

The Prologue

1. What themes are introduced in the prologue?
2. Describe how the mood is conveyed through specific phrases and words.

Act 1: Scene 1:

3. Romeo and Juliet is essentially a love story. Why do you think Shakespeare begins it with a violent street fight?
4. For which family do Gregory and Sampson work?
5. What does Sampson mean when he says 'we'll not carry coals' in line 1?
6. Benvolio's name means 'well-wishing'. How does your first encounter with him help to establish him as a 'well-wishing' character?

7. When Benvolio comes upon the brawl, he tries to stop it and to restore peace. He does not wish to fight with Tybalt. What impression do you have of Tybalt and his attitude to this feud? Refer to the text to substantiate your answer.
8. Prince Escalus scolds Capulet and Montague. What punishment will they suffer if their followers fight in the street again?
9. Why is Romeo surprised it is so early in the day?
10. What does the audience learn about the reasons for Romeo's sadness through his response to Benvolio?
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12. How does Shakespeare use metaphor to develop Romeo's character?