

Romeo and Juliet Paragraph Writing Prompts Act I

- Choose one of the following prompts and write a paragraph in response.
 - Each entry must be a fully developed paragraph of 5-12 sentences including topic sentences and support. You do not need to hand in a rough copy, but your ideas should be clearly organized and easily understood.
 - It can be typed (doubled-spaced) or handwritten in ink on loose leaf (skip lines and do not write on the back).
 - Always refer to the play directly as you formulate your responses. You should quote the Shakespeare version of the play.
 - Quotations must be identified by Act, scene and line. E.g. (1, 4, 98-99).
1. Explain the different attitudes and opinions about marriage in Act 1 of Romeo and Juliet. Consider Paris, Capulet, Lady Capulet, Juliet, and the Nurse. Consider their ideas about relationships and some of the decisions they make in Act 1. Be sure to use quotes from the play to support your answer.
 2. Discuss how the emotions affect the actions in the scene-that is-analyze the decisions made. Choose one quote from Act 1 that you think characterizes the action and emotion of the whole scene. In a well-developed paragraph, explain why this quote is important, and how it represents the whole scene.
 3. If you were a character in this Act, what advice would you give Romeo? Be sure to include evidence from the play about what decisions or relationship problems you are addressing. Write this in the form of a letter.

Romeo and Juliet Paragraph Writing Prompts Act II

- Choose one of the following prompts and write a paragraph in response.
 - Each entry must be a fully developed paragraph of 5-12 sentences including topic sentences and support. You do not need to hand in a rough copy, but your ideas should be clearly organized and easily understood.
 - It can be typed (doubled-spaced) or handwritten in ink on loose leaf (skip lines and do not write on the back).
 - Always refer to the play directly as you formulate your responses. You should quote the Shakespeare version of the play.
 - Quotations must be identified by Act, scene and line. E.g. (1. 4, 98-99).
1. Write a character description of either Friar Lawrence or the Nurse? What role do they have in the plot of Romeo and Juliet? How do they impact Romeo and Juliet's relationship? How do they impact their decisions? Do you approve of their actions in helping Romeo and Juliet? Use quotations from the play to support your answer.
 2. Friar Lawrence is introduced in Act 2 Scene 3 talking about the 'two opposed camps' that are in every living thing-good and evil. Everything in life, he says, can be good or bad, depending on how it is used. Do you agree? Give an example from the play and one from your life. Consider your own good and "evil" decisions.
 3. Several times in Act 2, Juliet seems to doubt the value of words. In the balcony scene, (2.2) she famously asks "what's in a name?" and later in scene 6 she says "they are but beggars who can count their worth [in words]" (2.6.32). Do you agree with her-that words can't capture the most important feelings and ideas in life? Use specific examples from the play to support your answer. Including examples from your own experience as well is encouraged.

Romeo and Juliet Paragraph Writing Prompts Act III

- Choose one of the following prompts and write a paragraph in response.
- Each entry must be a fully developed paragraph of 5-12 sentences including topic sentences and support. You do not need to hand in a rough copy, but your ideas should be clearly organized and easily understood.
- It can be typed (doubled-spaced) or handwritten in ink on loose leaf (skip lines and do not write on the back).
- Always refer to the play directly as you formulate your responses. You should quote the Shakespeare version of the play.
- Quotations must be identified by Act, scene and line. E.g. (1. 4, 98-99).

1. Write a response to one (or both) of the following questions:

What if...

Juliet had been honest with her parents about her feelings for Romeo?

Romeo had approached the Capulet family and asked for forgiveness for his part in Tybalt's death?

2. How does Romeo's reaction concerning banishment reveal his character? How is it different from Juliet's reaction to the problem? Be sure to include text evidence to support your answer.
3. From what you know of Capulet, what kind of father do you think he is? How would you describe his relationship with his daughter? How does he compare to your own father?
4. Juliet makes decisions and acts a particular way throughout the play that are a result of social norms regarding women's reputations and appearances. Discuss some of Juliet's actions in act III that are based on social and family expectations. What would you do in her place? In what situations would you act differently either to maintain your reputation or to keep up appearances? Why?

Or, if you lived in a society where you were dependent upon your parents totally, as Juliet is, what circumstances would cause you to risk being thrown out of the house and have society scorn you as an ungrateful child?

Romeo and Juliet Paragraph Writing Prompts Act IV

- Choose one of the following prompts and write a paragraph in response.
 - Each entry must be a fully developed paragraph of 5-12 sentences including topic sentences and support. You do not need to hand in a rough copy, but your ideas should be clearly organized and easily understood.
 - It can be typed (doubled-spaced) or handwritten in ink on loose leaf (skip lines and do not write on the back).
 - Always refer to the play directly as you formulate your responses. You should quote the Shakespeare version of the play.
 - Quotations must be identified by Act, scene and line. E.g. (1. 4, 98-99).
1. What are some examples of dramatic irony in Act IV? How does this irony effect the audience's reaction to the play. Be sure to use text evidence to support your answer.
 2. Is Juliet being fair when she talks to Paris in scene 1? Discuss the way you would have handled a similar encounter. Write this as a persuasive response.
 3. We all have had the experience of telling a "white lie" or practicing a deception that grows more and more complex. Sir Walter Scott wrote, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive." What are the results of Juliet and Romeo's acts of deception in this act? Keep this quote in mind and tell about such an experience in your life. What happened and what did you learn from the experience?
 4. What do you think causes Juliet to picture the terrible images that she uses in her soliloquy (scene 3, lines 14-58)? Is her subconscious speaking to her? Write this as an explanatory response.
 5. Capulet says, "And with my child my joys are buried." What does this mean? Why did it take him so long to realize how much he loved his daughter? Write this as an explanatory response.

Romeo and Juliet Paragraph Writing Prompts Act V

- Choose one of the following prompts and write a paragraph in response.
 - Each entry must be a fully developed paragraph of 5-12 sentences including topic sentences and support. You do not need to hand in a rough copy, but your ideas should be clearly organized and easily understood.
 - It can be typed (doubled-spaced) or handwritten in ink on loose leaf (skip lines and do not write on the back).
 - Always refer to the play directly as you formulate your responses. You should quote the Shakespeare version of the play.
 - Quotations must be identified by Act, scene and line. E.g. (1, 4, 98-99).
1. Describe Romeo's plan. Is his plan consistent with his personality and behavior so far? Explain.
 2. If you were Friar Laurence and couldn't deliver your instructions to Romeo, what alternative courses of actions could you take? Explain what you would have done. Write this as an explanatory response.
 3. Do you think either Romeo or Juliet grows in character from the beginning of the play to the end? Support your answer with evidence from the play. Or, compare the characters of Romeo and Juliet. Who do you think is stronger, more sincere and courageous? Write this as a comparative response.
 4. What are the flaws in the characters of Romeo and Juliet up to this point in the play? How have those flaws contributed to their decisions and relationships throughout the play?
 5. What is your first reaction to the suicides of Romeo and Juliet? Do they act nobly or cowardly in choosing suicide? Consider other actions they might have chosen? Do you think Shakespeare glorifies or condemns suicide in the play? Write your opinion and support it with details from the play.