Act 3 Questions

Please answer in full sentences ***on a separate sheet of paper.***

*Scene 1*:

1. At the beginning of the scene, why does Benvolio think that there will be a fight?

2. What does Mercutio accuse Benvolio of in lines 15-30?

3. When Tybalt and Mercutio first begin arguing, what does Benvolio try to do? Explain.

4. Why won’t Romeo fight Tybalt?

5. When Benvolio relates to the Prince what happened, what does he say Romeo tried to before Mercutio was killed?

6. What does Lady Capulet accuse Benvolio of? Why?

7. What is Romeo’s punishment for killing Tybalt?

*Scene 2*:

8. Why is Juliet so impatient for the nurse to return?

9. Describe Juliet’s rapidly changing attitudes toward Romeo in this scene.

10. What piece of news has upset Juliet the most?

*Scene 3*:

11. Explain Romeo’s reaction to the news of his banishment.

12. What argument does Friar Lawrence use to prevent Romeo from killing himself?

13. What does the nurse give to Romeo?

*Scene 4*:

14. What does Capulet tell his wife to say to Juliet?

*Scene 5*:

15. As Romeo is preparing to leave Juliet, what argument does she use to convince him to stay?

16. Why does Lady Capulet think Juliet is crying?

17. After Lady Capulet breaks the news about Paris, what is Juliet’s response?

18. If Juliet’s mother does not arrange to delay the marriage, what will Juliet do?

19. What is Capulet’s reaction to Juliet’s threats?

20. What is the nurse’s advice to Juliet? How does Juliet feel about this advice?

21. What is Juliet’s “scheme” to get out of the house and away from the nurse?

Act 3 Answers

Scene 1

1. At the beginning of the scene, Benvolio thinks there will be a fight because it is hot outside. He says that in hot weather like that people always are in a bad mood and spoiling for a fight. Also, Tybalt sent Romeo a letter which makes him believe a fight will take place.
2. Mercutio accuses Benvolio of having a bad temper and willing to fight in lines 15-30.
3. When Tybalt and Mercutio first begin arguing, Benvolio tries to stop them by convincing them that fighting in the streets is against the decree of the Prince.
4. Romeo refuses to fight Tybalt because he says that he thinks of Tybalt as a cousin now that he has married Juliet. He doesn’t want to do anything to harm his relationship with the Capulets.
5. When Benvolio relates to the Prince what happened, he says Romeo had tried to keep peace with Tybalt, but when Tybalt and Mercutio were fighting, Romeo strove to guard Mercutio but failed.
6. Lady Capulet accuses Benvolio of lying to the Prince about what really happened because Romeo is a Montague so he would be likely to protect the family of the Montagues.
7. Romeo’s punishment for killing Tybalt is being exiled (banished from ever returning to Verona).

Scene 2

1. Juliet is impatient for the nurse to return because her nurse has been with Romeo. She is supposed to inform Juliet when and where the marriage between she and Romeo will take place. It takes the Nurse 3 hours when it should have only taken ½ an hour.
2. Juliet rapidly changes attitudes towards Romeo because she is upset that Romeo killed her cousin Tybalt which she grieves over both the murder and his death. But, Juliet also feels she must love Romeo because he is her husband and must have faith that what he did was right.
3. The piece of news that Juliet is upset the most about is that Romeo has been banished.

Scene 3

1. Romeo wishes he were dead instead when he finds out that he has been banished from Verona. He comments that others will get to see Juliet when he cannot.
2. The argument that Friar Lawrence uses is that Juliet’s alive, Tybalt’s dead, and he got a lighter punishment.
3. The nurse gives Romeo Juliet’s ring.

Scene 4

1. Capulet tells his wife to tell Juliet that she will be getting married to Paris on Thursday.

Scene 5

1. As Romeo is preparing to leave Juliet, she tells him that it is still night because she can still hear the nightingale. The fact that she can hear this bird means that it must be night still and Romeo should not go.
2. Lady Capulet thinks Juliet is crying because of Tybalt’s death.
3. Juliet’s response to the news of her betrothal to Paris is that she would rather marry Romeo (both literal and meant to fool Lady Capulet).
4. If Lady Capulet does not delay the marriage, Juliet says that she will kill herself.
5. Capulet’s reaction to Juliet’s threats is that he will disown her (terrible fate) and strike her.
6. The nurse tells Juliet to forget Romeo and marry Paris. She explains that Romeo is as good as dead if he is banished and Paris is of a higher status than Juliet (unlike Romeo).
7. Juliet schemes to get away from the nurse by going to shrift (aka to see Friar Lawrence).