

Answer the following questions in full and complete sentences. Respond with appropriate support and detail to show a complete understanding of the text.

1. Explain the jokes that Samson and Gregory make in the first lines of this scene. How do these jokes contrast with the type of play you are reading? Why might Shakespeare include so much humour in a tragic play?
2. Why does Tybalt want to fight Benvolio? What does this reveal about his personality?
3. When Capulet calls for his “long sword” to join the battle, his wife replies, “A crutch, a crutch! Why call you for a sword?”. What is her tone of voice and what is implied about the relationship and marriage between the Capulets?
4. Explain both meanings of the word “cankered”.
5. According to Montague, what strange behaviours has Romeo exhibited lately? Are such behaviours unusual for a teenage boy?
6. At this point, Shakespeare introduces the motif of “effeminacy” in the play. Explain the ways in which Romeo’s actions, described by his father, might be considered “womanish”.
7. Explain the meaning of Romeo’s comment, “Sad hours seem long”. Summarize Romeo’s mood at this point of the scene.
8. Romeo characterizes the fight between the Montagues and Capulets in a rather ambiguous way: “Here’s much to do with hate, but more with love.” What device is being used in this line?
9. What does Romeo claim is his greatest regret over his love’s determination to “still live chaste”? Is it at all probable that this desire is sincere?
10. What is Benvolio’s solution to Romeo’s problem? How does he propose that Romeo forget about his present love?

