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Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

# *Julius Caesar*

by William Shakespeare

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# *Julius Caesar*

## NOTES

With the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the Elizabethans were used to a strong, benevolent monarch. Such a ruler pleased them because only a strong monarch could keep the peace and prevent civil war. In fact, the killing of a legitimate king not only plunged the country into civil war and chaos but also violated God's law. The people of the time believed that Kings had a Divine Right to Rule; that is, that the Kings received their right to rule from God. Killing a King violated not only civil law but also God's law, i.e., natural law.

While not all segments of the population had the vote, the Roman Republic was a representative form of government. Voting was the right of the aristocratic senators, and their favorite was Pompey. Caesar, who seemed to have the support of the common people, fought with and defeated Pompey and then Pompey's son. As such, a victorious and popular Caesar returned to Rome and appeared to be on the verge of being declared King. Many of the aristocratic senators did not like this development and this is where the play begins.

Omens and portents play a large role in *Julius Caesar*. The Romans were a superstitious people who believed that future events could be seen in dreams, the stars, the entrails of animals, and unnatural occurrences. While Epicurus is a notable exception, many Romans also believed that Fate, sometimes in the person of supernatural beings, controlled one's life.

## Terms and Definitions

**Allusion** - a reference to a person, place, poem, book, event, etc., which is not part of the story, that the author expects the reader will recognize. **Example:** In *The Glass Menagerie*, Tom speaks of “Chamberlain’s umbrella,” a reference to British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

**Anachronism** - the misplacing of a person, object, or situation outside of its correct historical time. **Example:** In *Julius Caesar*, a comment is made about a clock chiming, which could not possibly have occurred, since clocks had not been invented when Caesar lived.

**Anagnorisis** - the moment in a work when the main character realizes that what he or she had believed up to that point is false. **Example:** Oedipus finally learns that the prophecy of killing his father and marrying his mother has come true, and he blinds himself because of the revelation.

**Anaphora** - repetition of a word or group of words within a short section of writing. **Example:** “A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.”—Ecclesiastes 3:2

**Anthropomorphism** - attributing human qualities, emotions, and behavior to animals. **Examples:** In the *Uncle Remus* stories, the bear is usually portrayed as slow and dumb. *Aesop’s Fables* also give animals emotions of jealousy, anger, revenge, etc., to illustrate a moral.

**Apostrophe** - directly addressing a person, place, thing, or abstraction, living, dead, or absent from the work. **Example:** Ophelia, in *Hamlet*, says, “O, heavenly powers, restore him.”

**Aside** - words spoken by an actor in such a way that they are heard by the audience but supposedly not by the other actors. These words usually represent the inner thoughts of the speaker. **Example:** In *Hamlet*, Polonius says in an aside, while talking with Hamlet, “Though this be madness, yet there is method in it.”

**Climax** - the point of greatest dramatic tension or excitement in a story. **Examples:** Othello’s murder of Desdemona. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the person chasing Scout is killed.

**Conflict** - the struggle that moves the action forward in a work of literature. There are three types of conflict, and most books include all three: *man versus man* (**Example:** a typical Western, in which the sheriff confronts the outlaw); *man versus nature* (**Example:** a story about someone surviving in a small boat on the ocean); *man versus himself* (**Example:** a character in a story fighting his or her own drug abuse). Some authorities consider *man versus society* a fourth category of conflict (**Example:** a character in a book fighting against the Nazis).

*Dialogue* - conversation between two or more characters.

*Exposition* - the background information that the reader has to know and/or understand before reading the play or novel. The information is usually dealt with at the beginning of the book. Sometimes, exposition reveals things that occurred before the actual *plot* begins. **Example:** The chorus in *Romeo and Juliet* explains the *setting*, the feud between the families, and the future deaths of the main characters in fourteen lines of *poetry*.

*Falling Action* - additional action that follows the climax. **Example:** After the deaths near the end of *Hamlet*, the Prince of Norway enters, and Horatio explains what happened.

*Foreshadowing* - the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense. **Example:** Two small and seemingly inconsequential car accidents predict and hint at the upcoming, important wreck in *The Great Gatsby*.

*Idealism* - behavior or thought based on a vision of things as they ought to be, rather than as they really are.

*Imagery* - the use of words to evoke impressions and meanings that are more than just the basic, accepted definitions of the words themselves. **Example:** The quotation, "Get thee to a nunnery," from *Hamlet* implies that Ophelia must regain her purity and chastity and does not simply mean that she needs to go to a convent.

*Irony* - a perception of inconsistency, sometimes humorous, in which the significance and understanding of a statement or event is changed by its context. **Example:** The firehouse burned down.

- *Dramatic Irony* - the audience or reader knows more about a character's situation than the character does and knows that the character's understanding is incorrect. **Example:** In *Medea*, Creon asks, "What atrocities could she commit in one day?" The reader, however, knows Medea will destroy her family and Creon's by day's end.
- *Structural Irony* - the use of a naïve hero, whose incorrect perceptions differ from the reader's correct ones. **Example:** Huck Finn.
- *Verbal Irony* - a discrepancy between what is said and what is really meant; sarcasm. **Example:** A large man whose nickname is "Tiny."

