Romeo and Juliet Study Guide

I. Drama terms:

* Couplet: two lines of the same metrical length that end in a rhyme to form a complete unit. [last two lines of the play]
* Pun: a play on words. [“...ask for me to-morrow, and you shall find me a grave man.”]
* Dramatic Irony: when the reader knows something the character doesn’t. [Romeo thinking Juliet’s actually dead but the readers know she isn’t.]
* Situational Irony: Irony involving a situation in which the outcome is opposite of what was expected. [Romeo and Juliet are expected to run away together after everyone thinks Juliet is dead, but what really happens is that they both end up killing themselves because both believed the other to be dead.]
* Dramatic Foil: Characters with contrasting personalities. [Nurse and Lady Capulet]
* Tragic Hero: a main character in a tragedy who has a flaw that keeps them from achieving some kind of greatness. [Romeo]
* Tragic Flaw: A flaw that keeps the character from greatness. [Romeo’s impulsiveness.]
* Flat Character: A simplified, not very complex character who does not change throughout the story. [Nurse]
* Round Character: Complex characters who are so detailed, they seem real. [Romeo]
* Static Character: a character who doesn’t change/develop the story. [Mercutio]
* Dynamic character: a character that develops the story. [Juliet]
* Aside: When a character talks to the audience while other characters pretend not to listen. [Juliet in the balcony scene]
* Soliloquy: a monologue spoken by a character who believes himself to be alone. [Friar Lawrence at the greenhouse]
* Foreshadowing: suggesting/hinting what will occur later. [prologue]

II. Acts