Act 2 Scene 4 Discussion Point and Questions

*Scene: A street – Several hours after his meeting with Friar Laurence, Romeo meets Benvolio and Mercutio in the street. He is excited and happy; his mood is key to the comic nature of this scene, which includes much talk of swordplay and many suggestive jokes. Mercutio makes fun of Tybalt and teases Romeo. The nurse comes to carry a message from Romeo to Juliet. Romeo tells her that Juliet should meet him at Friar Laurence’s cell for their secret marriage ceremony.*

1. Why would Tybalt send a letter challenging Romeo to a duel?
   1. Romeo showed up to the Capulet party uninvited, which is a sign of disrespect.
2. According to Mercutio, why is Tybalt dangerous?
   1. He is a master duelist and knows the calculated moves needed to destroy an opponent.
3. Does Mercutio seem scared of Tybalt?
   1. Nah...he enjoys mocking him and personally resents Tybalt's fancy dueling style.
4. Evaluate the tone at the beginning of Scene 4?
   1. Playful, witty banter between Romeo and Mercutio (shows they're friends)
5. Mercutio is relieved that Romeo seems to be himself again. What is Mercutio's opinion about people who brood over love? Why do you think he feels that way?
   1. He found Romeo's moodiness over love ridiculous and irritating. He feels this way because he's never been in love and has not experienced that passions that Romeo feels.
6. How do Benvolio and Mercutio treat the Nurse? Why?
   1. Disrespectfully. They are playful and jokesters, but it also reveals that they are class conscious. They ridicule the low standing of the Nurse. They are also showing off to each other a little.
7. Why does Romeo treat her with respect?
   1. He loves Juliet and she's associated with Juliet; he also know why she's there. Plus, when Mercutio isn't there, he seems to have a much more pleasant personality.
8. How does Nurse's love for Juliet show in this scene?
   1. She is protective and honest about her feelings. Nurse reminds Romeo that Juliet is young. Nurse is of lower social class, so she can't legitimately threaten him, but she's honest in telling him that leading Juliet into a "fool's paradise" would be a "very gross kind of behavior."

Act 2 Scene 5 Discussion Points and Questions

*Scene: Capulet’s orchard – Juliet is a nervous wreck, having waited for more than three hours for the nurse to return. When the nurse does arrive, she simply won’t come to the point. Juliet gets more and more upset, until the nurse finally reveals the wedding arrangements.*

1. Juliet alludes to the goddess of love. Why?
   1. She's in love and this emphasizes her obsession with Romeo and her idealized view of love.
2. How do people often feel about asking someone to do them a big favor? How doe you think Juliet feels toward her nurse?
   1. Juliet is grateful for her nurse, but she also becomes frustrated with the nurse for withholding Romeo's news.
3. Why do you think Nurse teased Juliet by not telling her the news right away?
   1. She enjoys that power that withholding the news gives her. By not revealing the information, she forces Juliet to beg her for it. She's not really angry. Nurse is thrilled to bring Juliet the message, but at the moment, she's having fun by making Juliet wait.
4. How do Nurse (Juliet's mentor) and Friar Lawrence (Romeo's mentor) feel about the marriage?
   1. Both are supportive, yet protective for their "child."

Act 2 Scene 6 Discussion Points and Questions

*Scene: Friar Laurence’s cell – Friar Laurence cautions Romeo to be more sensible in his love for Juliet. When she arrives, the two confess their love to each other and prepare to be married by Friar Laurence.*

1. Have you ever worried about the wisdom of a decision? Why do you think Friar Lawrence sounds worried?
   1. He is concerned that his agreement to marry the couple may not work out positively.
2. Do you think Romeo understands that his marriage can lead to tragedy?
   1. He doesn't have enough life experience to give serious consideration to tragedy; in fact, he dares death to attack his marriage.
3. Do you think Romeo will take Friar Lawrence's advice? Why or why not?
   1. No because Shakespearean tragedies end in death for the main characters, so if moderation is the key to a long love, Romeo will not be moderate.
4. Do you think Romeo and Juliet has a solid foundation for their marriage? Does it matter?