*Monologue* - an extended speech by one character, either when alone or to others. **Example:** *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*; Mark Antony's speech at Caesar's funeral.

*Motif* - a situation, incident, idea, or image that is repeated significantly in a literary work. **Examples:** In *Hamlet*, revenge is a frequently repeated idea. In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden continually comments on the phoniness of people he meets.

**Motivation** - the reasons behind a character's actions. **Example:** Huckleberry Finn travels down the Mississippi River in order to escape the Widow Douglas, who wants to "civilize" him.

**Omen** - the use of an animal or aspect of nature to foretell an event; a sign. An omen can also indicate if the event will be good or evil. **Example:** In *The Odyssey*, omens are used to illustrate the will of the gods. A thunderclap right after a prayer is an omen that the gods approve of the prayer.

**Oratory** - the art of public speaking. A good speech often includes the following elements:

- The speaker talks directly to the audience in a conversational manner, sometimes asking the audience questions and then providing the answers.
- The points the speaker is trying to make often determine the tone of the speech. Speeches frequently have repeated words or phrases included in them to emphasize ideas and give the speech a pleasing rhythm.
- A speech sometimes contains controversial statements included to deliberately engage the audience's emotions.

**Prose** - the ordinary form of written or spoken language, without rhyme or meter; speech or writing that is not poetry. **Example:** *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

**Pun** - an expression that achieves emphasis or humor by utilizing:

- two distinctly different meanings for the same word. **Example:** "play" meaning "fun" and "play" meaning a performance on stage.  
or
- two similar sounding words. **Example:** close/clothes.  
**Example:** In *Romeo and Juliet*, one character, Mercutio, says after being fatally stabbed, "Ask for me tomorrow and you will find me a grave man."

**Resolution** - the part of the story in which all the problems are solved and/or the secrets revealed.

**Rising Action** - the part of the story's plot that adds complications to the problems and increases the reader's interest.

**Sarcasm** - the use of harsh words to deride and criticize. Sometimes, sarcasm is apparent only by the way something is said rather than the actual words that are used; other times the sarcasm is obvious. **Example:** In *The Catcher in the Rye*, Holden says about a taxi driver he dislikes that, "he certainly was good company. Terrific personality."

**Setting** - when and where the short story, play, or novel takes place. **Examples:** *Macbeth* takes place in the eleventh century in Scotland. *The Old Man and the Sea* has its main setting on the ocean outside Havana, Cuba, in an unspecified time in the middle-to-late 20th-century.

*Simile* - a comparison between two different things using either *like* or *as*. **Examples:** I am as hungry as a horse. The huge trees broke like twigs during the hurricane.

*Soliloquy* - lines in a play in which a character reveals thoughts to the audience, but not to the other characters; it is usually longer than an aside and not directed at the audience. **Example:** Hamlet's famous "To be or not to be" speech.

*Stage Directions* - the information given for the reader to visualize the setting, position of props, etc., in a play. Stage directions may give additional impressions of the characters through short descriptions and through what they do. Examples: "Exit"; "She reads from the newspaper."

*Superstition* - any belief or attitude based on fear or ignorance that is inconsistent with the known laws of science. **Example:** Breaking a mirror brings seven years bad luck.

*Theme* - the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different methods: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them. **Example:** In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: "Real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance." In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: "Youth fades, and death comes to all."

*Tragic flaw* - the main defect of the protagonist in a tragedy. **Example:** Hamlet's failure to act causes his death.

*Tragic hero* - the main character in a tragedy; in order to fit the definition, the hero must have a tragic flaw, which causes his or her downfall. **Examples:** Hamlet's main character weakness is his indecision; Lear's is his pride.

*Verse* - another word for "poetry." In Shakespeare, the educated characters and the nobility usually speak in verse to indicate their high station in life.

# Julius Caesar

## OBJECTIVES

*By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:*

1. define the terms “tragedy” and “tragic hero.”
2. appreciate the multiple dimensions in a Shakespearean work by writing two paragraphs. One paragraph will argue that Julius Caesar is the tragic hero of this work, while the second paragraph will argue that Brutus is the tragic hero.
3. identify the major themes in this play
4. discuss the ways in which language is used by the characters in this play to persuade, distort the truth, humiliate, and flatter.
5. identify the qualities, both strengths and weaknesses, for each of these characters: Julius Caesar, Brutus, Antony, Cassius, and Octavius Caesar.
6. compare and contrast the two female characters: Portia and Calpurnia.
7. appreciate and understand the Shakespearean language.
8. define monarchy and republicanism.
9. define the following literary terms:

allusion  
anachronism  
anagnorisis  
anaphora  
anthropomorphism  
apostrophe  
aside  
climax  
conflict  
dialogue  
exposition  
falling action

foreshadowing  
idealism  
imagery  
irony  
monologue  
motif  
motivation  
omen  
oratory  
pun  
prose  
resolution

rising action  
sarcasm  
setting  
simile  
soliloquy  
stage directions  
superstition  
theme  
tragic hero  
tragic flaw  
verse



