

Reading Selection 1

Read the following selection from Act I, scene i of *Romeo and Juliet* and choose the best answer to each question.

- Benvolio.* Good morrow, cousin.
Romeo. Is the day so young?
Ben. But new strook nine.
Rom. Ay me, sad' hours seem long.
- 5 *Was that my father that went hence so fast?*
Ben. It was. What sadness lengthens Romeo's hours?
Rom. Not having that which, having, makes them short.
Ben. In-love?
Rom. Out—
- 10 *Ben.* Of love?
Rom. Out of her favor where I am in love.
Ben. Alas that love, so gentle in his view,
Should be so tyrannous and rough in proof!
Rom. Alas that love, whose view is muffled still,
- 15 *Should, without eyes, see pathways to his will!*
Where shall we dine? O me! what fray was here?
Yet tell me not, for I have heard it all:
Here's much to do with hate, but more with love.
Why then, O brawling love! O loving hate!
- 20 *O any thing, of nothing first create!*
O heavy lightness, serious vanity,
Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms,
Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health,
Still-waking sleep, that is not what it is!
- 25 *This love feel I, that feel no love in this.*
Dost thou not laugh?
Ben. No, coz, I rather weep.
Rom. Good heart, at what?
Ben. At thy good heart's oppression.
- 30 *Rom.* Why, such is love's transgression,
Griefs of mine own lie heavy in my breast,
Which thou wilt propagatè to have it press'd
With more of thine. This love that thou hast shown
Doth add more grief to too much of mine own.
- 35 *Love is a smoke made with the fumes of sighs,*
Being purg'd, a fire sparkling in lovers' eyes,
Being vex'd, a sea nourish'd with loving tears.
What is it else? a madness most discreet,
A choking gall, and a preserving sweet.
- 40 *Farewell, my coz.*
Ben. Soft, I will go along;
And if you leave me so, you do me wrong.
Rom. Tut, I have lost myself. I am not here:
This is not Romeo, he's some other where.
- 45 *Ben.* Tell me in sadness, who is that you love?
Rom. What, shall I groan and tell thee?
Ben. Groan? why no;
But sadly tell me, who?

Rom. Bid a sick man in sadness make his will—
 50 A word ill urg'd to one that is so ill!
 In sadness, cousin, I do love a woman.
Ben. I aim'd so near when I suppos'd you lov'd.
Rom. A right good mark-man! And she's fair I love.
Ben. A right fair mark, fair coz, is soonest hit.
 55 *Rom.* Well, in that hit you miss: she'll not be hit
 With Cupid's arrow, she hath Dian's wit;
 And in strong proof of chastity well arm'd,
 From Love's weak childish bow she lives uncharm'd.
 She will not stay the siege of loving terms,
 60 Nor bide th' encounter of assailing eyes,
 Nor ope her lap to saint-seducing gold.
 O, she is rich in beauty, only poor
 That, when she dies, with beauty dies her store.
Ben. Then she hath sworn that she will still live chaste?
 65 *Rom.* She hath, and in that sparing makes huge waste;
 For beauty starv'd with her severity
 Cuts beauty off from all posterity.
 She is too fair, too wise, wisely too fair,
 To merit bliss by making me despair.
 70 She hath forsworn to love, and in that vow
~~Do I live dead that live to tell it now.~~
Ben. Be rul'd by me, forget to think of her.
Rom. O, teach me how I should forget to think.
Ben. By giving liberty unto thine eyes:
 75 Examine other beauties.
Rom. 'Tis the way
 To call hers (exquisite) in question more.
 These happy masks that kiss fair ladies' brows,
 Being black, puts us in mind they hide the fair.
 80 He that is strooken blind cannot forget
 The precious treasure of his eyesight lost.
 Show me a mistress that is passing fair,
 What doth her beauty serve but as a note
 Where I may read who pass'd that passing fair?
 85 Farewell, thou canst not teach me to forget.
Ben. I'll pay that doctrine, or else die in debt.

1 In lines 14–26, Romeo's perspective on love is revealed primarily through —

- A a catalog of his own flaws
- B a recollection of previous failure
- C a list of wrongs done to him
- D a series of contradictory images

2 As used in line 59, the word "stay" means —

- A tolerate
 - B postpone
 - C wait for
 - D stop
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3 In lines 65–86, Benvolio advises Romeo to —

- A discuss his situation with the girl's parents
 - B start looking at other girls
 - C write a letter expressing his feelings
 - D give the girl time to think about Romeo's love for her
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4 Based on the conversation in lines 65–86, a reader could predict that —

- A Romeo will follow Benvolio's advice
 - B Benvolio will pay a visit to the girl on Romeo's behalf
 - C Romeo will soon forget about the girl who has rejected him
 - D Benvolio will take action to make Romeo forget the girl
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5 Romeo's main point in lines 76–85 is that —

- A ladies tend to hide their beauty behind masks
- B other beauties only remind Romeo of his love's superiority
- C a person who is struck blind does not forget what things look like
- D Benvolio does not have the skill to comfort Romeo

- 6 Romeo's paradoxical descriptions of love in lines 35–39 primarily show his —
- A loss of connection to reality
 - B growing distaste for love
 - C conflicting feelings about love
 - D desire to amuse Benvolio
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- 7 Which quotation most strongly suggests that Romeo believes his lady is more beautiful than any other woman?

