

Name _____

Tragic Conclusion: Act 5 of 'Romeo and Juliet'

Short Answer Key

1. Juliet seeks Friar Laurence's help to avoid marrying Paris. Friar Laurence devises a plan for Juliet to take a potion that will make her appear dead for 42 hours, allowing her to escape her family's plans and reunite with Romeo.
2. Friar Laurence's letter explaining the plan for Juliet never reaches Romeo because Friar John is quarantined in Mantua. This miscommunication leads Romeo to believe Juliet is truly dead, setting off the tragic chain of events.
3. In Act 5, Romeo and Paris fight at Juliet's tomb. Romeo kills Paris, who had come to mourn Juliet.
4. Juliet awakens to find Romeo dead by her side, and she stabs herself with his dagger. Their deaths result from a series of misunderstandings and impulsive actions.
5. The reconciliation between the Capulets and Montagues serves as a bittersweet ending to the play because it comes too late to save Romeo and Juliet but marks the end of the feud between the families.

