Scene 1

Benvolio and Mercutio are outside in the heat (it is June). Benvolio tells Mercutio that it is hot, the Capulets are out and about, and if they [Benvolio and Mercutio] run into the Capulets, then they will surely get into a brawl. Just then, Tybalt enters and speaks to them. He is looking for Romeo. Mercutio, being the joker that he is, stirs up Tybalt’s fury with word play.

Tybalt
Mercutio, thou consortest with Romeo.

Mercutio
Consort? What, dost thou make us minstrels? An thou make minstrels of us, look to hear nothing but discords. Here’s my fiddlestick; here’s that shall make you dance. Zounds, consort!

Romeo enters, dreamy eyed and smiling. Tybalt aggressively challenges Romeo to a dual, saying that Romeo has “injured” him, but Romeo will not rise to the challenge and instead says that he loves Tybalt, a “good Capulet, which name I tender / As dearly as mine own.” Romeo attempts to walk away, but Mercutio believes it is cowardly behavior, and accepts Tybalt’s challenge. Romeo begs them to not fight and mentions that the Prince has expressly forbidden fighting in the street. Romeo grabs Mercutio’s arm in an attempt to stop the fight, and Tybalt stabs Mercutio. Tybalt runs away, and Mercutio falls.

Mercutio
I am hurt.
A plague o’ both houses! I am sped.
Is he’ gone and hath nothing?
*His life has sped up and is ending quickly. *Tybalt

Benvolio
What, art thou hurt?

Mercutio

Romeo
Courage, man, the hurt cannot be much.

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…. Why the devil came you between us? I was hurt under your arm.

Romeo
I thought all for the best.

Mercutio
Help me into some house, Benvolio, Or I shall faint. A plague o’ both your houses! They have made worms’ meat of me. I have it, and soundly, too. Your houses!

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1. Mercutio makes a pun out of Tybalt’s word, “consortest.” Explain the pun. Tybalt means…
   Mercutio implies…

2. Mercutio extends the pun into a metaphor. Explain how the words “discords,” “fiddlestick,” and “dance” support the metaphor (ID both sides of the comparison).

3. Explain the insult, “A plague o’ both houses!” How many times does Mercutio say this? Why does he say it?

4. Mercutio uses understatement (figurative language that deliberately downplays the severity of a situation), simile, and metaphor to describe his injury and coming death. Circle at least one example of each of these three figurative language devices.
Benvolio helps Mercutio off stage. He comes back a minute later and says that Mercutio is dead. Tybalt re-enters. Romeo challenges Tybalt. They fight, and Tybalt falls. Benvolio tells Romeo to run away so the Prince will not have him executed. Romeo exclaims, “O, I am Fortune’s fool!” and then exits.

5. What big, four-letter F-word should you think of when you hear Romeo’s exclamation? What does he mean?

The Prince, the Capulets, and the Montagues, and citizens enter. Benvolio explains what happened. Lady Capulet demands Montague blood in exchange for the death of Tybalt. Benvolio argues that Romeo should not be killed because he (Romeo) only did what the law would have ended. The Prince agrees with Benvolio’s argument and, instead of death, exiles Romeo from Verona.

6. What is the conflict that Romeo & Juliet now face? How is their relationship complicated by the Prince’s decree?

7. The timeline becomes important in this Act. Make a recap adding events to the scenes & times provided below.

1.1 – Sun, 8 AM – fight in the street; Prince mad and threatens death if more fights
1.2 – Sun, 11 AM –
1.3 – Sun, 2 PM –
1.4 – Sun, 8 PM –
1.5 – Sun, 9 PM to 12 AM –
2.1 – Mon, 1 AM –
2.2 – Mon, 1:15 AM –
2.3 – Mon, 6 AM –
2.4 – Mon, 9 AM –
2.5 – Mon, 12 PM –
2.6 – Mon, 2 PM –
3.1 – Mon, 5 PM –
3.2 – Mon, 6 PM –
3.3 – Mon, 7 PM –
3.4 – Mon, 8 PM –
3.5 – Tue, 5 AM –
4.1 – Tue, 8 AM –
4.2 – Tue, 11 AM –
4.3 – Wed, 2 AM –
4.4 – Wed, 3 AM –
4.5 – Wed, 6 AM –
5.1 – Thu, 6 AM –
5.2 – Thu, 10 AM –
5.3 – Thu, 7 PM –
Scene 2
Juliet is at home, waiting for Romeo. She is excited and anxious to be with him. Nurse enters, crying over Tybalt’s death. Juliet thinks that at first the Nurse means Romeo is dead. Then she figures out that Tybalt is dead by Romeo’s hand. Juliet is distraught. She loves Tybalt as her closest cousin, and she loves Romeo as her husband. Nurse leaves to look for Romeo; she will send him to comfort Juliet.

