

(O woe! thy canopy is dust and stones)
Which with sweet⁴ water nightly I will dew;

Or, wanting that, with tears distilled by moans.

The obsequies⁵ that I for thee will keep

Nightly shall be to strew thy grave and weep.

[Whistle BOY.]

The boy gives warning something doth approach.

What cursèd foot wanders this way tonight

To cross⁶ my obsequies and true love's rite?

What, with a torch? Muffle me, night, awhile.

[Retires.]

[Enter ROMEO, and BALTHASAR with a torch, a mattock, and a crow of iron.]

ROMEO. Give me that mattock and the wrenching iron.

Hold, take this letter. Early in the morning

See thou deliver it to my lord and father.

Give me the light. Upon thy life I charge thee,

Whate'er thou hearest or seest, stand all aloof

And do not interrupt me in my course.

Why I descend into this bed of death

Is partly to behold my lady's face,

But chiefly to take thence from her dead finger

A precious ring—a ring that I must use

In dear employment.⁷ Therefore hence, be gone.

But if thou, jealous,⁸ dost return to pry

In what I farther shall intend to do,

4. **sweet** perfumed.

5. **obsequies** memorial ceremonies.

6. **cross** interrupt.

Literary Analysis

Tragedy and Character's

Motive What different motives do Paris and Romeo have for visiting Juliet's tomb?

7. **dear employment** important business.

8. **jealous** curious.

✓ Reading Check

Why was Friar John unable to get the letter delivered?

◀ **Critical Viewing** Do you think this image of Romeo accurately conveys his feelings as he enters the Capulets' tomb? Why or why not? [Interpret]

35 By heaven, I will tear thee joint by joint
And strew this hungry churchyard with thy limbs.
The time and my intents are savage-wild,
More fierce and more inexorable⁹ far
Than empty¹⁰ tigers or the roaring sea.

40 **BALTHASAR.** I will be gone, sir, and not trouble ye.

ROMEO. So shalt thou show me friendship. Take thou that.
Live, and be prosperous; and farewell, good fellow.

BALTHASAR. [Aside] For all this same, I'll hide me hereabout.
His looks I fear, and his intents I doubt. [Retires.]

45 **ROMEO.** Thou detestable maw,¹¹ thou womb of death,
Gorged with the dearest morsel of the earth,
Thus I enforce thy rotten jaws to open,
And in despite¹² I'll cram thee with more food.
[ROMEO opens the tomb.]

PARIS. This is that banished haughty Montague
50 That murd'ered my love's cousin—with which grief
It is supposed the fair creature died—
And here is come to do some villainous shame
To the dead bodies. I will apprehend¹³ him.
Stop thy unhallowèd toil, vile Montague!

9. **inexorable** uncontrollable
10. **empty** hungry.

11. **maw** stomach.

