

## **Interactive Journal Entries for *Romeo and Juliet***

The first number represents the act, the second number indicates the scene and the third indicates the journal entry for the scene. So 1.2.2 represents act 1, scene 2, and journal entry number two for the play.

Prologue - What causes two families to become bitter enemies?

1.1 - Consider Benvolio's and Tybalts action in the scene. Which character would you want for a friend? Explain.

1.2 - List and discuss the qualities of a good father. What is your view of Lord Capulet as a father?

1.2.2 - What is Benvolio's advice to Romeo? Is it good advice? Explain.

1.3 - How important are first impressions of people. What kind of first impression do you think you give? Explain.

1.3.2 - What is your first impression of the nurse?

1.3.3 – What is Juliet's mother like? Would Juliet be more likely to share secrets and ask favors of her mother or the nurse? What is your first impression of Juliet's mother?

1.4 - Everyone dreams. Describe a vivid dream you remember. Did it have a purpose in your life?

1.5 - Romeo loves Juliet from the first moment he sees her. She falls instantly in love with him. Do you believe in love at first sight?

2.1 Based on what you know of Romeo's friends Benvolio and Mercutio, create a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the two. Who is the more helpful friend?

2.2 What's in a name? How important do you think names are? Would changing names make the world a better place?

2.3 – Do you have an adult friend or relative you can go to with problems? What qualities do you look for in an adult advisor? Make a list.

2.3.2 – How wise do you think Friar Lawrence is? Think about his discussion of plants and people; his reaction and advice to Romeo; and his reason for agreeing to Marry Romeo and Juliet.

2.3.3 – Reread Friar Lawrence's soliloquy in lines 1-31. What important ideas does he discuss?

2.5 – Describe a time when you waited desperately for something – news, a holiday, or a family event. Include your thoughts and feelings as you waited.

2.6 – How important is parental approval to the success of a marriage?

3.2 – Write about your feelings if you were told you were banished from your home and city. Argue whether you think it is the worst possible thing that could happen.

3.3 – Can adults understand? Are adults able to understand how a young person feels? List some situations which might be difficult for adults and teenagers to have common views.

3.5 – List some of the people in your life who offer help and solace.

4.2 – We all have had the experience of telling a “white lie” or practicing a deception that grows more and more complex. Sir Walter Scott wrote, “Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.” Keep this quote in mind and tell about such an experience in your life. What happened and what did you learn from the experience?

4.4 – List the rituals your family practices throughout the year. Write about the one that has the most meaning for you.

5.1 – Describe Romeo’s plan. Is his plan consistent with his personality and behavior so far? Explain.

5.3 – What are the flaws in the characters of Romeo and Juliet up to this point in the play?

5.3.2 – What is your first reaction to the suicides of Romeo and Juliet? Do they act nobly or cowardly in choosing suicide? Consider other actions they might have chosen? Do you think Shakespeare glorifies or condemns suicide in the play? Write your opinion and support it with details from the play.

5.3.3 – Do you think either Romeo or Juliet grows in character from the beginning of the play to the end? Support your answer with evidence from the play.