

Read the following questions. Answer in full and complete sentences with a sufficient amount of detail and information to show and understanding of meaning. Respond on lined paper.

PLOT:

1. Make a chart of the most important events/incidents from Act I. For each event write a sentence explaining why this event was important.
2. Shakespearean plays often consist of one central plot line and one or more associated minor plot lines. Romeo plays the central character in the play. What events from the plot in Act I provide proof that his role will expand as the play continues.
3. Identify events from the plot that contribute to the five parts of a typical Shakespearean tragedy: Exposition, Rising Action, Crisis, Falling Action and Denouement. (Note that some parts will have more development at this point than others).

CHARACTERS:

1. A **FOIL CHARACTER** is someone who, by means of contrast, emphasizes the personality characteristics of another character. Identify two characters in Act I who function as foils to Romeo, and explain what each foil reveals about Romeo's personality.
2. Summarize Romeo's level of maturity throughout the events of Act I. Refer to two significant facts that show his development to support your view.

THEME:

1. The chorus' mention of "star-crossed lovers" might lead one to believe that fate may play some role in this play. Trace the references to fate in Act I and evaluate its importance in determining the course of events for the main characters.

LITERARY AND DRAMATIC DEVICES

1. Define "dramatic irony".
2. Discuss the ways in which dramatic irony increases the tension in Act I. In your answer, provide examples of the use of this device throughout the Act.
3. Provide possible reasons for Shakespeare's use of the following types of imagery. What might each one mean?

→the sun (seen through a window)	→light contrasted with darkness
→fire	→smoke
→the sea	