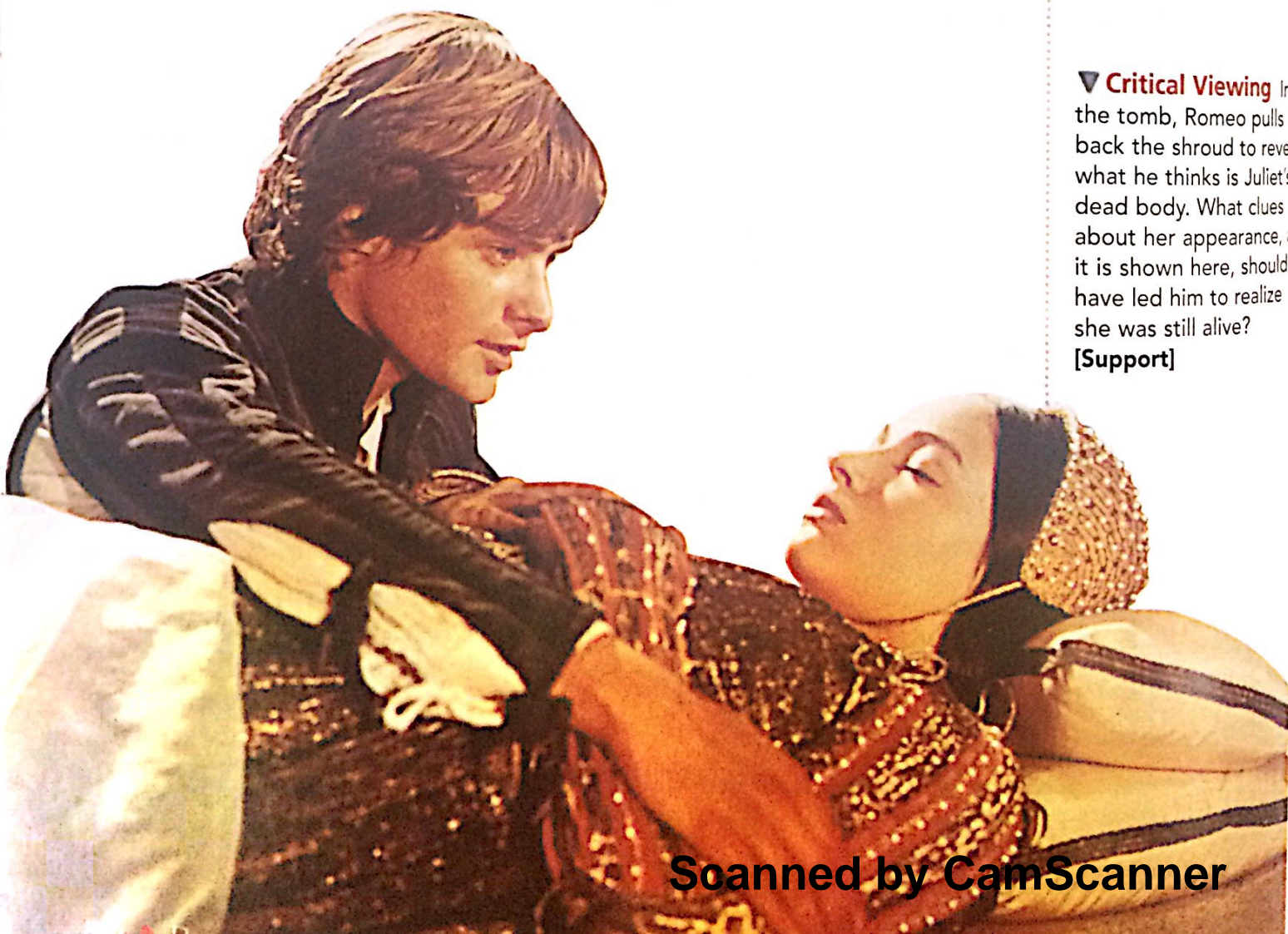
12. **despite** scorn.

Literary Analysis
Tragedy and Character's Motive Why is Romeo's intention to feed himself to the tomb especially tragic?

haughty (hôt' ē) adj.
arrogant

13. **apprehend** seize; arrest.

▼ **Critical Viewing** In the tomb, Romeo pulls back the shroud to reveal what he thinks is Juliet's dead body. What clues about her appearance, as it is shown here, should have led him to realize she was still alive?
[Support]



Can vengeance be pursued further than death?
Condemnèd villain, I do apprehend thee.
Obey, and go with me; for thou must die.

ROMEO. I must indeed; and therefore came I hither.
Good gentle youth, tempt not a desp'rate man.
Fly hence and leave me. Think upon these gone;
Let them affright thee. I beseech thee, youth,
Put not another sin upon my head
By urging me to fury. O, be gone!
By heaven, I love thee better than myself,
For I come hither armed against myself.
Stay not, be gone. Live, and hereafter say
A madman's mercy bid thee run away.

PARIS. I do defy thy conjurations.¹⁴
And apprehend thee for a felon¹⁵ here.

ROMEO. Wilt thou provoke me? Then have at thee, boy! [*They fight.*]

PAGE. O Lord, they fight! I will go call the watch. [*Exit. PARIS falls.*]

PARIS. O, I am slain! If thou be merciful,
Open the tomb, lay me with Juliet. [*Dies.*]

ROMEO. In faith, I will. Let me peruse¹⁶ this face.

