**ACT 1 *Romeo and Juliet Study Guide***

Please answer the following questions in **complete sentences** and on a **separate sheet** of paper. You may type your answers if you wish. Please you MLA format.

1. What does “a pair of star-cross’d lovers” mean?

2. What are the causes of the fight in scene 1?

3. Why does the Prince want the fighting to stop between the Montagues and Capulets?

4. Why is Romeo heartbroken?

5. Romeo and Paris are advised to do what when it comes to loving the women they do?

6. What type of person is the Nurse?

7. Why does Juliet agree to pay attention to Paris at the party?

8. What does Juliet do when Romeo begins to flirt with her?

9. What is Romeo’s reaction when he finds out Juliet is a Capulet?

10. Who, if anyone, tries to stop the fight before the Prince arrives?

11. What does the Prince warn if the two families fight again?

12. Capulet agrees to a marriage between Paris and Juliet if what happens?

13. What type of relationship does Juliet have with her mother?

14. What most angers Tybalt at the Capulet party?

15. Why does Romeo agree to go to the Capulet party?

16. What characters are foils to each other and explain how.

17. What does “My only love, sprung from my only hate!/Too early seen unknown, and known too late” mean?

18. Why is Romeo depressed at the beginning of the play? How would you characterize Benvolio’s attitude toward Romeo?

19. How does Benvolio propose to cure Romeo of his lovesickness? Does Romeo appear to have much experience with women? Give reasons for your answer.

20. What is your impression of Mercutio? Do you think he is a good influence on Romeo? Explain.

21. A **foil** is a character who provides a strong contrast to another character. Writers may use a foil to emphasize another character’s distinctive traits or to make a character look better by comparison. For example Mercutio’s bawdiness and cynical views about love contrast with Romeo’s idealism and innocence.

a. Which character serves as a foil to Lady Capulet? Explain the contrast between the two characters.

b. Which character serves a foil to Tybalt? What does the contrast between the two characters tell you about each of them?

**Personal Response:** What are your thoughts about the first encounter between Romeo and Juliet?

**THEMATIC FOCUS: POWER OF LOVE**

How does love affect Romeo throughout Act 1? What kind of power does this show? Evaluate the connection between love and violence—which seems more powerful?

You will write an essay based on the above prompt. The essay will be in MLA Format (5 points), a minimum of three (3) paragraphs (5 points), typed (5 points) and content appropriate (following prompt-5 points). There will a total of 5 of these essays after each act. Each essay is worth 25 points. 5 points will be deducted for each of the above items missing. This is more of an all or nothing type of essay.