***Act 4 Scene 1 Discussion Point and Questions***

*Scene: Friar Laurence’s cell. When Juliet arrives at Friar Laurence’s cell, she is upset to find Paris there making arrangements for their wedding. When Paris leaves, the panicked Juliet tells the friar that if he has no solution to her problem, she will kill herself. The friar explains his plan. Juliet will drink a potion he has made from his herbs, which will put her in a deathlike coma. When she wakes up two days later in the family tomb, Romeo will be waiting for her, and they will escape to Mantua together.*

**Background: Sleeping potions were common. The one Friar made probably involved a medicinal plant called mandrake. When mixed with opium or hemlock, it served as a popular and powerful anesthetic. Since the Friar is an herbalist, he had access to these ingredients.**

1. Why does Friar wish he can slow down the wedding preparations?
2. According to Paris, why does Capulet want Juliet to marry so quickly?
3. How does Paris's expression of love compare to Romeo's when he first met Juliet?
4. Why doesn't Friar Lawrence suggest that Juliet take the sleeping potion that night?
5. Think of a time you had to do something that you did not want to do. How does that memory help you understand how Juliet feels about marrying Paris?
6. How can you tell Juliet does NOT want to marry Paris?
7. What reason does Juliet give for offering an apology to her father?
8. What is the real reason for Juliet's apology?
9. According to Friar's plan, what will happen when Paris comes to wake Juliet?

***Act 4 Scene 2 Discussion Points and Questions***

*Scene: Capulet’s house. Capulet is making plans for the wedding on Thursday. Juliet arrives and apologizes to him, saying that she will marry Paris. Capulet is so relieved that he reschedules the wedding for the next day, Wednesday.*

1. What does moving the wedding up one day do to Friar Lawrence's plan?

***Act 4 Scene 3 Discussion Points and Questions***

*Scene: Juliet’s bedroom. Juliet sends her mother and the nurse away and prepares to take the drug the friar has given her. She is confused and frightened but finally puts the vial to her lips and drinks.*

1. In her anxious state, what does Juliet suspect about Friar Lawrence's motives for giving her the potion? Do you think she really believes this is true?
2. What is Juliet afraid of as she prepares to take the potion?

***Act 4 Scene 4 Discussion Points and Questions***

*Scene: Capulet’s house. It is now the next morning, nearly time for the wedding. The household is happy and excited as everyone makes final preparations.*

**Background: The Capulets have reason to hurry as they prepare overnight for the wedding. Elizabethan wedding feasts typically had three or more large courses. The food preparation alone could take days. During such a feast, a wealthy family employed many servants with specific tasks.**

1. No questions.

***Act 4 Scene 5 Discussion Points and Questions***

*Scene: Juliet’s bedroom. The joyous preparations suddenly change into plans for a funeral when the nurse discovers Juliet on her bed, apparently dead. Lord and Lady Capulet, Paris, and the nurse are overcome with grief. Friar Laurence tries to comfort them and instructs them to bring Juliet’s body to the Capulet family tomb. The scene abruptly switches to humor, in a foolish conversation between the servant Peter and the musicians hired to play at the wedding.*

1. Once they realize Juliet is dead (or so they think), how do the nurse and Lady Capulet express their love for Juliet?
2. What seems to be Capulet's concern? Who gets angry with him?
3. What is Friar Lawrence's "comforting" words about Juliet's death to the Capulets? Do you agree with his view on death?
4. Consider the Capulets' horrible discovery. How is Friar Lawrence's plan going (or not going) as anticipated?