Mercutio's kinsman, noble County Paris!
What said my man when my betossèd¹⁷ soul
Did not attend¹⁸ him as we rode? I think
He told me Paris should have married Juliet.
Said he not so, or did I dream it so?
Or am I mad, hearing him talk of Juliet,
To think it was so? O, give me thy hand,
One writ with me in sour misfortune's book!
I'll bury thee in a triumphant grave.
A grave? O, no, a lanthorn,¹⁹ slaught' red youth,
For here lies Juliet, and her beauty makes
This vault a feasting presence²⁰ full of light.
Death, lie thou there, by a dead man interred.

[*Lays him in the tomb.*]

How oft when men are at the point of death
Have they been merry! Which their keepers²¹ call
A lightning before death. O, how may I
Call this a lightning? O my love, my wife!
Death, that hath sucked the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty.
Thou art not conquered. Beauty's ensign²² yet
Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks,
And death's pale flag is not advanced there.
Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?
O, what more favor can I do to thee

Reading Strategy

Identifying Causes and Effects What do you think will be the effect of Paris' condemnation of Romeo? Why?

14. **conjurations** solemn appeals.

15. **felon** criminal.

16. **peruse** look over.

17. **betossèd** upset.

18. **attend** give attention to.

19. **lanthorn** windowed structure on top of a room to admit light; also, a lantern.

20. **feasting presence** chamber fit for a celebration.

21. **keepers** jailers.

22. **ensign** banner.

Reading Strategy

Identifying Causes and Effects What is the real cause for Romeo's observation that "death's pale flag is not yet advanced" in Juliet's face?

✓ Reading Check

What happens to Paris at the tomb?

100 Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain
 To sunder²³ his that was thine enemy?
 Forgive me, cousin! Ah, dear Juliet,
 Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
 That unsubstantial Death is amorous,²⁴
 And that the lean abhorrèd monster keeps
 105 Thee here in dark to be his paramour?
 For fear of that I still will stay with thee
 And never from this pallet²⁵ of dim night
 Depart again. Here, here will I remain
 With worms that are thy chambermaids. O, here
 110 Will I set up my everlasting rest
 And shake the yoke of inauspicious²⁶ stars
 From this world-wearied flesh. Eyes, look your last!
 Arms, take your last embrace! And, lips, O you
 The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
 115 A dateless²⁷ bargain to engrossing²⁸ death!
 Come, bitter conduct;²⁹ come, unsavory guide!
 Thou desperate pilot,³⁰ now at once run on
 The dashing rocks thy seasick weary bark!
 Here's to my love! [Drinks.] O true apothecary!
 120 Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.

[Falls.]

[Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE, with lanthorn, crow, and spade.]

FRIAR. Saint Francis be my speed!³¹ How oft tonight
 Have my old feet stumbled³² at graves! Who's there?

BALTHASAR. Here's one, a friend, and one that knows you well.

125 **FRIAR.** Bliss be upon you! Tell me, good my friend,
 What torch is yond that vainly lends his light
 To grubs³³ and eyeless skulls? As I discern,
 It burneth in the Capels' monument.

BALTHASAR. It doth so, holy sir; and there's my master,
 One that you love.

FRIAR. Who is it?

BALTHASAR. Romeo.

FRIAR. How long hath he been there?

130 **BALTHASAR.** Full half an hour.

FRIAR. Go with me to the vault.

BALTHASAR. I dare not, sir.
 My master knows not but I am gone hence,
 And fearfully did menace me with death
 If I did stay to look on his intents.

135 **FRIAR.** Stay then; I'll go alone. Fear comes upon me.
 O, much I fear some ill unthrifty³⁴ thing.

23. sunder cut off.

24. amorous full of love.

25. pallet bed.

26. inauspicious promising misfortune.

27. dateless eternal.

28. engrossing all-encompassing.

29. conduct guide (poison).

30. pilot captain (Romeo himself).

31. speed help.

32. stumbled stumbling was thought to be a bad omen.

Reading Strategy
Identifying Causes and Effects How is Friar Lawrence's late arrival another example of chance contributing to this tragedy?

33. grubs worms.

Literary Analysis
Tragedy Do you think Balthasar could have prevented this tragedy?

34. unthrifty unlucky.