# Julius Caesar

## QUESTIONS FOR ESSAY AND/OR DISCUSSION

1. Debate the following point: The assassination of Julius Caesar is, or is not, a virtuous act.
2. Why is Antony's speech more effective than Brutus' speech?
3. Some people say that this play should be called "The Tragedy of Marcus Brutus." Argue both sides of this question.
4. Present proof that Julius Caesar is the tragic hero of this play.
5. Define the following terms and relate them to this play:
  - A. idealism
  - B. pragmatism
  - C. opportunism
  - D. tragedy
  - E. humors
  - F. asides
  - G. soliloquies
  - H. omens and portents
  - I. monarchy
  - J. republicanism
6. Do a character profile for each of the following. Mention strengths and weaknesses for each.
  - A. Julius Caesar
  - B. Brutus
  - C. Antony
  - D. Cassius
  - E. Octavius
7. Who do you think makes a better ruler—an idealist like Brutus or a pragmatist like Octavius? Give some reasons.
8. Prove how friendship is an important theme that runs throughout this play.
9. Point out at least four incidents in which characters manipulate others by using language to deceive or flatter.

10. Compare and contrast Portia and Calpurnia; consider their personalities, values, and relationships with their husbands.
11. Point out and trace the following themes in this play:
  - A. When does the issue of monarchy versus republicanism first arise and how is the question finally settled?
  - B. While there are many references to omens and portents that suggest that lives are controlled by fate or the will of the gods, there are two memorable instances which suggest free will.
12. Why do some critics say that Cassius was an opportunist?
13. If Shakespeare valued political order and stability, show how disorder entered Roman life, what caused it, and how order finally returned.
14. In your opinion, is Brutus an honorable man or a hypocrite?

# *Julius Caesar*

## TEST

### I. Multiple Choice

1. As the play opens, Marullus and Flavius are dispersing the crowd because they
  - A. had been ordered to do so.
  - B. fear the crowd may begin looting and killing.
  - C. fear that Caesar's popularity with the crowd may lead to the end of the Republic.
  - D. are trying to deliver goods to Caesar.
  - E. are trying to attend a wedding.
2. "Beware the ides of March," was spoken by
  - A. Caesar to Brutus.
  - B. Cassius to Brutus.
  - C. a Soothsayer to Antony.
  - D. Calpurnia to Caesar.
  - E. a Soothsayer to Caesar.
3. Cassius says he saved Caesar
  - A. during the battle.
  - B. from an assassin.
  - C. from drowning.
  - D. from choking while "unconscious under the falling sickness."
  - E. from his deceitful wife.
4. According to Casca, Caesar refused a crown offered by
  - A. Antony.
  - B. Cicero.
  - C. Octavius.
  - D. Calpurnia.
  - E. Cinna.
5. Which of the following does Cassius use to get Brutus' support?
  - A. flattery and forgeries
  - B. manipulation and lies
  - C. bribery
  - D. the truth
  - E. threats

6. While the conspirators are at Brutus' house, Brutus tells them they
  - A. need to take an oath.
  - B. should not ask Cicero to join them.
  - C. will not let Antony live.
  - D. are not welcome.
  - E. should come back later.
7. In his funeral speech over Caesar's body, Brutus refers to the conspirators as
  - A. murderers.
  - B. criminals.
  - C. honorable men.
  - D. political animals.
  - E. protectors.
8. Caesar's will
  - A. leaves everything to Antony.
  - B. leaves 75 drachmas to every Roman citizen.
  - C. warns the people of tyrants.
  - D. names his nephew Octavius as his successor.
  - E. leaves Brutus the estate.
9. Cassius, in the following comment, blames who or what for their inferior position?  
"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,  
But in ourselves, that we are underlings..."
  - A. fate
  - B. Caesar
  - C. the Senate
  - D. themselves
  - E. Brutus
10. As proof of her constancy, Portia
  - A. swallows fire.
  - B. puts her hand on a hot candle.
  - C. stabs herself in the thigh.
  - D. spies on Caesar.
  - E. threatens to tell everyone the plan.
11. Describe Caesar's handicap.
  - A. He is deaf in one ear and epileptic.
  - B. He is very near-sighted.
  - C. His left leg is a shorter than his right.
  - D. He is narcoleptic.
  - E. He lost his hand in a battle.

12. When Brutus stabs Caesar, Caesar says:
- A. forgive him, for, he does not know what he does.
  - B. and you, too, Brutus.
  - C. help me, my friend.
  - D. curse the day you were born.
  - E. I understand.
13. Brutus accuses Cassius of
- A. being envious of Caesar.
  - B. being a murderer.
  - C. acting cowardly.
  - D. having an itching palm.
  - E. cheating on his wife.
14. Brutus had been upset with Cassius because Cassius
- A. refused to give him money.
  - B. treated his soldiers badly.
  - C. was not prepared to do battle.
  - D. was trying to make a peace with Antony.
  - E. killed innocent civilians.
15. Cassius kills himself because
- A. he is trapped and certain to be captured.
  - B. he believes his friend has been killed.
  - C. Brutus has broken off their friendship.
  - D. he learns that his wife died.
  - E. they have lost the war.

