Name: Answer Here

## Act 1 - Scene 1a (Lines 1-97)

* WATCH FOR IT!
  + In this opening part of the scene, you’ll be introduced to two important characters in the play: **Benvolio** and **Tybalt**. What is different about their characters?

Answer Here

* + Do you know people like this? Would you be friends with either or both of them?

Answer Here

* **TIPS AND QUESTIONS** 
  + The Servants Fight (lines 1-57)
    - **TIP!** The jokes Sampson and Gregory are making here don’t all translate well into modern English, which is probably why both the film versions and the stage production omit most of this section. If you want an idea of the sort of jokes and puns the two servants are making, read the Graphic Novel Quick Text on this website.
    - **Gregory and Sampson (lines 1–30)**   
      Try reading the dialogue between the two Capulet servants as you listen to the audio dramatization. Are the personalities of the two servants the same? Is one smarter, angrier, funnier, or meaner than the other?

Answer Here

* + - Do you think the servants are just showing off, or do they really mean what they say?

Answer Here

* + - **Off to a Good Start? (lines 1–30)**   
      Why do you think Shakespeare chose to start off the play with these two minor characters, who barely appear in the rest of the play?

Answer Here

What does their conversation tell us about the society of Verona and about the way the feud between the Montagues and the Capulets has affected it?

Answer Here  
  
Imagine the rowdy audience in an Elizabethan theatre. What effect do you think the jokes might have on them?

Answer Here

* + The Fight Escalates (lines 58-97)
    - **TIP!** As you read this section, it’s helpful to know which character is attached to which household. Remember, you can turn on the character toggle in the Playscript and roll over any character’s name to find out more about him or her.
    - **Tybalt and Benvolio (lines 58–66)**   
      What are your impressions of these two men?

Answer Here

* + - Try saying the two names out loud. What feeling do you get from each one?

Answer Here  
  
Click on their names in the Playscript to read the “What’s in a Name?” feature in the character description. Now read, watch, or listen to the part where they meet. Does each character live up to his name in this brief interchange?

Answer Here

* + - **Who’s Accountable? (lines 67–74)**   
      Servants start the fight, but in a short time the brawl draws in people from higher levels of society. For people in Shakespeare’s day, rank and status were important, and the idea that noblemen such as Lord Capulet and Lord Montague would join a fight started by their underlings was a dangerous reversal of the social order.  
        
      Who do you think is most accountable here? The servants who started the fight? Tybalt and Benvolio for not putting an end to it? Or Capulet and Montague for allowing it to escalate? Why?

Answer Here

* + - **The Prince’s Speech (lines 75–97)**   
      The Prince comes onto the scene and restores order. Listen to either the audio dramatization of the speech, and follow along in the text.  
        
      As you read and listen, notice how different the Prince's way of speaking is from that of the servants at the beginning of the play (and even from Tybalt’s and Benvolio’s way of speaking.) How would you describe these differences? How do you think the Prince is feeling while he is saying these words? Is he angry? Resigned? Frustrated? Calm? Why?

Answer Here

* **TRY THIS**!
  + Now is a good time to add to the organizer you created to help you remember who the characters are and how they relate to one another. If you haven't already created an organizer, now is a good time to start it. You can add to it as you work through the play.

## Act 1 - Scene 1b (Lines 98-232)

* WATCH FOR IT!
  + In this scene, we meet Romeo. As you read, watch, or listen, try to pick up as many clues as you can about his character. Listen to what people say about him, as well as to what he himself says. Jot down some notes in your Notebook about your first impressions.
* TIPS AND QUESTIONS
  + **The Mood Shifts**   
    After the violence of the brawl, we learn about Romeo’s unrequited love. What effect do you think this sudden shift might have on the audience?

Answer Here  
  
What if Shakespeare had begun with the love story and moved the brawl to the end of the scene? Could that have worked? Why do you think he chose to start with the brawl?

Answer Here

* + **Romeo’s Family (lines 98–153)**   
    Before we meet Romeo, we are introduced to him through this discussion between his parents and Benvolio. What does this conversation tell you about Romeo?

Answer Here  
  
Why do you think Shakespeare wanted us to meet the parents of this boy, who we already know is doomed to die tragically? How does meeting someone’s family affect how you think of them?

Answer Here

* + **“O brawling love, O loving hate…” (lines 170–188)**   
    Read lines 170–188 in your Playscript, and note all the contrasting images that Romeo uses. These are oxymorons (see Glossary—oxymoron).  
      
    What do these oxymorons tell you about how Romeo is feeling?

Answer Here

* + Have you ever felt that way? What is it about love that causes such conflicting emotions in people?

Answer Here

* + **“Tut, I have lost myself, I am not here...” (lines 191–192)**   
    What do you think Romeo means when he says this? Does love involve losing oneself? Should it?

Answer Here

**Prologue Questions**

Who are Sampson and Gregory? With whom do they come in conflict?

Answer Here

Describe the Prince’s reaction to the brawl. How does he attempt to ensure that violence on the streets will not occur again?

Answer Here

What strange behaviours has Romeo exhibited lately? What is Benvolio’s advice to Romeo? (line 220)

Answer Here