

Romeo and Juliet Writing Prompts

When writing your essay, be sure to cite examples from the play to support your arguments.

1. As the play comes to an end, the Prince states that, Some shall be pardoned and some punished, implying that there will be some blame placed in this sad episode. Assert your arguments for who shall be pardoned and who shall be punished.
2. Discuss Romeo and Juliet relationships with their parents. Do you think that they are rebellious in the modern sense?
3. Do you think that the tragic end of Romeo and Juliet story could have been avoided?
4. Explain how the feud between two families drives the action of the play.
5. What is the role of Mercutio in the story? What sets him apart from other characters?
6. Analyze the character of Friar Laurence and explain what motivates him.
7. The concept of fate in Romeo and Juliet.
8. What are some literary devices used in the play to create humor?
9. Discuss love as an important theme in the play.
10. Examine the use of paradoxes in the play and explain how they relate to the tragedy as a whole.
11. Who is to blame for the deaths of Juliet and Romeo?
12. Explore how Shakespeare uses imagery to intensify the drama and highlight the central themes.
13. Is Romeo and Juliet story relevant today?
14. What makes the opening scene of the play so effective?
15. Explore how Shakespeare uses symbols of gold and silver in the play and explain what each symbol represents.
16. What techniques are used to convey character and his relationship to the audience?
17. What is the role of foreshadowing in the play?
18. Analyze the role of disorder and hatred in Romeo and Juliet and explain its consequences.
19. What types of love are portrayed in the play?

20. What is the most important theme in Romeo and Juliet?
21. Analyze the use of the theme of death in Romeo and Juliet
22. What are the main moral themes in Romeo and Juliet?
23. Friar Laurence serves many dramatic purposes in the play. Examine the Friar and his role in Romeo and Juliet.
24. Mercutio is considered to be one of Shakespeare's great creations, yet he is killed relatively early in the play. What makes Mercutio so memorable a character?
25. Romeo and Juliet are referred to as "star-cross'd lovers". Discuss the concept of predetermined destiny and how it relates to the play.