

Name:

Date:

Period:

Romeo and Juliet Fishbowl Discussion Questions

In preparation for the fishbowl discussion, answer these guiding questions with your thoughts, opinions, and evidence from *Romeo & Juliet*. Aim to have **at least three bullet point answers per question. Most responses should include at least 1 quote/event from the text to support your answer.**

1. What effect does the accelerated time scheme have on the play's development? Is it plausible that a love story of this magnitude could take place so quickly? Does the play seem to take place over as little time as it actually occupies?
2. Dramatic foils are two characters that have personalities that oppose each other so greatly, that their main characteristics tend to stand out more boldly. Which characters in *Romeo and Juliet* are dramatic foils for each other?
3. Discuss the relationships between parents and children in *Romeo and Juliet*. How do Romeo and Juliet interact with their parents?
4. How does Shakespeare treat death in *Romeo and Juliet*? Frame your answer in terms of legal, moral, familial, and personal issues. Bearing these issues in mind, compare the deaths of Romeo and Juliet, Romeo and Mercutio, and Mercutio and Tybalt.
5. The law of unintended consequences states that the actions of people always have unanticipated or unintended consequences. Why does the law of unintended consequences apply with particular force to acts of revenge?
6. Which character in *Romeo and Juliet* do you think is most responsible for the tragedy? Give specific reasons why.
7. How does the suicidal impulse that both Romeo and Juliet exhibit relate to the overall theme of young love? Does Shakespeare seem to consider a self-destructive tendency inextricably connected with love, or is it a separate issue? Why do you think so?
8. Apart from clashing with Tybalt, what role does Mercutio play in the story?
9. What effect, if any, does the fact that Tybalt started the fight in which Mercutio was slain have on your evaluation of the ethical positions of Romeo and Tybalt?
10. Find at least three scenes where there are many references to ideas of "light" and "dark." What symbolism do these ideas have in this story?