

ROMEO AND JULIET

ACT ONE, SCENE FOUR

Throughout this scene, the audience is made aware of the fact that it is dark, yet Benvolio and Mercutio are full of enthusiasm for the masquerade. Romeo is reluctant to join them, he would prefer to be alone with his love-sick misery and because he has a strong sensation of impending disaster. It is Romeo's mood that parallels the dark setting. Mercutio attempts to lighten Romeo's depressed state with his highly imaginative and energetic 'Queen Mab' speech.

Answer the following:

1. Who is Queen Mab? What is her role and, according to Mercutio, what is her effect upon Romeo?
2. What do we learn of Mercutio in this scene?
3. Twice in this scene, Romeo has a sensation of impending disaster. Find the lines and write them out.