EN10 Romeo and Juliet Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Act 1 Comprehension Questions

Work in groups of no more than three (!!!) to answer the following questions. **Please complete them in full sentences on a separate sheet of paper.** Don’t forget to put all of the names of the contributors on the assignment.

Scene 1

1. Romeo and Juliet is essentially a love story. Why do you think Shakespeare begins it with a violent street fight? (1)
2. For which family do Gregory and Sampson work? (1)
3. A pun is a play on words. It is a form of joking, using words which sound the same but have different meanings.
   1. Write down the words in the first four lines which create the pun. (1)
   2. What does Sampson mean when he says ‘we’ll not carry coals’ in line 1? (1)
4. Benvolio’s name means ‘well-wishing’. How does our first encounter with him help to establish him as a ‘well-wishing’ character? (1)
5. What impression do you have of Tybalt and his attitude to this feud? Refer to the text to substantiate your answer. (1)
6. Prince Escalus scolds Capulet and Montague. What punishment will they suffer if their followers fight in the street again? (1)
7. Romeo is introduced as a typical romantic lover. Describe his behavior, with specific reference to the text and what he says to illustrate this point. (2)
8. What advice does Benvolio give to his lovesick cousin? (1)

Scene 2

1. Count Paris asks Lord Capulet if he may marry Juliet.
   1. Who is Count Paris? (1)
   2. How old is Juliet? (1)
   3. What condition does Lord Capulet make on Juliet’s behalf concerning the proposal? (1)
2. Why does Romeo decide to gatecrash the Capulets’ feast? (1)
3. How are Benvolio’s words ‘And she shall scant show well that now seems best’ prophetic? (1)

Scene 3

1. What do we learn of the Nurse’s character in this scene? (2)
2. Lady Capulet, the Nurse and Juliet reveal different attitudes to love and marriage. Write a detailed description of each’s view of love and marriage, making close reference to the text. (3)

Scene 4

1. Romeo is still depressed and lovesick. Quote one of his lines which shows his state of mind. (1)
2. What impression do you have of Mercutio. (2)
3. What hint is given in this scene that something tragic will happen? (1)

Scene 5

1. Romeo sees Juliet for the first time. How are his words ‘Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear!’ both ironic and ominous? (1)
2. How does Tybalt react when he recognizes Romeo and what is Lord Capulet’s reaction? (2)
3. Romeo approaches Juliet and their first words form a perfect sonnet.
   1. Why is the poetic structure so appropriate here? (1)
   2. The language and the images they use are associated with holiness. Quote three examples which illustrate this statement and explain what the ‘holy’ images reflect. (2)
4. ‘My only love, sprung from my only hate!/ Too early seen unknown, and known too late!’
   1. What does Juliet mean in these lines? (1)
   2. In what tone would she say them and why? (1)