



Practice Questions

Well, now you know your Benvolio from your Balthasar and your Montague from your Capulet, it's time to get down to business and answer some practice questions. There are four of them below, each testing your knowledge of characters. Give them a try, and remember to write a plan before starting each answer.

Q1 To what extent is the Nurse presented as irresponsible? In your answer, refer to the extract below from Act 2, Scene 4 and to the play as a whole.

Nurse: Now, afore God, I am so vexed, that every part about me quivers. Scurvy knave! Pray you, sir, a word — and as I told you, my young lady bid me enquire you out; what she bid me say, I will keep to myself. But first let me tell ye, if ye should lead her into a fool's paradise, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behaviour, as they say: for the gentlewoman is young; and, therefore, if you should deal double with her, truly it were an ill thing to be offered to any gentlewoman, and very weak dealing.

Romeo: Nurse, commend me to thy lady and mistress. I protest unto thee —

Nurse: Good heart, and, i'faith, I will tell her as much. Lord, Lord, she will be a joyful woman.

Romeo: What wilt thou tell her, Nurse? Thou dost not mark me.

Nurse: I will tell her, sir, that you do protest — which, as I take it, is a gentlemanlike offer.

Romeo: Bid her devise
Some means to come to shrift this afternoon;
And there she shall at Friar Lawrence' cell
Be shrived and married. Here is for thy pains.

Nurse No truly sir, not a penny.

Romeo: Go to, I say you shall.

Nurse: This afternoon, sir? Well, she shall be there.

(Act 2, Scene 4, lines 142-165)

Q2 Read Act 3, Scene 2, lines 71-101, then answer the questions below.

- a) How does Shakespeare present Juliet in this extract?
- b) In this extract, Juliet shows loyalty to Romeo, despite the fact he has killed Tybalt. What is the significance of loyalty between characters in the rest of *Romeo and Juliet*? You should consider:
- times when characters show loyalty to each other
 - how loyalty influence events in the play.

Q3 Read Act 3, Scene 4, lines 1-29. Explain how Shakespeare presents Capulet in this extract and in the rest of the play.

Q4 Read Act 3, Scene 1, lines 70-90. How is Mercutio presented as arrogant in the play? Refer to the extract and to the play as a whole.