## II. Quotations - Identify the speaker.

16. "Beware the ides of March"
- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| A. Portia     | D. Antony  |
| B. Soothsayer | E. Cassius |
| C. Calpurnia  |            |
17. "O, Pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,  
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!"
- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| A. Antony  | D. Octavius |
| B. Cassius | E. Brutus   |
| C. Caesar  |             |

18. "Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world  
Like a Colossus; and we petty men  
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about  
To find ourselves dishonourable graves."
- A. Antony                      D. Brutus  
B. Caesar                      E. Cassius  
C. Octavius
19. "Let me have men about me that are fat;  
Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o' nights.  
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;  
He thinks too much: such men are dangerous."
- A. Antony                      D. Decius  
B. Octavius                      E. Brutus  
C. Caesar
20. "Et tu Brute?—Then fall Caesar!"
- A. Octavius                      D. Brutus  
B. Calpurnia                      E. Antony  
C. Caesar
21. "Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war;"
- A. Octavius                      D. Caesar  
B. Brutus                      E. Antony  
C. Artemidorus
22. "There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;"
- A. Caesar                      D. Cassius  
B. Brutus                      E. Portia  
C. Antony
23. "O Caesar, read mine first, for mine's a suit  
That touches Caesar nearer: read it, great Caesar."
- A. Antony                      D. Decius  
B. Artemidorous                      E. Casca  
C. Portia

24. "Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death but once."

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| A. Brutus | D. Artemidorous |
| B. Antony | E. Cassius      |
| C. Caesar |                 |

25. "This was the noblest Roman of them all:  
All the conspirators, save only he,  
Did what they did in envy of great Caesar;"

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A. Cassius      | D. Calpurnia |
| B. Brutus       | E. Antony    |
| C. Artemidorous |              |

# *Julius Caesar*

## ANSWER KEY

### I. Multiple Choice

1. C
2. E
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. D
10. C
11. A
12. B
13. D
14. A
15. B

### II. Quotations

16. B
17. A
18. E
19. C
20. C
21. E
22. B
23. B
24. C
25. E



# Julius Caesar

## STUDY GUIDE TEACHER'S COPY

### Act I, Scene I – Rome. A Street.

#### Vocabulary

cobbler – a clumsy worker

knave – one who is of low-status, unskilled

beseech – to advise

neats-leather – cowhide

cull – to choose

exalted – elevated

servile – subservient, menial

1. At the very start of the scene, Flavius is yelling to the commoners. Put Flavius' first five lines into modern speech.

*Go home you lazy creatures:*

*Is this a holiday? Don't you know*

*That, as a part of the working class, you should never*

*Walk around, on a workday, without*

*representing your profession? You, tell me, what is your trade?*

2. Puns and word play are a popular part of Shakespeare's plays. Identify and explain the puns the cobbler uses.

*"...I am but, as you would say, a cobbler." – one who botches or messes up a job.*

*"...a mender of bad soles." – could be misconstrued to mean "souls."*

*"...all that I live by is with the awl..." – "awl" is a tool for repairing shoes, but is pronounced "all."*

3. Flavius asks why the cobbler is out of his shop. What is the cobbler's response?

*The cobbler says, at first, that he has led people out of their homes and jobs in hopes that they will "...wear out their shoes..." in an attempt to get more business. Quickly, however, the cobbler confesses how he is really in the streets to "...rejoice in his [Caesar's] triumph."*

4. How do the Tribunes, Marullus and Flavius, react to this word play?

*Marullus and Flavius become angry because they think the cobbler is rude and is poking fun at them, which he is.*

5. Why do the Tribunes chase the commoners away, and for what does Marullus reprimand them?

*The masses are celebrating Caesar's victory over Pompey, and the Tribunes think that this shows the worst ingratitude after what Pompey had done for them in the past.*

*Note to Teacher: The relationship between Caesar and Pompey can be researched further to give a better insight to the history of the play.*

6. What literary term is illustrated by the following quote:

“And do you now put on your best attire?  
And do you now cull out a holiday?  
And do you now strew flowers in his way...”?

*This quote is an example of anaphora.*

7. What does Flavius suggest to the commoners?

*Flavius suggests that the commoners should flood to the banks of the Tiber River and pray that the gods do not strike them down for their ingratitude.*

8. What are Flavius and Marullus planning to do?

*The Tribunes are planning to “disrobe the images” and break up the festivities of Caesar's triumph. They want “...no images...hung with Caesar's trophies.”*

9. Marullus mentions Lupercal. What literary term does this demonstrate? Do some research about Lupercal and explain its importance.

*Marullus mentioning Lupercal is an example of an allusion. The feast of Lupercal (Lupercalia), is a festival held by the Romans on February 15<sup>th</sup> to praise Faunus, god of forests and fertility. Faunus (Lupercus) is responsible for finding Romulus and Remus (Rome's founders) who had been raised and nourished by a wolf near a cave named Lupercal. The feast takes place near this cave to bless the approaching spring season.*

10. Why do Marullus and Flavius seem to fear Caesar?

*Marullus and Flavius seem to think Caesar is becoming too powerful. If he keeps getting more powerful, they worry about being kept “in servile fearfulness.”*

