

Play: *Romeo and Juliet* • Issue: September 7, 2009

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Interpreting Shakespeare

In *Romeo and Juliet*, the play that starts on page 6, certain lines come directly from the pen of William Shakespeare. (Others have been adapted to present-day English.) Can you interpret Shakespeare's English?

Directions: Choose two of the quotes listed in the Quotation Bank below. Locate them in the play, and summarize the context of each quotation. Then explain the quotation in your own words.

Example:

Quote: "Wherefore art thou Romeo? Deny thy father and refuse thy name!"

Context: Juliet has met Romeo earlier that evening. She is standing on her balcony thinking about her feelings for him.

Interpretation: Juliet asks why Romeo has to be a Montague. She wants him to separate from his family, which feuds with her family.

Quotation Bank

Scene 4

Juliet: My only love sprung from my only hate.

Scene 4

Romeo: What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.

Scene 8

Mercutio: Oh, a plague, a plague on both your houses.

Scene 11

Juliet: Oh, happy dagger! This is thy sheath!

Quote: _____

Context: _____

Meaning: _____

Quote: _____

Context: _____

Meaning: _____