R & J Act 3.3 – Discussion/Study Questions

- 1. What do Friar Laurence's first words in Act 3.3 suggest about Romeo?
- 2. To what "news" does Romeo refer on line 4?
- 3. What words or phrases help you to make meaning of Friar Laurence's use of *"tidings"* in line 7?
- 4. What is the "gentler judgment" Friar Laurence describes?
- 5. How does Romeo's reaction to his banishment develop his character?
- 6. How does Romeo's response to the advice on line 16 develop his character?
- 7. Using context and the structure of the word, define the word *mistermed* on line 21. What does Romeo mean by "banished / Is death mistermed" (lines 20–21)?
- 8. What does Romeo mean when he says that "Calling death 'banished', / Thou cutt'st my head off with a golden axe / And smilest upon the stroke that murders me" (lines 21–22)?

- 9. How does the golden axe metaphor develop Romeo's character?
- 10. How do Friar Laurence and Romeo each view the Prince's decision?
- 11. How does Shakespeare use figurative language in lines 29–30?
- 12. How do Romeo's animal and insect references in lines 26-39 develop his tone?
- 13. How does Romeo's reaction to Friar Laurence's "philosophy" develop his character?
- 14. Why does Romeo say Friar Laurence "canst not speak"?
- 15. What is the impact of the repetition of the words *banished* and *banishment* on Romeo's character development and tone?