## Act I, Scene II – A *public place*.

### Vocabulary

barren – sterile, unable to give birth

press – crowd, audience

throng – large group, crowd

gamesome – athletic

veil'd – covered, disguised

countenance – face

vexed – troubled, worried

cogitations – contemplations

lamented – mourned, grieved

shadow – figure, likeness

jealous on – suspicious of

rout – crowd, population

indifferently – objectively, fairly

speed – to assist; to benefit

lief – rather

accoutred – fully dressed

buffet – conquer

sinews – muscles

ere – before

bestride – walk, pace

aim – hint

chew – think, ponder

repute – consider

ferret – referring to having red eyes

fain – happily, eagerly

loath – reluctant, opposed

rabblement – crowd, mob

swounded – fainted, passed out

doublet – an article of men's clothing

rogues – scoundrel, villain

infirmity – illness, disease

mettle – tempered

1. What does Caesar say to Antony in front of everyone? What does this say about Caesar's character? What does Antony's response reveal?

*The feast of Lupercalia calls for a race to be run. Caesar tells Antony to touch Calpurnia during the race because it may "shake off their sterile curse." Caesar mentions that Calpurnia is "barren" or sterile, which means she is unable to have children. This comment shows that Caesar wants children and also that he is inconsiderate toward his wife. Antony's response suggests that he is devoted to following Caesar.*

2. What is the soothsayer's warning to Caesar? What does it mean?

*The soothsayer calls out, "...beware the ides of March." This means Caesar should be careful on March 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the next day.*

*Note to Teacher: Shakespeare's history is a bit off. A class discussion can be devoted to the history. The ides of March is the 15<sup>th</sup>; the feast of Lupercal is supposedly celebrated on February 15<sup>th</sup> and Caesar's victory actually took place in October.*

3. When they are alone, of what does Cassius accuse Brutus? What is Brutus' response?

*Cassius says Brutus has not been friendly toward him lately. Brutus says it is only because he has been preoccupied with other things.*

4. What point is Cassius making when he asks Brutus: "...can you see your face?" What does Cassius propose to do?

*Cassius asks Brutus to try to see within himself to find what is troubling him. Cassius then offers to help Brutus see the parts he is having difficulty with: "...good Brutus, be prepared to hear:/And since you know you cannot see yourself/So well as by reflection, I your glass/Will modestly discover to yourself/That of yourself which you yet know not of."*

5. What fear does Brutus note?

*Brutus says, "I do fear, the people/Choose Caesar for their king."*

6. How does Brutus explain this fear? What literary term can be used to describe Brutus' way of thinking? Identify and define the term.

*Brutus says, although he has love for Caesar, he does not want to see him made king. This suggests that Brutus feels obligated to uphold the general good, even if doing so results in his own death, or opposing Caesar, a beloved friend. Brutus' way of thinking can be described as Idealism. Brutus is an idealist because he is acting based on the way things should be, instead of what they really are. Brutus is about to conspire against a great friend, becoming a murderer for the good of the people, instead of realizing the importance of friendship. Brutus' idealistic viewpoints serve as his motivation and justification for the actions he is about to take.*

7. According to Cassius, what happened when Caesar and Cassius went swimming in the Tiber? What is the point of this story?

*Cassius claims that he had to save Caesar from drowning; the point being that Caesar is just as weak and mortal as anyone else.*

8. Why does Cassius refer to Caesar as “a sick girl”? How would you describe Cassius at this point?

*Cassius is amazed that someone as weak as Caesar should hold the world in his hand: “...and this man/Is now become a god, and Cassius is/A wretched creature...” Cassius appears to be very envious, resentful of Caesar’s power and position. This envy gives Cassius the motivation to conspire against Caesar.*

9. What does Cassius say about fate, free will, and being “underlings”?

*Cassius believes that if common people are “underlings,” they are so not because it is fated to be (“in our stars”); rather, it is within all people to decide their own fate. This concept becomes a major theme as the play progresses.*

10. After delaying an answer, what is Brutus’ conclusion about his own feelings on freedom?

*Brutus would rather live as a villager than be a Roman under the power of an autocracy.*

11. What does Caesar say to Antony about Cassius? What is Antony’s response?

*Caesar says that Cassius is “dangerous” and “thinks too much,” such a man cannot be trusted. Antony responds by advising, “Fear him not.” Antony believes Cassius to be a “noble Roman” who is “well given.”*

12. What does Caesar’s response about fear show about him?

*Caesar does not want to admit that there is a man he fears. In this exchange, though, Caesar shows that he is a better judge of people than Antony.*

13. According to Casca, what does Antony offer Caesar three times? What is Caesar’s response?

*Antony offers Caesar the crown three times, but each time Caesar refuses to accept it.*

14. What is noticeably different about Casca’s dialogue in comparison with Caesar or Brutus’?

*Casca’s dialogue is written in prose, whereas, Caesar and Brutus’ dialogue is written in verse.*

15. Casca describes the scene in which Caesar refuses the crown. How does the crowd respond after Caesar's third refusal? What happens to Caesar?