BALTHASAR. As I did sleep under this yew tree here,
I dreamt my master and another fought,
And that my master slew him.

FRIAR.

Romeo!
Alack, alack, what blood is this which stains
The stony entrance of this sepulcher?
What mean these masterless³⁵ and gory swords
To lie discolored by this place of peace? [Enters the tomb.]
Romeo! O, pale! Who else? What, Paris too?
And steeped in blood? Ah, what an unkind³⁶ hour
Is guilty of this lamentable chance!
The lady stirs.

[JULIET rises.]

JULIET. O comfortable³⁷ friar! Where is my lord?
I do remember well where I should be,
And there I am. Where is my Romeo?

FRIAR. I hear some noise. Lady, come from that nest
Of death, contagion, and unnatural sleep.
A greater power than we can contradict
Hath thwarted our intents. Come, come away.
Thy husband in thy bosom there lies dead;
And Paris too. Come, I'll dispose of thee
Among a sisterhood of holy nuns.
Stay not to question, for the watch is coming.
Come, go, good Juliet. I dare no longer stay.

JULIET. Go, get thee hence, for I will not away. [Exit FRIAR.]
What's here? A cup, closed in my true love's hand?
Poison, I see, hath been his timeless³⁸ end.
O churl!³⁹ Drunk all, and left no friendly drop
To help me after? I will kiss thy lips.
Haply some poison yet doth hang on them
To make me die with a restorative.⁴⁰ [Kisses him.]
Thy lips are warm!

CHIEF WATCHMAN. [Within] Lead, boy. Which way?

JULIET. Yea, noise? Then I'll be brief. O happy⁴¹ dagger!
[Snatches ROMEO's dagger.]

JULIET. This is thy sheath; there rust, and let me die.
[She stabs herself and falls.]

[Enter PARIS' BOY and WATCH.]

BOY. This is the place. There, where the torch doth burn.

CHIEF WATCHMAN. The ground is bloody. Search about the churchyard.
Go, some of you; whoe'er you find attach.⁴² [Exit some of the WATCH.]

CHIEF WATCHMAN. Pitiful sight! Here lies the County slain;
And Juliet bleeding, warm, and newly dead,

sepulcher (sep' əl kər) *n.*
tomb

35. masterless discarded
(without masters).

36. unkind unnatural.

37. comfortable comforting.

Reading Strategy

Identifying Causes and Effects What do you think will be the effect once Juliet discovers that Romeo is dead?

Literary Analysis

Tragedy and Character's Motive Why do you think Friar Lawrence wants to "dispose of Juliet" in a sisterhood of nuns?

38. timeless untimely; too soon.

39. churl rude fellow.

40. restorative medicine.

41. happy convenient; opportune.

42. attach arrest.

✓ Reading Check

What does the Friar find when he enters the vault?

Who here hath lain this two days buried.
Go, tell the Prince; run to the Capulets;
Raise up the Montagues; some others search.

We see the ground whereon these woes do lie,
But the true ground⁴³ of all these piteous woes
We cannot without circumstance descry.⁴⁴

[Exit others of the WATCH.]

[Enter some of the WATCH, with ROMEO'S MAN, BALTHASAR.]

SECOND WATCHMAN. Here's Romeo's man. We found him in
the churchyard.

CHIEF WATCHMAN. Hold him in safety till the Prince come hither.

[Enter FRIAR LAWRENCE and another WATCHMAN.]

THIRD WATCHMAN. Here is a friar that trembles, sighs and weeps.
We took this mattock and this spade from him
As he was coming from this churchyard's side.

CHIEF WATCHMAN. A great suspicion! Stay the friar too.

[Enter the PRINCE and ATTENDANTS.]

PRINCE. What misadventure is so early up,
That calls our person from our morning rest?

[Enter CAPULET and his WIFE with others.]

190 CAPULET. What should it be, that is so shrieked abroad?

LADY CAPULET. O, the people in the street cry "Romeo,"
Some "Juliet," and some "Paris"; and all run
With open outcry toward our monument.

PRINCE. What fear is this which startles in your ears?

