West Side Story

ACT I

Scene i
1. Describe the setting (time and place).

2. Describe the Jets. Who is their leader?

3. Describe the Sharks. Who is their leader?

4. The Jets and Sharks do not get along. Why?

5. Who are Krupke and Schrank? How do both gangs feel about these men? Why?

6. What are the Jets planning to do?

7. What do you learn about Tony in this scene?

8. What does it mean to be a Jet?

Scene ii
1. Describe the setting.

2. Why does Riff go to find Tony?

3. Why isn't Tony interested in the Jets any longer?

4. Why does Tony agree to go to the dance?

5. What do you think will happen to Tony at the dance?
Scene iii

1. Describe the setting.

2. List and identify the four characters in this scene:
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 

3. What plans have been made for Maria?

4. Where are the four characters in #2 going?

Scene iv

1. Describe the setting.

2. Who is Glad Hand, and what is he doing at the dance?

3. What happens when Glad Hand tries to get the Jets and Sharks to dance together?

4. Why does Bernardo break up Tony and Maria? Do you think Bernardo is right to do this? Why?

5. What do Riff and Bernardo plan to do?

6. What has happened to Tony?
Scene v
1. Describe the setting.

2. Whom does Tony go to see?

3. Where and when do Tony and Maria plan to meet?

4. Do you think it is a good idea for Tony and Maria to see each other?

Scene vi
1. Describe the setting.

2. What is a mix?

3. What is the purpose of the rumble?

4. Doc tries to stop the war council. Why don’t the Jets listen to him?

5. Riff tells the Jets to be cool. Why does he give them this advice?

6. Where and when will the rumble be held?

7. Tony suggests they handle the problem by having a fistfight. Do you think this is a good way to handle the problem? Why?

8. Who will fight?

9. What does Doc think of the fact that Tony is in love with Maria? Why does he think this way?
Scene vii

1. Describe the setting.

2. When Maria asks Anita why the boys fight, Anita says, “[they have] too much feeling. And they get rid of it: after a fight that brother of yours is so healthy!” What does she mean?

3. Maria asks Tony to stop the rumble. Do you think he will be successful? Why or why not?

4. What do Maria and Tony pretend to do while they are in the bridal shop?

Scene viii

1. Describe the setting.

2. The following gangs and people are all waiting anxiously for night, but they wait for very different reasons. What is each gang’s or person’s reason?
   - a. Jets –
   - b. Sharks –
   - c. Anita –
   - d. Tony –
   - e. Maria –

Scene ix

1. Describe the setting.

2. What happens when Bernardo and Diesel begin to fight?

3. How does Bernardo react to Tony?

4. Why does Riff fight with Bernardo?

5. Why does Tony become involved, and what does he end up doing?
ACT II

Scene I
1. Describe the setting.

2. Why does Maria “feel pretty”?

3. What does Chino tell Maria?

4. What is Maria’s first reaction when she sees Tony? After Maria expresses her emotions, what is her second reaction?

5. Are these reactions logical? Why?

6. How does Tony explain what happened at the rumble?

7. How do you explain what happened at the rumble?

8. Describe the type of place that Tony and Maria hope to find.

Scene ii
1. Describe the setting.

2. For what reason does Action say the boys act like juvenile delinquents?

3. In the song “Officer Krupke,” what are some of the reasons the boys give for their behavior?

4. Why do the boys joke around now, especially since Riff was just killed?

5. What does Anybody tell the Jets? How do the Jets react to this news?
**Scene iii**

1. Describe the setting.

2. What plans do Tony and Maria make?

3. In the song that Anita and Mara sing, listen for the following things:
   a. Anita is angry that Maria still wants to see Tony. What does she tell Maria?

   b. What does Maria say to this?

   c. What do Maria and Anita agree upon at the end of the song?

   d. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

4. When Schrank interrupts Anita and Maria, how does Anita help Maria?

5. What does Maria do when Schrank asks her about Tony?

**Scene iv**

1. Describe the setting.

2. What happens to Anita when she goes to see Tony?

3. Why do the Jets treat her this way?

4. What does she tell the boys? Why?

5. What does Doc say to the boys?

**Scene v**

1. Doc gives Tony Anita’s message. What is Tony’s reaction to the information?
Scene vi

1. What happens to Tony just as he sees Maria?

2. About what does Maria sing? Why?

3. What does Maria mean when she says:
   “WE ALL KILLED HIM (TONY); and my brother and Riff. I, too. I CAN KILL NOW BECAUSE I HATE NOW.”

4. How does the play end?

5. Is the ending realistic? Why or why not?