*Casca describes how the crowd "...threw up their sweaty nightcaps and uttered such a deal of stinking breath...that it almost choked Caesar..." Casca recalls how Caesar falls down, foaming at the mouth.*

16. What two physical ailments of Caesar's are mentioned in this scene?

*Caesar is deaf in one ear and has the "falling sickness" (epilepsy).*

17. What does Caesar say when he comes to?

*Caesar blames all that he said (refusing the crown) on his illness; with this said, his previous words are forgiven.*

18. In response to the "falling sickness," what is the meaning of Cassius' sarcasm?

*Cassius claims that he, Casca, and Brutus, have the "falling sickness" because they are falling down and submitting to Caesar's rise in power instead of standing up to him and stopping it.*

19. What happens to Marullus and Flavius? Why?

*Marullus and Flavius are sentenced to banishment or execution for pulling scarves off of Caesar's statues.*

20. What action will Cassius take to get Brutus to join the conspirators against Caesar?

*Cassius plans to throw messages, forged in many different writing styles, through Brutus' window in an attempt to convince Brutus that the majority of the population wishes Brutus to take up arms against Caesar.*

21. After Brutus leaves, how is Cassius brutally honest with himself and the audience? What is your opinion of Cassius?

*Caesar does not trust Cassius, but Brutus is trusted. Cassius admits he would not listen to such talk of conspiracy if the roles were reversed.  
Answers will vary.*

## Act I, Scene III – *A street.*

### Vocabulary

tempests – fierce storms  
rived – separated, split, severed  
exalted – raised  
incenses – encouraging, provoking  
glazed – stared, glared  
perilous – risky, dangerous  
unbracèd – unbuttoned  
bared – stripped down to  
heralds – messages  
ordinance – customary order, expected order  
yoke – bondage, domination  
offal – rubbish, garbage  
fleering – groveling, crawling  
factions – group, party, band  
redress – solution, remedy  
gait – style of walking  
praetor's – chief magistrate's  
alchemy – the art of producing gold  
conceited – understood

1. As Cicero and Casca meet, Casca explains why he travels in fear with his sword drawn. What does Casca say he has seen before and what has he seen that night? Why do the sights he has seen frighten him so much?

*Casca says he has seen tempests, when the strong winds have split oak trees; he has seen the ocean turn and sway. This night is the first night Casca has ever seen "...a tempest dropping fire." To Casca, this strange event can only be a sign from the gods.*

2. There are four specific things Casca has seen. What are they? How does Casca interpret these strange happenings?

1. A slave had his left hand burning with fire, yet his hand "...remain'd unscorch'd."
2. Casca met a lion that did not bother him, just passed him by.
3. A throng of frightened women "...swore they saw/Men all in fire walk up and down the streets."
4. The day before, an owl sat "...Hooting and shrieking." Casca believes these events are omens, signs of warning.

3. What is Cassius' interpretation of the night's strange events that he reveals to Casca?

*These unnatural events are sent from heaven as "...instruments of fear and..." warnings about Caesar.*

4. On whom does Cassius blame Caesar's power?

*At first, Cassius blames Caesar's power on the gods, but then he blames it on the weaknesses of the Romans: "Let it be who it is: for Romans now/Have thews and limbs like to their ancestors;/But, woe the while! our fathers' minds are dead,/And we are govern'd with our mothers' spirits;/Our yoke and sufferance show us womanish."*

5. What theme does the following quote support?

*"...so every bondman in his own hand bears  
The power to cancel his captivity."*

*Casca's quote relates to the theme of fate versus free will. Casca obviously believes in free will, firmly stating that men and women have the ability to change and determine their fortune and future.*

6. Cassius describes Caesar as a wolf and a lion, as well as describing the Romans as sheep. What literary term is illustrated here?

*This selection is an example of anthropomorphism: "And why should Caesar be a tyrant then?/Poor man! I know he would not be a wolf/But that he sees the Romans are but sheep:/He were no lion, were not Roman hinds."*

7. What does Cassius think of Rome if Caesar is to become ruler?

*Cassius believes Rome will be garbage if Caesar becomes ruler: "...what trash is Rome,/What rubbish and what offal, when it serves/For the base matter to illuminate/So vile a thing as Caesar!"*

8. Why does Casca say he is no "fleering tell-tale"?

*Cassius has spoke out against Caesar and knows if these words get back to Caesar, Cassius has to be prepared to fight. Casca assures Cassius that his words are safe and Casca will side with Cassius.*

9. Why is it important to the conspirators to have Brutus come in with them?

*Brutus is held in high esteem by the people and, while the other conspirator's motives will be suspect, Brutus' motives will be viewed as pure.*



## Act II, Scene I – Rome. Brutus's Orchard.

### Vocabulary

taper – candle

general – common good

adder – poisonous snake

proof – fact

augmented – multiplied, expanded

exhalations – meteors

whet – urge, provoke

interim – gaps, lulls

phantasma – a dream

Genius – soul

insurrection – revolt, revolution, civil disobedience

moe – more

favour – feature

visage – face

affability – generosity, compassion

semblance – appearance, manner

prick – prompt, encourage

palter – hesitate, quibble

cautelous – dishonest, insincere

carrions – corpses; mild curse

insuppressive – prompting, instigating, encouraging

bastardy – bastards, born illegitimately

contriver – schemer

envy – malevolence

hew – hack; chop

ingrafted – faithful

augurers – soothsayers, prophets

uttermost – latest

wafture – wave

contagion – plague, affliction, ailment

rheumy – causing rheumatism

unpurged – foul, contaminated

character – writing

1. Why does Brutus believe that Caesar must be stopped from becoming king? Do you think Brutus' fear of what Caesar may become is justified?

