

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Act 3 Scene 1 - Critical Reading Guide

Directions: Go to today's date on the class website and click on the *No Fear Shakespeare* Link. Read through Act 3 Scene 1 together with your assigned group, choosing different character roles to read out loud. As you read, answer the following questions. *Be prepared for a reading quiz in the future on this scene.*

1. Explain what it is Benvolio is afraid of in the first 4 lines.
2. When Mercutio says around line 37 "*By my heel, I care not,*" what type of action is he doing as the Capulets approach him and Benvolio?
3. When Tybalt says, "*Follow me close, for I will speak to them,*" who is the "them" he speaks of?
4. What is it that Tybalt wants? How does Mercutio attempt to provoke him?
5. In lines 52-55 ("*We talk here...gaze on us*"), what does Benvolio want Mercutio and Tybalt to do? Why?
6. Tybalt tells Mercutio, "*Well, peace be with you, sir.*" Why doesn't he 'take the bait' laid out by Mercutio and fight him?
7. What insult does Tybalt lay against Romeo? What's he so darn mad about?
8. What is the **reason** Romeo talks of when he says to Tybalt, "*the reason that I have to love thee*" (line 65)?
9. Why do Romeo's words make no sense to Tybalt?

10. Explain what Romeo tries to do in lines 71-75 (*"I do protest...be satisfied."*).
11. Explain why Mercutio decides to fight with Tybalt in lines 76-77 (*"O calm...it away."*).
12. How **specifically** does Mercutio get killed? (hint: read the script notes in italics)
13. Mercutio likes to create puns (plays on words). What is the other meaning to "grave" in Mercutio's line, *"Ask for me tomorrow, and you shall find me a grave man"*?
14. After asking Benvolio for help, what are Mercutio's final words to Romeo?
15. Lines 129-136 (*"Alive in triumph...go with him."*) – sum up Romeo's feelings/mood, and why.
16. What happens between Romeo and Tybalt?
17. Explain Romeo's line, *"Oh, I am fortune's fool!"*
18. Who tells the truthful details of the fight?
19. Why doesn't Lady Capulet believe this person's account of the fight (lines 191-196)? Quote the line that shows what her demand is.
20. What is Romeo's punishment from the Prince? What **could** it have been?