civic peace.
- B. As an insufficient excuse for past injuries, demanding he turn and draw.
- C. As a mocking insult that warrants an immediate apology.
- D. As a sign of cowardice that proves Romeo is beneath his sword.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

MERCUTIO. No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door, but 'tis enough, 'twill serve. Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man. I am peppered, I warrant, for this world. A plague o' both your houses. Zounds, a dog, a rat, a mouse, a cat, to scratch a man to death. A braggart, a rogue, a villain, that fights by the book of arithmetic!—Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm. ROMEO. I thought all for the best.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

16. What pun does Mercutio make regarding his condition?

- A. He claims he will be a 'sober man' after drinking no more wine.
- B. He jokes that asking for him tomorrow will find him a 'grave man'.
- C. He calls his fatal wound a mere 'church door' for prayers.
- D. He quips that he is 'peppered' like a tavern roast.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

17. Whom does Mercutio hold directly accountable for his injury in this excerpt?

- A. Benvolio for failing to draw his sword.
- B. Tybalt for fighting according to arithmetic, and Romeo for stepping between them.
- C. The Prince for failing to clear the streets of Verona.
- D. His page for delaying the arrival of a surgeon.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

18. How does Romeo justify his intervention in the duel?

- A. He claims he was commanded by the Prince to intervene.
- B. He states simply, 'I thought all for the best.'
- C. He explains that he was trying to protect Tybalt.
- D. He denies that he stepped between their swords at all.

READ THIS PASSAGE, THEN ANSWER

PRINCE. And for that offence Immediately we do exile him hence. I have an interest in your hate's proceeding, My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a-bleeding. But I'll amerce you with so strong a fine That you shall all repent the loss of mine. I will be deaf to pleading and excuses; Nor tears nor prayers shall purchase out abuses. Therefore use none. Let Romeo hence in haste, Else, when he is found, that hour is his last. Bear hence this body, and attend our will. Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

19. What personal stake does the Prince express regarding the feud's latest violence?

- A. He has lost his own kinsman, Mercutio, in their rude brawls.
- B. His own palace was damaged during the street fight.
- C. He was personally insulted by Lady Capulet's accusations.
- D. His guards failed to prevent the brawl in time.

PASSAGE ANALYSIS

20. What warning does the Prince give concerning appeals and pleas for mercy?

- A. He will hear Montague and Capulet in private council next week.
- B. He will accept monetary payments in exchange for pardoning Romeo.
- C. He will be deaf to pleading, tears, and prayers, warning that pardoning killers only causes more murder.
- D. He will allow the citizens of Verona to vote on Romeo's sentence.

Answer key

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

1. B	2. D	3. C	4. B	5. B
6. A	7. C	8. B	9. C	10. B
11. C	12. B	13. A	14. A	15. B
16. B	17. B	18. B	19. A	20. C

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Answers explained

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

1. B. Tybalt delivers an envious thrust underneath Romeo's arm as Romeo tries to part them.

Mercutio complains, 'I was hurt under your arm,' and Benvolio confirms that Tybalt's thrust hit Mercutio underneath Romeo's intervening arm.

2. D. Immediate exile from Verona on pain of death if found.

The Prince decrees, 'Immediately we do exile him hence,' and warns that if Romeo is found in Verona, 'that hour is his last.'

3. C. He values the name Capulet and holds a secret reason to love Tybalt.

Romeo tells Tybalt that he has a reason to love him that excuses the insult, adding that he tenders the Capulet name as dearly as his own.

4. B. She claims Benvolio lies because of his Montague kinship and demands Romeo be executed.

Lady Capulet asserts that affection makes Benvolio false because he is a Montague kinsman, and she demands justice: 'Romeo slew Tybalt, Romeo must not live.'

5. B. For wearing his new doublet before Easter.

Mercutio asks Benvolio, 'Didst thou not fall out with a tailor for wearing his new doublet before Easter?'

6. A. King of Cats

Mercutio addresses Tybalt as 'you rat-catcher' and 'Good King of Cats'.

7. C. Not so deep as a well nor so wide as a church door, but enough to serve.

Mercutio says, 'No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door, but 'tis enough, 'twill serve.'

8. B. 'A plague o' both your houses.'

Mercutio repeatedly cries out, 'A plague o' both your houses,' blaming the feud for his fatal wound.

9. C. The Prince's near ally and kinsman.

Romeo calls Mercutio 'the Prince's near ally,' and Benvolio tells the Prince that Romeo slew the man who killed 'thy kinsman, brave Mercutio.'

10. B. He laments that Juliet's beauty has made him effeminate and softened his valour's steel.

Romeo mourns that Mercutio received his mortal hurt on his behalf, crying, 'O sweet Juliet, / Thy beauty hath made me effeminate / And in my temper soften'd valour's steel.'

11. C. Romeo merely executed the lawful penalty on Tybalt for murdering Mercutio.

Montague argues that Romeo was Mercutio's friend and that 'His fault concludes but what the law should end, / The life of Tybalt.'

12. B. The oppressive heat of the day stirring 'mad blood'.

Benvolio explicitly warns that 'The day is hot, the Capulets abroad' and that 'these hot days, is the mad blood stirring.'

13. A. By accusing Benvolio of being an impatient, quarrelsome man who easily starts fights.

Mercutio mocks Benvolio by painting him as a tavern brawler who draws his weapon on the server after only two cups of drink.

14. A. His secret marriage to Juliet, making Tybalt his kinsman.

Romeo now considers Tybalt family due to his secret marriage to Juliet, prompting him to say he tenders the Capulet name as dearly as his own.

15. B. As an insufficient excuse for past injuries, demanding he turn and draw.

Tybalt dismisses Romeo's words, stating, 'Boy, this shall not excuse the injuries / That thou hast done me, therefore turn and draw.'

16. B. He jokes that asking for him tomorrow will find him a 'grave man'.

Mercutio puns on 'grave', meaning both serious and dead in the ground: 'Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man.'

17. B. Tybalt for fighting according to arithmetic, and Romeo for stepping between them.

Mercutio scorns Tybalt as a villain who 'fights by the book of arithmetic' and asks Romeo, 'Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.'

18. B. He states simply, 'I thought all for the best.'

When Mercutio asks why he came between them, Romeo answers, 'I thought all for the best.'

19. A. He has lost his own kinsman, Mercutio, in their rude brawls.

The Prince states, 'My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a-bleeding,' referring to his kinsman Mercutio.

20. C. He will be deaf to pleading, tears, and prayers, warning that pardoning killers only causes more murder.

The Prince declares he will be deaf to excuses and concludes, 'Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.'

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