195 CHIEF WATCHMAN. Sovereign, here lies the County Paris slain;
And Romeo dead; and Juliet, dead before,
Warm and new killed.

PRINCE. Search, seek, and know how this foul murder comes.

200 CHIEF WATCHMAN. Here is a friar, and slaughtered Romeo's man,
With instruments upon them fit to open
These dead men's tombs.

CAPULET. O heavens! O wife, look how our daughter bleeds!
This dagger hath mista'en, for, lo, his house⁴⁵
Is empty on the back of Montague,
And it missheath'd in my daughter's bosom!

205 LADY CAPULET. O me, this sight of death is as a bell
That warns my old age to a sepulcher.

[Enter MONTAGUE and others.]

◀ Critical Viewing

Does Juliet appear more sorrowful or fearful in this picture? [Analyze]

43. ground cause.

44. without circumstance descry see clearly without details.

Literary Analysis

Tragedy How might the tragic ending have been averted if the characters had come to the churchyard in a different order?

Reading Strategy

Identifying Causes and Effects What effect on the local people has the tragedy caused?

Literary Analysis

Tragedy and Character's Motive What motives might the Prince have for directing others to investigate the murder?

45. house sheath.

✓ Reading Check

Why do the Watchmen search the churchyard?

PRINCE. Come, Montague; for thou art early up
To see thy son and heir more early down.

210 **MONTAGUE.** Alas, my liege,⁴⁶ my wife is dead tonight!
Grief of my son's exile hath stopped her breath.
What further woe conspires against mine age?

PRINCE. Look, and thou shalt see.

MONTAGUE. O thou untaught! What manners is in this,
215 To press before thy father to a grave?

PRINCE. Seal up the mouth of outrage⁴⁷ for a while,
Till we can clear these ambiguities
And know their spring, their head, their true descent;
And then will I be general of your woes⁴⁸
220 And lead you even to death. Meantime forbear,
And let mischance be slave to patience.⁴⁹
Bring forth the parties of suspicion.

FRIAR. I am the greatest, able to do least,
Yet most suspected, as the time and place
225 Doth make against me, of this direful⁵⁰ murder;
And here I stand, both to impeach and purge⁵¹
Myself condemnèd and myself excused.

PRINCE. Then say at once what thou dost know in this.

FRIAR. I will be brief, for my short date of breath⁵²
230 Is not so long as is a tedious tale.
Romeo, there dead, was husband to that Juliet;
And she, there dead, that's Romeo's faithful wife.
I married them; and their stol'n marriage day
Was Tybalt's doomsday, whose untimely death
235 Banished the new-made bridegroom from this city;
For whom, and not for Tybalt, Juliet pined.
You, to remove that siege of grief from her,
Betrothed and would have married her perforce
To County Paris. Then comes she to me
240 And with wild looks bid me devise some mean
To rid her from this second marriage,
Or in my cell there would she kill herself.
Then gave I her (so tutored by my art)
A sleeping potion; which so took effect
245 As I intended, for it wrought on her
The form of death. Meantime I writ to Romeo
That he should hither come as⁵³ this dire night
To help to take her from her borrowed grave,
Being the time the potion's force should cease,
250 But he which bore my letter, Friar John,
Was stayed by accident, and yesternight
Returned my letter back. Then all alone

46. liege (lēj) Lord.

Reading Strategy
Identifying Causes and Effects How did Romeo's exile affect his mother?

47. mouth of outrage violent cries.

ambiguities (am' bə gyōō ə tēz) *n.* statements or events whose meanings are unclear

48. general . . . woes leader in your sorrow.

49. let . . . patience be patient in the face of misfortune.

50. direful terrible.

51. impeach and purge accuse and declare blameless.

52. date of breath term of life.

Literary Analysis

Tragedy What examples of fate or character flaws contribute to the tragedy the Friar recounts?

53. as on.