8. Make a list of the characters that know that Juliet and Romeo are married.

Scene 3
Romeo is hiding at Friar Lawrence’s cell, having a come-apart, throwing himself on the ground and bawling. Friar comes up with a plan.

Friar Lawrence
What, rouse thee, man! Thy Juliet is alive,
For whose dear sake thou wast but lately dead:
There art thou happy. Tybalt would kill thee,
But thou slowest Tybalt: there art thou happy.
The law that threatened death becomes thy friend
And turns it to exile: there art thou happy….

Go, get thee to thy love, as was decreed.
Ascend her chamber. Hence and comfort her.
But look thou stay not till the watch* be set,
For then thou canst not pass to Mantua,
Where thou shalt live till we can find a time
To blaze your marriage, reconcile your friends,
Beg pardon of the Prince, and call thee back
With twenty hundred thousand times more joy
Than thou went’st forth in lamentation.
Scene 4
Paris visits the Capulets, hoping to spend some time with Juliet. Lord Capulet tells him that Juliet cannot stop crying over Tybalt’s death and will not be able to see him. Thinking he is doing something good for Juliet, he tells Paris that she will marry him.

Capulet
Sir Paris, I will make a desperate tender
Of my child’s love. I think she will be ruled
In all respects by me. Nay, more, I doubt it not. --
Wife, go you to her ere you go to bed.
Acquaint her here of my son Paris’ love,
And bid her -- mark you me? -- on Wednesday next --
But soft, what day is this?

Paris
Monday, my lord.

Capulet
Monday, ha ha! Wednesday is too soon.
O’ Thursday let it be. -- O’ Thursday, tell her,
She shall be married to this noble earl.

12. How is the declaration made by Capulet in his first three lines here contrary to what he told Paris in 1.2?

13. What is Juliet doing while Capulet and Paris are having this conversation?

14. How do you expect Juliet going to take the news about her upcoming wedding to Paris?
Scene 5
Romeo and Juliet wake early together. They banter about not wanting to be separated. Romeo eventually leaves. Lady Capulet comes to tell Juliet about the wedding to Paris. Juliet refuses to wed him and swears, “I will not marry yet, and when I do I swear / It shall be Romeo, whom you know I hate, / Rather than Paris.” Capulet enters.

Capulet
How now, wife?
Have you delivered to her her our decree?

Lady Capulet
Ay, sir, but she will none, she gives you thanks.
I would the fool were married to her grave.

Capulet
Soft, take me with you, take me with you, wife.
How, will she none? Doth she not give us thanks?
Is she not proud? Doth she not count her blessed,
Unworthy as she is, that we have wrought
So worthy a gentleman to be her bride?

Juliet
Not proud you have, but thankful that you have.
Proud can I never be of what I hate,
But thankful even for hate that is meant love.

Capulet
Thank me no thankings, nor proud me no prouds,
But fettle your fine joints ‘gainst Thursday next
To go with Paris to Saint Peter’s Church,
Or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither.
Out, you green-sickness carrion! Out, you baggage!

Juliet [kneeling]
Good father, I beseech you on my knees,
Hear me with patience to speak a word.

Capulet
Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!
I tell thee what: get thee to church o’ Thursday, Or never after look me in the face.
Speak not; reply not; do not answer me.
My fingers itch.…

Day, night, hour, tide, time, work, play,
Alone, in company, still my care hath been
To have her matched. And having now provided
A gentleman of noble parentage…
To answer “I’ll not wed. I cannot love.
I am too young. I pray you, pardon me.”…

An you be mine, I’ll give you to my friend.
An you be not, hang, beg, starve, die in the streets,
For, by my soul, I’ll ne’er acknowledge thee,
Nor what is mine shall never do thee good.

15. Look at Capulet’s second set of lines. He begins with the word “soft.” Then he repeats “take me with you” and asks four questions. What is his tone?

16. What the heck is Juliet saying in her first set of lines?

17. What is Capulet’s tone in his third and fourth passages? Circle words that helped you reach that tone.

18. How do Capulet’s words support the information found during our research about the power that fathers have over their households?

19. How does the conflict for Act 3 wrap up?