

Romeo and Juliet

Act III

by William Shakespeare

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: afford, concludes, exile, grave, held, interest, pray, show, subject, temper

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Play:

Section 1 · Prologue and Act I · Feuding households and Capulet's masked ball

Section 2 · Act II · Romeo in the Capulet orchard

Section 3 · Act III · A hot day in Verona's streets

Section 4 · Act IV · Preparations for a Thursday wedding

Section 5 · Act V · Romeo in exile, awaiting news

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



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(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. The library can **afford** us a quiet place to work.
 - A. rent out or lease
 - B. provide or supply
 - C. promise or pledge
2. The speaker **concludes** her talk with a short story.
 - A. brings to an end; finishes
 - B. illustrates; makes clear
 - C. interrupts; breaks into
3. The defeated leader spent ten years in **exile**.
 - A. forced absence from one's country
 - B. imprisonment without a trial
 - C. quiet retirement from public life
4. The doctor's **grave** expression worried everyone in the room.
 - A. tired; worn out
 - B. puzzled; uncertain
 - C. serious; solemn
5. Her neighbors **held** her the wisest person in town.
 - A. chose by a vote
 - B. openly declared
 - C. considered or regarded
6. He sold his **interest** in the family business last year.
 - A. a personal stake or share
 - B. a place on the payroll
 - C. a say in daily decisions
7. I **pray** you, sir, hear me out before you decide.
 - A. warn or caution
 - B. ask or beg
 - C. promise or swear
8. The grand house was all **show** and no comfort.
 - A. outward appearance
 - B. costly decoration
 - C. noisy entertainment
9. Under the old law every peasant was a **subject** of the crown.
 - A. an officer serving the king
 - B. a person under another's power
 - C. a landowner of low rank
10. Nothing in that long ordeal broke his **temper**.
 - A. trust in his friends
 - B. strength of the body
 - C. firmness of character

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Capels — the Capulets

I am sped — done for — fatally wounded

Fortune's fool — fate's plaything, a man toyed with by a personified fate

aqua vitae — brandy or whiskey (literally Latin for 'water of life')

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	A
4	C
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	B
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 "I pray thee, good Mercutio, let's retire.
The day is hot, the Capels are abroad,
And if we meet we shall not 'scape a brawl,
For now, these hot days, is the mad blood stirring."

As used in the passage, the word 'pray' most nearly means...

- A. hope or expect
- B. swear or promise
- C. ask or beg

2 "Romeo, the love I bear thee can afford
No better term than this: thou art a villain."

Tybalt speaks with bitter irony. As he uses it, the word 'afford' suggests that...

- A. Tybalt cannot pay what he owes
- B. Tybalt has only an insult to give
- C. Tybalt has grown fond of Romeo

3 "No, 'tis not so deep as a well, nor so wide as a church door, but 'tis enough. 'Twill serve. Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man."

It can reasonably be inferred that Mercutio's joke about being 'a grave man' means he...

- A. thinks the wound will heal
- B. plans to be more careful
- C. expects to be dead by then

4 "O sweet Juliet,
Thy beauty hath made me effeminate
And in my temper softened valor's steel."

As used in the passage, the word 'temper' most nearly means...

- A. firmness of character,
- B. a habit of patience
- C. a fit of bad humor

5 "His fault concludes but what the law should end,
The life of Tybalt."

According to the passage, Montague argues that Romeo's offense did no more than...

- A. settle a quarrel the law ignored
- B. prove that the law had failed
- C. finish what the law would do

6 "I have an interest in your hearts' proceeding:
My blood for your rude brawls doth lie a-bleeding."

It can reasonably be inferred that the Prince's 'interest' in the quarrel comes from...

- A. his own kin being killed
- B. the fines he means to collect
- C. his friendship with the Capulets

7 "Beautiful tyrant, fiend angelical!
Dove-feathered raven, wolvisish-ravens lamb!
Despised substance of divinest show!"

Shakespeare most likely includes the phrase 'of divinest show' in order to...

- A. recall Romeo's earlier vows
- B. set Romeo's beauty against his true nature
- C. explain why Romeo fled Verona

8 "Ha, banishment? Be merciful, say 'death,'
For exile hath more terror in his look,
Much more than death. Do not say 'banishment.'"

Which choice best describes Romeo's attitude toward exile in this passage?

- A. he doubts it will be enforced
- B. he fears it more than death
- C. he accepts it as fair mercy

9 "For hark you, Tybalt being slain so late,
It may be thought we held him carelessly,
Being our kinsman, if we revel much."

According to the passage, Capulet fears a large celebration would suggest that the family...

- A. thought little of Tybalt
- B. had forgotten the old feud
- C. blamed Tybalt for the brawl

10 "Alack, alack, that heaven should practice
stratagems
Upon so soft a subject as myself."

It can reasonably be inferred that Juliet, calling herself 'so soft a subject,' feels...

- A. helpless before heaven's schemes
- B. guilty of a great wrong
- C. too gentle to be blamed

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	'I pray thee' is Shakespeare's ordinary 'please.' Students will meet it constantly in this play, often shortened to 'prithee.'
2	B	The line is a sneer: the only thing Tybalt's 'love' can produce is the word 'villain.'
3	C	The pun is the point: 'a grave man' is both a solemn one and a buried one. Mercutio jokes his way out of the play.
4	A	Shakespeare is playing on metalwork: steel is 'tempered' to make it hard, and Romeo says love has softened his.
5	C	Montague's defense rests on the older sense: Romeo's act only did what the law itself would have done to Tybalt.
6	A	
7	B	'Show' means outward appearance and 'substance' means what a thing really is; the pair drives Juliet's whole run of oxymorons.
8	B	
9	A	'Held' here means 'regarded,' the sense that survives in phrases like 'held in high esteem.'
10	A	'Subject' here is a person under another's power, not a topic. Juliet casts heaven as the schemer and herself as its target.

Teacher Context: Act III

Tybalt kills Mercutio, Romeo kills Tybalt, and the Prince banishes Romeo rather than executing him. Juliet learns of both deaths, Romeo despairs at the Friar's cell, and the newlyweds part after their one night together as Capulet — knowing nothing of the marriage — promises Juliet to Paris on Thursday.