Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Romeo & Juliet*

Act 2, Scene 3

**Summary**

Later that morning, just before nine, Mercutio and Benvolio wonder what happened to Romeo the previous night. Benvolio has learned from a Montague servant that Romeo never came home. Mercutio says some mean things about Rosaline. Benvolio also says that Tybalt (Juliet’s cousin) has sent a letter to Romeo, challenging him to a duel. Mercutio says that Romeo is already dead, struck by Cupid’s arrow; he wonders aloud if Romeo is man enough to defeat Tybalt. When Benvolio defends Romeo, Mercutio shares a lot of details about Tybalt. He says Tybalt is a master swordsman, perfectly proper and composed in style. According to Mercutio, Tybalt is full of himself and loves fashion. Mercutio hates all that Tybalt stands for.

Romeo arrives. Mercutio immediately begins to make fun of him, claiming that Romeo has been made weak by love. As a way of mocking what he believes is Romeo’s love for Rosaline, Mercutio takes the part of Romeo and compares Rosaline to all the most famous beauties. Then Mercutio accuses Romeo of abandoning his friends the last night. Romeo does not deny this, but says that he needed to get away and that they should forgive him for leaving.

The Nurse enters, followed by the servant, Peter. The Nurse asks if any of the three young men know Romeo, and Romeo identifies himself. Mercutio teases the Nurse, suggesting that she is a harlot, which makes her mad. Benvolio and Mercutio leave to have dinner at Montague’s house, and Romeo says he will be there soon. The Nurse warns Romeo that he had better not try to “deal double” with Juliet, and Romeo promises her that he is not. He asks the Nurse to tell Juliet to find a way to attend confession at Friar Lawrence’s cell that afternoon; there they will be married. The Nurse agrees to deliver the message. The Nurse also agrees to set up a cloth ladder so that Romeo can climb into Juliet’s room on their wedding night.

**Act 2, Scene 3 Questions**

1. Did Romeo ever come home from the night after the Capulet party?
2. Who has sent a letter to Romeo?
3. What does the letter say?
4. What does Mercutio say Tybalt is like?
5. Mercutio accuses Romeo of doing what?
6. What does Romeo ask the Nurse to tell Juliet?
7. What does the Nurse agree to do to help Romeo at the end of the scene?