

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Tragic Turning Point: Act 3 of 'Romeo and Juliet'

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. In Act 3, conflict escalates as Tybalt challenges Mercutio and Romeo, resulting in Mercutio's death. Romeo's impulsive actions in seeking revenge on Tybalt further fuel the feud between the Montagues and Capulets, leading to his banishment. The growing conflict ultimately sets the stage for the tragedy that unfolds in the later acts of the play.
2. Juliet's character undergoes significant development in Act 3. She evolves from an obedient daughter to a determined and resourceful young woman. Her willingness to defy her family's wishes and take the potion shows her commitment to love and her determination to control her own destiny, even at great personal risk.
3. Friar Laurence serves as a mediator in Act 3, attempting to mitigate the escalating conflict between the families. However, his plan to unite Romeo and Juliet through secrecy and deception has unintended consequences. His actions and advice contribute to the tragic events that follow, raising questions about the role of authority figures in the play.
4. Juliet's potion symbolizes her commitment to Romeo and her willingness to go to great lengths to be with him. It represents her control over her own fate and her defiance of societal norms and family expectations. Juliet's decision to take the potion is a pivotal moment in the play, as it sets in motion the events leading to the tragic conclusion.

