Name: Answer Here

## The Prologue

* WATCH FOR IT!
  + As you read The Prologue, notice how many words are about love and how many are about hate. Also take note of how often the number two comes up. This number is important throughout the play as opposites collide (for example, love/hate, light/dark, Capulet/Montague, violence/peace, old/new).
* TIPS AND QUESTIONS
  + **“From forth the fatal loins of these two foes” (line 5)**   
    Read line 5 out loud, or listen to it several times on audio. Can you hear how the f sound repeats?  
      
    What effect does the alliteration have here (see Glossary—alliteration)? Does it make the line softer? More forceful? Does it make the words stand out? Why is this line important?

Answer Here

* + **TIP!** You can get the gist of what the Chorus is saying from the synopsis or the Graphic Novel version of The Prologue. But before you start trying to figure out the exact meanings of all the words, sit back and listen to the audio dramatization. Enjoy the rhythm and the poetry of Shakespeare’s language.
  + **“A pair of star-cross’d lovers take their life” (line 6)**   
    The Chorus reveals the fate of the “star-cross'd lovers” before we have even met them. Why do you think Shakespeare chose to give away the ending in the first few lines of the play? Should he have?

Answer Here  
  
As you go through the play, think about how knowing the ending changes your perspective on what the characters do and say.

* MEDIA SPOTLIGHT
  + **The Prologue on Stage**   
    Take a look at The Prologue in the CBC/Stratford Festival stage production. In this version, Prince Escales appears in a spotlight and recites The Prologue on his own, dressed in a military uniform.  
      
    Then look at the stills from the Stratford Festival 2002 production. In this version, first the Prince, then the Montague and Capulet families, and finally the entire cast (minus Romeo and Juliet) come on stage to recite the lines of The Prologue together.  
      
    What is your reaction to each of these ways of introducing the play?

Answer Here

* + What does each version lead you to expect in the rest of the play?

Answer Here

What words in The Prologue do you see that seem to relate to a military theme?

Answer Here

What words relate to family or community?

Answer Here

**Prologue Questions**

What is the setting of the play?

Answer Here

The Chorus tells us that “two households” are feuding. What word indicates that this feud has existed for many years?

Answer Here

What does the Chorus mean when he calls Romeo and Juliet “star-cross’d lovers?”

Answer Here

What is to be the result of the lovers’ deaths?

Answer Here

What do you think is the overall purpose of the prologue?

Answer Here