

**ROMEO AND JULIET
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 1
YEAR 5 AND 6
ANSWER SHEET**

Part 1: Page 1

1. The city of Verona is in which country

India

Scotland

Italy

France

2. What are the names of the two 'great families'?

The Montagues

The Capulets

3. 'Each family was **rich**, each family was **powerful** and each family had lived in that city for centuries.'

A. Underline the two adjectives in the sentence above

Fill in the gaps using synonyms for 'rich' and 'powerful'
(Remember, a synonym is a word that has a similar meaning to another word)

'Each family was **wealthy**, each family was **great** and each family had lived in that city for centuries.'

4. 'And everyone also knew it was getting worse...'
Put these in the order of which they happened

Swords were drawn

Shouting insults had turned into spitting in faces

Lives were lost

Spitting had led to slaps and punches

5. Explain why you think the Capulets and Montagues hands were ‘on sword hilts’? [‘hilts’ mean handles]

Because they were getting ready to fight and defend themselves.

6. Read the paragraph beginning, ‘Tense seconds passed....’

- A. Tick **two synonyms** for the word ‘tense’?

Relaxed Anxious Nervous Easy

- B. Why do you think ‘each side waited for the other to make the first move’?

Because neither side wanted to be blamed for the fighting.

- C. Why do you think the Capulets ‘whispered’ to each other?

Because they didn’t want the Montagues to hear what they were planning.

7. **‘Taking a slow breath, and checking that his hand was not still shaking’**
What does this description tell us about how Sampson is feeling? Use words from the text to justify your answer

Sampson is a bit scared and nervous. We know this because it says that he was checking that his ‘hand was still not shaking’.

8. What is the insult that Sampson makes that starts the fight between the Montagues and Capulets? Tick the correct box

Bites his thumb

9. **‘Traders frantically packed up their stalls, everyone else tried to stay out of the way, frightened, but angry too’**

Why were the traders and others ‘angry too’?

Because their business had been interrupted again and they weren't able to stay and sell their things. The fighting between the Montagues and Capulets was affecting their lives.

10. Who says *“Part fools! Put up your swords! You know not what you do!”* and tries to stop the fighting?

- Abraham Montague
- Sampson Capulet
- Benvolio Montague
- Tybalt Capulet

11. ‘After a moment their swords dropped to their sides, and they looked awkwardly at their feet. All might still have been well in this moment’.

- A. Underline the phrase that shows they weren't sure whether to stop fighting
- B. Do you think the Capulets and Montagues wanted to be fighting? Justify your answer with evidence from the text.

No. I don't think they particularly did. It says ‘they looked awkwardly at their feet’ which shows they were embarrassed about what they were doing. Also, earlier when Sampson first bites his thumb he is shaking and clearly nervous about what he is doing.

Part 2: Pages 2-3

12. *‘In and out and amongst the mix of brawling teens and sober citizens someone must have sprinted like the wind’*

Why has the author used the simile ‘sprinted like the wind’?

To show the reader how fast the person ran – to show the sense of urgency.

13. *“Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace, throw your mistemper'd weapons to the ground.” he roared.*

A. Who roared?

Prince Escalus

B. Why do you think the author used the word 'roared' rather than 'whispered' or 'said' ?

To show how cross Prince Escalus was/To show Prince Escalus wanted to get his point across.

14. Who came into the square 'wandering dreamily'?

Romeo

15. Benvolio understood that the best way to cheer up Romeo was to

Laugh at him Sing to him Distract him Fight with him

16. Why did Benvolio and Romeo believe that they would be able to sneak into the Capulet party without other guests knowing they were Montagues? Use evidence from the text to justify your answer

Beause 'every guest would be wearing a mask'. So if they were wearing masks too they wouldn't be recognised.

17. Read the paragraph beginning '*That evening...*'

Using evidence from the text write three things that were happening at the Capulet party

i Live music (musicians playing)

ii. Dancing

iii Eating and drinking

18. '*As she span beneath the lights, faster and faster, Romeo, together with his friends, Benvolio and Mercutio, made his stealthy entrance*'.

Why do these two sentences contrast each other?

Use specific words from the text to justify your answer

They contrast each other because of the idea of speed and people being aware of them. Juliet is having spinning 'faster and faster' whilst Romeo makes a 'stealthy' entrance which means he is being slow and careful not to be noticed.

19.A. Who recognised Romeo?

Tybalt

B. How did he recognise him?

Because of his voice

20. 'Capulet seized his nephew, shoving him roughly against a wall and forbidding him to lay a finger upon his enemy'.

Underline three words that show Lord Capulet was cross with Tybalt

21. Why was the Nurse not smiling when Juliet asked 'who is that Gentleman?' Use evidence from the text to justify your answer

Because the Nurse knew that Romeo was not a good person for Juliet to fall in love with. She says "His name is Romeo, and a Montague, the only son of your great enemy."