**IDX G9 ENGLISH H+ STUDY GUIDE ISSUE 2**

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General Questions (Mainly on Romeo and Juliet)  
1. What does Juliet say when finding out that Romeo is a Montague?

There are two quotes you can specifically look into.

The first one being “O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?” (Shakespeare 2.2.33)

“Wherefore” here doesn’t mean “where are you Romeo”, it means “Why are you Romeo”. This shows that Juliet is incredibly miserable that the man she loves is a Montague, and this shows the “star crossed lovers” archetype even more.

The second one being (the more famous line) “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other word would smell as sweet” (Shakespeare 2.2. 43-44).

She here expresses that a name doesn’t matter to her, as Romeo would be who he is regardless of what he is called. This tells us that she’s willing to love Romeo nevertheless, as she pushes the family feud away from their relationship because she thinks it doesn’t change anything.

2. What does the introduction about Friar Lawrence tell us?

“Within the infant rind of this weak flower / Poison hath residence and medicine power” (Shakespeare 2.3. 22-23).

We can see through many lines similar to this one in his monologue about the relationship on plants being not completely good and not completely bad, which is a hint to the poisonous vials that Romeo and Juliet drinks later on. It’s also through this section that we are told Friar Lawrence is really experienced with different herbs and plants, foreshadowing that he’d be the one to give the suggestion to drink the vial to Juliet.

3. Who are Laura, Dido, Cleopatra, Helen, and Hero? What’s Mercutio’s take on them?

These women are known to be extremely pretty women, but also to have extremely tragic love stories. For example, Dido commits suicide after Aeneas abandons her, Cleopatra commits suicide after being defeated by Augustus, and Hero throws herself from a tower after her lover drowned to death. Most notably, is the reference to Thisbe. Thisbe’s story is definitely analogous to Romeo and Juliet, starting with star crossed lovers and ending with committing suicide because both thought the other was dead. These couple of references, ESPECIALLY THISBE, foreshadow the tragic ending of Romeo and Juliet.

4. In the beginning of Act 3 Scene 5 (when Juliet is bidding Romeo farewell), what is the significance of Juliet and Romeo’s dialogue?

These few pages are heavy with images of light and darkness (and death!). For example, the two keep on referring to larks and nightingales, as larks represent the morning and nightingales the night. There’s also phrases like “jocund day / stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops” (Shakespeare 3.5. 9-10) that once again show that the night is retreating. Romeo and Juliet switch sides here a lot, so pay attention who is telling who to stay and who is telling who to leave. Eventually, they bid farewell, but with another line from Romeo saying, “More light and light; more dark and dark our woes!” (Shakespeare 3.5. 36). That’s a direct foreshadow to what happens later on the story, as Juliet is then forced to marry Paris. Juliet later then says that “ Methinks I see thee, now thou art so low, / as one dead in the bottom of a tomb” (Shakespeare 3.5. 55-56). That’s again, foreshadowing that the day will only grow worse.

5. What might be a reason why Capulet is furious after Juliet rejects marrying Paris?

You could see this in two ways: more positive and more negative.

The negative one assumes that Capulet has been lying from the start (since the party) that it was Juliet’s choice, and only now is pissed off that Juliet does not want to marry Paris.

The slightly more positive one considers more factors. For one, Paris is said to be handsome, rich, and related to the prince, which gives Juliet a lot more power by marrying him.

6. What can you pull from Mercutio’s “grave man” line?

“Grave man” is a pun, meaning both that he’s very serious but also on the verge of dying. So, this can show us more about Mercutio’s trickster personality. Even when he’s going to die, he’s still busy making puns about his soon-to-be death.

7. Why does Shakespeare end Act 4 Scene 5 (the one where everyone thinks Juliet is dead) with an odd conversation from Peter and the musicians?

With the context that Shakespearean plays at the time weren’t considered classy and were for the commonfolk, this conversation is to appeal towards the audience, who were in similar situations as the musicians in this play. The musicians are concerned about their payment since Juliet died, much like how the audience would react given the situation, as likely none of them were as rich as the Montagues and Capulets.