*Brutus has no personal reasons to criticize Caesar. It is Brutus' belief, however, that if Caesar becomes king, he may become a tyrant because that is the way of human nature. Brutus does admit that Caesar has always been a rational man: "...I have not known when his affections sway'd / More than his reason." It is for the good of the people (political) that Brutus bases his opinion. The separation of the private and public self is a theme seen frequently throughout this play. Brutus' opinion supports this theme, because it is not for personal reasons, but political that he is considering conspiring against Caesar.*

2. Interpret these lines by rewriting them using modern speech:

“But ’t is a common proof,  
That lowliness is young ambition’s ladder,  
Whereto the climber-upward turns his face;  
But when he once attains the upmost round,  
He then unto the ladder turns his back,  
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees  
By which he did ascend: so Caesar may;  
Then, lest he may, prevent.”

*Answers will vary, but should grasp the content of the passage correctly.*

*But it is human nature,  
Being of low social status breeds ambition to climb the ladder of success,  
The climber then, looks upward, to succeed;  
Once the climber gains the success and power desired,  
He then tends to turn his back on the lower classes,  
Looking to the clouds, shunning those at the bottom  
From where he once came: Caesar may also follow this path  
Unless he is stopped before he has the chance.*

3. Brutus receives the messages planted by Cassius, and seems inclined to take action to stop Caesar. What does Brutus tell the audience about his mental and emotional state at this point?

*Brutus has not been able to sleep from worrying about what the right course of action should be.*

4. The letters Cassius writes become a tool that helps in supporting a major theme of the play. What is the literary term for such a tool?

*The letters Cassius writes become known as a motif.*

5. If the letters from Cassius to Brutus are a motif supporting a major theme, what do you think the theme is? Use specific examples from the play (up to this point) to support your answer.

*Answers may vary. The letters Cassius writes supports the theme of the power of rhetoric. Cassius uses these letters to persuade Brutus to go against his personal feelings and conspire against a good friend. This theme continues throughout the play.*

6. What does Cassius suggest the conspirators do that Brutus disagrees with?

*Cassius suggests that Cicero, a senator, join the conspiracy. Brutus does not want Cicero included and because his opinion carries such weight, all agree to leave Cicero out.*

7. Cassius recognizes that Antony should die too, but Brutus vetoes this. Why?

*Brutus thinks the conspirators will look like butchers because the death of Antony is unnecessary. Brutus' decision, again, is made based on how the public will view the deed.*

8. As the conspirators are meeting, a clock strikes. What literary term is illustrated by including a clock in this scene?

*The clock in this scene is an example of an anachronism because clocks were not around during Caesar's time.*

9. There is some concern that Caesar, having grown superstitious lately, may not leave his house the following day. How does Decius say he can manipulate Caesar? What does this say of Caesar's personality?

*Decius says that Caesar can easily be manipulated through flattery. If this is so, Caesar is a lot shallower than the audience has been led to believe.*

10. What is Brutus' answer when Portia asks why he has been behaving strangely lately? What is her response to this?

*Brutus simply states that he has been ill. Finally, he admits that he has a "sad heart." Portia assures Brutus that his secrets will be kept safe with her, she "...will not disclose 'em:..."*

11. To sway Brutus, what action does Portia take to get him to trust her enough to confide in her?

*Portia stabs herself in the thigh as "proof" of her "constancy."*

12. What is your opinion of Brutus at the end of this scene?

*Answers will vary.*

## Act II, Scene II – *Caesar's house.*

### Vocabulary

success – what occurred

ague – fever, illness

yearns – aches, suffers

1. What does Calpurnia cry out in her sleep? How is this a significant element of the play? What literary device is being used here?

*“Help, ho! they murder Caesar!” Calpurnia’s nightmares are omens or signs that foreshadow Caesar’s murder.*

2. What does Calpurnia believe that proves her point that the evening’s strange events relate to Caesar alone, not the world in general?

*Calpurnia claims that comets do not cross the sky when beggars are fated to die, only before the death of a prince.*

3. In response to Calpurnia’s fears, Caesar says:  
“Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
It seems to me most strange that men should fear;  
Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
Will come when it will come.”

Rewrite this passage in modern language. What does this passage say about Caesar?  
What is your opinion of Caesar?

*Of all the strange things I have heard,  
The strangest of all is how men fear death;  
Being that death is inevitable  
And will come whenever, without warning.*

*This passage shows Caesar’s confidence, as well as his courage.  
Answers may vary on the opinion portion of the question.*

4. If Caesar is so confident and does not fear dying, why do you think he calls for the priests to bring their opinions about the omens?

*Answers will vary.*

5. The priests, “augurers,” offer an animal to the gods. What about the examination suggests that Caesar should not leave his house?

