Act 2 Questions

***On a separate sheet of paper****, please answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

*Scene 1*:

1. What does Mercutio say about “blind love”?

*Scene 2*:

2. When Juliet appears on her balcony, what does Romeo compare her to?

3. How does Juliet “speak, yet . . . [say] nothing”?

4. When Juliet leans her cheek on her hand, what does Romeo say?

5. Unaware of his presence, what does Juliet ask Romeo to say?

6. In a sentence or two, explain what Juliet says about names.

7. Juliet asks how Romeo got into her place. The orchard walls are high, and Romeo’s life would be in danger if her relatives were to find him there. What is Romeo’s response to these questions?

8. Why is Juliet embarrassed?

9. Juliet is going to send someone to Romeo on the following day for what purpose?

*Scene 3*:

10. What has Friar Lawrence been out gathering in his basket?

11. Explain lines 21-22: “Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,/And vice sometime by action dignified”?

12. When Friar Lawrence sees Romeo, what comment does Friar Laurence make about seeing Romeo so early in the morning?

13. What does Friar Lawrence mean when he says to Romeo, “Young men’s love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes?

14. Friar Lawrence agrees to perform the marriage ceremony for Romeo and Juliet for what reason?

*Scene 4*:

15. According to Mercutio, what kind of man is Tybalt?

16. What is the nurse saying to Romeo in lines 157 – 163?

17. How is Juliet to meet Romeo?

*Scene 5*:

18. The nurse is supposed to be gone only a half hour, but she is actually gone for how long?

19. How is the nurse behaving that is frustrating to Juliet?

Act 2 Answers

Scene 1

1. What Mercutio says about blind love is that while there may be passion, there is likely something missing that may cause trouble.

Scene 2

1. Romeo compares Juliet to the sun because her beauty is emanating as the sun emanates light.
2. Juliet “speaks… yet says nothing” by simply being there. Her body language communicates beauty, thoughtfulness, love, etc…
3. When Juliet leans her cheek upon her hand, Romeo wishes he could be a glove upon her hand so that he could touch her cheek.
4. Unaware of his presence, Juliet asks Romeo to reject his family name so that the two of them could be together. In other words, she wants him to no longer be a Montague or that he gives her his love and she will no longer be a Capulet.
5. Juliet says that names are things we attach to people, places, and things. Names are not nearly as important as other body parts such as hands or feet. She says that Romeo would still be Romeo (the loving, passionate, kind man that he is) and still be himself by any other name.
6. Romeo responds to Juliet’s question by using figurative language. He says he flew over the walls via love’s wings; however, what he means is that passion drove him to climb the wall and destiny meant for them to meet.
7. Juliet is embarrassed because Romeo heard her say that she wants him to be equally in love with her and that her love is very deep. Normally, she wouldn’t have seemed so desperate if she knew he was there (aka played hard to get).
8. Juliet sends a messenger to Romeo the following day to find out where and when Juliet and Romeo would be married.

Scene 3

1. Friar Lawrence gathers flowers and weeds in his basket to make potions both good and bad.
2. “Virtue itself turns vice, being misapplied,/And vice sometime by action dignified” means that too much of a good thing can be bad. Even with the best intentions, love can be taken the wrong way and end poorly. Conversely, vice, or a bad habit/thing can be misconstrued as being good.
3. When Friar Lawrence sees Romeo so early in the morning, he assumes that Romeo has been up all night with friends or must be ill. It is unlikely young men such as Romeo to be up so early.
4. When Friar Lawrence says “Young men’s love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes,” he is saying that young men fall in love based on looks and not based on the internal qualities of a woman. The Friar is afraid Romeo thinks Juliet is beautiful and that is the sole reason he “loves” her.
5. Friar Lawrence agrees to perform the ceremony for Romeo and Juliet not because the two are in love (in fact he doubts that), but because their marriage may bring the two families together.

Scene 4

1. According to Mercutio, Tybalt is “the Prince of Cats,” an expert swordsman, and quick to fight.
2. The nurse says to Romeo that he must not “double-cross” Juliet. The nurse is afraid that Romeo will break her heart and fall in love with someone else after marrying her.
3. Juliet is to meet Romeo in Friar Lawrence’s cell to be married. She must get away by saying she must go to shrift (confession).

Scene 5

1. The nurse is gone for 3 hours on her journey to meet and get information from Romeo. She is only supposed to take a half hour.
2. Juliet is frustrated with the nurse on her return from speaking with Romeo because she would not share if, when, and where Romeo and Juliet are to be married. The nurse complains instead about being tired from the long day’s journey.