At the prefixed hour of her waking
 Came I to take her from her kindred's vault;
 Meaning to keep her closely⁵⁴ at my cell
 Till I conveniently could send to Romeo.
 But when I came, some minute ere the time
 Of her awakening, here untimely lay
 The noble Paris and true Romeo dead.
 She wakes; and I entreated her come forth
 And bear this work of heaven with patience;
 But then a noise did scare me from the tomb,
 And she, too desperate, would not go with me.
 But, as it seems, did violence on herself.
 All this I know, and to the marriage
 Her nurse is privy;⁵⁵ and if aught in this
 Miscarried by my fault, let my old life
 Be sacrificed some hour before his time
 Unto the rigor⁵⁶ of severest law.

PRINCE. We still have known thee for a holy man.
 Where's Romeo's man? What can he say to this?

BALTHASAR. I brought my master news of Juliet's death;
 And then in post he came from Mantua
 To this same place, to this same monument.
 This letter he early bid me give his father,
 And threat'ned me with death, going in the vault,
 If I departed not and left him there.

PRINCE. Give me the letter. I will look on it.
 Where is the County's page that raised the watch?
 Sirrah, what made your master⁵⁷ in this place?

BOY. He came with flowers to strew his lady's grave;
 And bid me stand aloof, and so I did.
 Anon comes one with light to ope the tomb;
 And by and by my master drew on him;
 And then I ran away to call the watch.

PRINCE. This letter doth make good the friar's words,
 Their course of love, the tidings of her death;
 And here he writes that he did buy a poison
 Of a poor pothecary and therewithal
 Came to this vault to die and lie with Juliet.
 Where be these enemies? Capulet, Montague,
 See what a scourge is laid upon your hate,
 That heaven finds means to kill your joys with love.
 And I, for winking at⁵⁸ your discords too,
 Have lost a brace⁵⁹ of kinsmen. All are punished.

CAPULET. O brother Montague, give me thy hand.
 This is my daughter's jointure,⁶⁰ for no more

54. closely hidden; secretly.

55. privy secretly informed about.

56. rigor strictness.

Reading Strategy
Identifying Causes and Effects What could the Friar have done differently that might have prevented the tragedy from happening?

57. made your master was your master doing.

Literary Analysis
Tragedy Explain the tragedy of Paris' circumstances.

58. winking at closing my eyes to.

59. brace pair (Mercutio and Paris).

60. jointure wedding gift; marriage settlement.

scourge (skurj) n. whip or other instrument for inflicting punishment

Reading Check

How do the details of the letter compare with the Friar's story?

Can I demand.

MONTAGUE. But I can give thee more:
For I will raise her statue in pure gold.
300 That whiles Verona by that name is known,
There shall no figure at such rate⁶¹ be set
As that of true and faithful Juliet.

CAPULET. As rich shall Romeo's by his lady's lie—
Poor sacrifices of our enmity!⁶²

305 **PRINCE.** A glooming⁶³ peace this morning with it brings.
The sun for sorrow will not show his head.
Go hence, to have more talk of these sad things;
Some shall be pardoned, and some punished;
For never was a story of more woe
310 Than this of Juliet and her Romeo.

[Exit all.]

61. rate value.

62. enmity hostility.

63. glooming cloudy;
gloomy.

Review and Assess

Thinking About Act V

1. **Respond:** Were you in any way surprised by the way in which this play ends? Why or why not?
2. (a) **Recall:** In Act V, Scene i, what news causes Romeo to exclaim, "Then I defy you, stars"? (b) **Connect:** How are Romeo's words consistent with what you know of his character?
3. (a) **Recall:** Identify at least three events that cause the Friar's scheme to fail. (b) **Analyze:** Why is it not surprising that the scheme fails?
4. (a) **Recall:** How do Romeo and Juliet die? (b) **Make a Judgment:** Which is most to blame for the lovers' deaths—chance, the lovers themselves, or their families? Explain.
5. (a) **Speculate:** How do you think events would have turned out if the apothecary had refused to sell poison to Romeo? (b) **Hypothesize:** What other unique actions in the chain of events, if avoided, could have changed the play's outcome?
6. (a) **Recall:** How does the relationship of the feuding families change at the end of the play? (b) **Draw Conclusions:** Were Romeo and Juliet's deaths necessary for the feud to end? Explain. (c) **Assess:** Do you think tragedies always lead to peace?
7. **Evaluate:** In what ways does Shakespeare's play provide a valuable lesson about the destructive effects of hatred?