

Typical of some adolescents, Romeo's world is microcosmic. He is unable to see the larger picture and that banishment is not death. His feeling about the word "banishment" is that it is the most horrendous punishment imaginable, and death would actually be preferable. (Juliet's reaction in the previous scene is very similar.) In a fit of despair, he draws his dagger, but is prevented from stabbing himself. The Nurse and the Friar convince Romeo that his banishment to Mantua will be short-lived, as he will soon be joined by Juliet. He calms down as plans are made for him to visit Juliet that night.

Read R & J 3.3  
please

## Act 3 Scene 4

22

### SETTING THE STAGE

Lord Capulet gives his consent for Paris to marry Juliet. His motivation may be simply that he wants to see his daughter safely wedded. Perhaps he is afraid that Tybalt's action in killing Paris's kinsman will make Paris retract his offer of marriage. Or, Capulet may have simply decided that it is time to take real control of his daughter's life. At any rate, he arbitrarily decides the wedding is to take place almost immediately—quickly and quietly, since Juliet is still grieving for her cousin Tybalt.

Shakespeare, in this scene and elsewhere in the play, uses time, or the lack of it, to further his plot. In this case, he wants to prevent an equitable solution to the problem. He does this by not giving the characters enough time to think problems through rationally. Weddings would not normally have been arranged this quickly or this close to the death of a kinsman; however, the proposed marriage does ensure that one rash decision will continue to follow another.

Read R and J  
3.4

3.3

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Using direct quotations, indicate the depth of Romeo's horror of banishment. Why do you think Romeo reacts this way?
2. What reasons does the Friar give for Romeo to count his blessings?
3. What plan does the Friar share with Romeo and Nurse?
4. What does Nurse give to Romeo from Juliet? Why do you think Juliet sent it?

3.4

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When is the wedding to take place?
2. We can understand why Capulet might be agreeable to this hasty marriage, but why do you think Paris is anxious to have the wedding take place so quickly?
3. Explain the significance of this scene in relation to the events that have taken place so far.

## Romeo and Juliet, Act Three (page 578)

## Test

Romeo is . . .

B. Think about the events in the act that lead to Juliet's going to Friar Laurence for help. The chart below shows a number of cause-and-effect events. Complete the chart by writing the letters of the events in the appropriate blank boxes. (2 points each)

- a. Juliet defies her father.
- b. Juliet grieves for both Romeo and Tybalt.
- c. Mercutio feels ashamed.
- d. Mercutio accuses Romeo of causing his death.
- e. Tybalt fatally wounds Mercutio.
- f. Romeo is banished.
- g. Romeo tries to stop the fight.

	Romeo tries to appease Tybalt.
5.	
	Mercutio fights Tybalt.
6.	
7.	
8.	
	Romeo kills Tybalt.
9.	
10.	
	Lord Capulet arranges Juliet's marriage to Paris.
11.	
	Juliet goes to Friar Laurence for help.