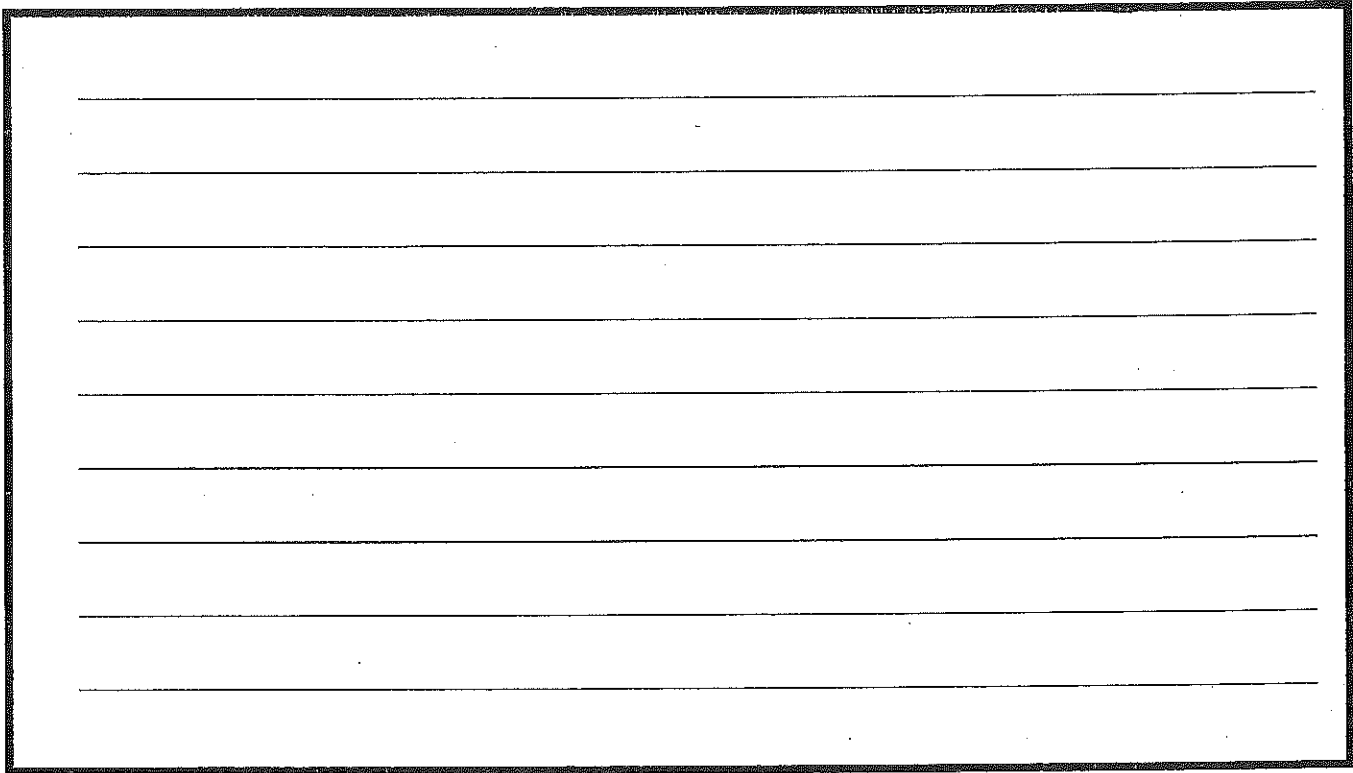
- A *A right good mark-man! And she's fair I love.*
 - B *From Love's weak childish bow she lives uncharm'd*
 - C *O, teach me how I should forget to think.*
 - D *where I may read who pass a vital passing fair*
-

- 8 What does this excerpt suggest about how Benvolio feels toward Romeo? Support your answer with evidence from the selection.

- 9 What does Romeo mean when he says, "I have lost myself. I am not here" (line 43)? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.

SAQ Practice: Reading Selection 1

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What does Romeo mean when he says, "I have lost myself. I am not here" (line 43)? Explain your answer and support it with evidence from the selection.

