SUMMARY: ACT III, SCENE I

That one day, about noon, Romeo's friends, Benvolio and Mercutio, walking through the streets of Verona, were met by a party of the Capulets with the Tybalt at their head. This was the same angry Tybalt who would have fought with Romeo at old Lord Capulet's feast[1]. He, seeing Mercutio, accused him of associating with Romeo, a Montague. Mercutio, who had as much fire and youthful blood in him as Tybalt, replied to this accusation with some sharpness; Romeo himself passing that way, the fierce Tybalt turned from Mercutio to Romeo, and gave him the disgraceful appellation[2] of villain[3] . Romeo wished to avoid a fight with Tybalt above all men, because he was the kinsman[4] of Juliet and much beloved by her; besides, this young Montague had never thoroughly entered into the family fight, being by nature wise and gentle, and the name of a Capulet, which was his dear lady's name, was now rather a charm to allay[5] resentment than a watchword[6] to excite fury. So he tried to reason with Tybalt, whom he saluted mildly by the name of Good Capulet, as if he, though a Montague, had some secret pleasure in uttering that name; but Tybalt, who hated all Montagues as he hated hell, would hear no reason, but drew his weapon; and Mercutio, who knew not of Romeo's secret motive for desiring peace with Tybalt, but looked upon his present forbearance[7] as a sort of calm dishonourable submission[8] , with many disdainful[9] words provoked Tybalt to the prosecution of his first fight with him; and Tybalt and Mercutio fought, till Mercutio fell, receiving his death's wound while Romeo and Benvolio were trying to part the combatants. Mercutio being dead, Romeo kept his temper no longer, but returned the scornful[10] appellation of villain which Tybalt had given him, and they fought till Tybalt was killed by Romeo. This deadly broil[11] falling out in the middle of Verona at noonday, the news of it quickly brought a crowd of citizens to the spot and among them the Lords Capulet and Montague, with their wives.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Who is accompanying Romeo whilst working through the streets of Verona?
2. Why does Romeo want to avoid a fight with Tybalt?
3. When does the fight between the combatants take place?
4. Who is the first person to draw a weapon

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[1] Fest
[2] Benennung
[3] Bösewicht
[4] Angehörige
[5] beschlichtigen
[6] Parole
[7] Nachsichtigkeit
[8] Angebot
[9] verächtlich
[10] verächtlich
[11] Hitziges Gefecht