ACT III  Romeo and Juliet Study Questions

Scene 1
1. What does Benvolio say about the weather? What does he want to do?
   It is hot; wants to go inside because he knows the Capulets are out & does not want to run into them

2. In what way does Tybalt deliberately insult Romeo?
   insults him by calling him a villain

3. Why is Tybalt angry with Romeo?
   Because Romeo will not fight him & because he attended the Capulets’ ball

4. How does Romeo react to Tybalt’s challenge?
   tells Tybalt that he does not want to fight him because he has reason to love him; family now (dramatic irony)

5. Why does Mercutio decide to duel with Tybalt?
   because Romeo will not fight him; Mercutio never says “No” to a fight

6. What does Romeo try to do when the two men fight? What is the result of this action?
   Romeo tries to keep the peace & break up Mercutio & Tybalt by putting himself in between them; as a result, Tybalt tries to kill Romeo but misses & stabs Mercutio

7. Describe Mercutio’s actions when he realizes he is fatally wounded.
   Mercutio places a curse on the Montagues & Capulets – “a plague a’ both your houses” (foreshadowing)

8. When Romeo catches Tybalt, what happens?
   Romeo & Tybalt fight; Romeo kills Tybalt to avenge Mercutio’s death

9. When the Prince arrives to discover Mercutio and Tybalt dead, who begs for revenge? Why?
   Lady Capulet because he is her nephew; she also believes that Benvolio is lying about what happened because he is trying to protect Romeo

10. What does Lord Montague say about Romeo’s actions?
    defends Romeo by saying Tybalt had what was coming to him; says Romeo should not die

11. What sentence does the Prince pronounce upon Romeo?
    banishment from Verona; if he does not leave he will be killed

Scene 2
12. What news does the Nurse bring to Juliet?
    tells Juliet about the fight between Romeo & Tybalt; comes in ranting about someone being dead

13. Describe the emotions Juliet experiences upon hearing this.
    Juliet assumes that Romeo is dead; Juliet is heartbroken and want to die (dramatic irony); when she realizes Tybalt is dead, she feel terrible; she is angry with Romeo because he killed Tybalt, but also happy that it is not Romeo that is dead
Scene 3
14. What effect does the Prince’s sentence have on Romeo? Why?
   Romeo feels banishment is far worse than death because he would have to live without Juliet; Romeo collapses in despair

15. What comfort does the Friar offer?
   He tries to counsel him telling him that banishment is not so bad; he can make a new life outside of Verona

16. How does Romeo receive this advice? To what does the Friar compare him?
   Romeo is very harsh to the Friar because the Friar cannot understand how Romeo feels; compares him to a woman who feels devastated

17. What plans does the Friar outline for Romeo’s future?
   Romeo will visit Juliet that night leaving before morning; Romeo will go to Mantua until their marriage is spread around town, the Friar has reconciled the families, and received a pardon from the Prince for Romeo

18. What does Juliet’s ring symbolize?
   Juliet’s love for Romeo

Scene 4
19. What arrangements does Lord Capulet make with Paris?
   to marry Juliet on Thursday, 3 days later

Scene 5
20. How does Lady Capulet propose to avenge Tybalt’s death?
   by killing him; she will send a messenger to Mantua to kill him

21. What “joyful news” does Lady Capulet bring Juliet?
   that Juliet will be marrying Paris on Thursday

22. What is the effect on Lord Capulet of Juliet’s refusal to marry Paris?
   Capulet is upset; he threatens to never see Juliet again and kick her out of her home if she does not marry Paris; threatens to disown her

23. How does Lady Capulet respond to Juliet’s plea to delay the marriage?
   she too is fed up with Juliet; will not speak to her

24. At the end of the scene, what does the Nurse say about Romeo?
   that he is banished and if he were to come back to Verona he would be killed; Nurse suggests bigamy; Paris is a better man than Romeo

25. What does this do to the relationship between Juliet and the Nurse?
   pulls them apart; Juliet feel Nurse has been “sinful” and betrayed her; Juliet feels she can no longer confide in Nurse