*The augurers can find no heart inside the beast they sacrificed.*

6. What is Decius' interpretation of Calpurnia's bloody dream?

*Decius says that the bleeding statue of Caesar signifies that Rome shall be revived under Caesar's rule.*

7. What, according to Decius, might some of the senators conclude if Caesar refuses to come to the capitol?

*Decius tells Caesar that the senate has decided to crown him king; if Caesar does not show up the senate may change their minds. If they knew of Calpurnia's dreams, the public may think, "Lo, Caesar is afraid."*

8. Caesar, against his wife's warnings, decides to go to the capitol that day. What themes can be identified in this scene?

*Answers may vary. The omens (dreams, sacrifice) clearly show Caesar's demise. Caesar chooses, by free will, to go to the capitol that day, but it is Fate that is in ultimate control, Caesar decides to go to the capitol because of what the public may think of him if he does not go, not for his own personal reasons. Although misread on purpose, Decius' misinterpretation of Calpurnia's dream gives Caesar the justification to go the capitol that day. Decius uses persuasive rhetoric to gain power over Caesar. By the use of flattery, Caesar is swayed to leave the safety of his home.*

9. Where is the irony in Caesar's perception of all those who come to his house?

*Caesar believes all those who are in his house to be good friends and speaks of them sharing wine, but they are all the conspirators who plan to kill him.*

## Act II, Scene III – *A street near the Capitol.*

### Vocabulary

contrive – devise, concoct

1. Why is Artemidorus waiting for Caesar?

*Artemidorus wants to warn Caesar of the conspiracy.*

2. What important characteristic about Julius Caesar is learned in this scene?

*Artemidorus mentions how “...security gives way to conspiracy.” This statement essentially means that overconfidence will make Caesar more susceptible to conspiracy. With this statement, it is clear that Caesar must be a bit egotistical and believes he is too powerful to be harmed.*

3. Two themes are dealt with in this very short scene. Identify each theme and give a brief explanation.

*Artemidorus, ironically a teacher of rhetoric, tries warning Caesar of the potential danger in the future. Artemidorus’ attempt in using rhetorical power to persuade Caesar to stay away from the Capitol supports the theme of the power of rhetoric. Artemidorus also makes mention of Fate towards the end of his speech: “If thou read this, O Caesar, thou mayst live;/If not, the Fates with traitors do contrive.” This supports the theme of Fate versus free will. Apparently, Artemidorus believes that Caesar can change his Fate if he has the will to do so, otherwise, Fate will take control.*

**Act II, Scene IV – *Another part of the same street, before the house of Brutus.***

**Vocabulary**

**rumour** – noise

**fray** – vicious fight or brawl

1. What order does Portia give Lucius? Why is she so unsettled?

*Portia tells Lucius to go to the Capitol to check on Brutus and Caesar. Knowing the plan, she is anxious about the outcome.*

2. In this scene, how is Portia different from her previous scene? How then, is Shakespeare choosing to portray women?

*In her earlier scene, Portia tells Brutus how strong and trustworthy she is. Now, she is showing how she is weak. This scene seems to suggest that being weak is, by nature, a part of womanhood. Portia even states, near the end of the scene, “Ay me, how weak a thing/The heart of a woman is!” In addition, Portia comes off as a gossip, longing to tell someone the plan of the conspirators. (Coincidentally, the very strong Queen Elizabeth sits on the throne in England, during the composition of this play. Shakespeare may be portraying Portia as weak to not insult the queen by making a female character equally strong or stronger than her majesty.)*

**Act III, Scene I – Rome. Before the Capitol – The Senate sitting above.**

**Vocabulary**

**sirrah** – sir

**puissant** – powerful

**couchings** – bows

**children** – childlike ways

**fond** – unwise, witless

**cur** – dog

**apprehensive** – ruled by imagination

**bootless** – in vain

**knot** – group

**rank** – infected, ailing

**modesty** – control, self-restraint

**oration** – speech

1. Why does Caesar say he will not read Artemidorus' letter first?

*In Caesar's attempt to appear magnificent, he chooses to look at the things that are closest to him last. This tendency will prove to be fatal.*

2. What does Popilius Lena say to Cassius?

*Popilius hints that he knows of the conspirator's plan: "I wish your enterprise to-day may thrive."*

3. What does Trebonius do while Popilius Lena speaks with Caesar?

*Trebonius pulls Antony off to the side for a conversation.*

4. In response to Cimber's request to lift his brother's banishment, what posture does Caesar resume?

*Caesar portrays himself as a man who cannot be moved to change his mind by flattery or pleas: "...I am constant as the northern star;/Of whose true fix'd and resting quality/There is no fellow in the firmament."*

5. All the conspirators gather to perform their plan. Using your imagination, create the setting as well as the stage directions for this scene.

*Answers will vary.*



6. All the conspirators stab Caesar, as does Brutus. What is Caesar's anagnorisis comment after Brutus stabs him and what does it say about Caesar's perception of friendship?

*Caesar says, "Et tu, Brute?" (And you, too, Brutus?) This line indicates that Caesar cannot believe his good friend would also be involved in this conspiracy. This seems to be very hard for Caesar to accept.*

7. After stabbing Caesar, the conspirators prepare for an attack from Caesar's friends. What does Brutus say about death?

*Brutus knows everyone must die, it is just a question of where and when: "Fates, we will know your pleasures:/That we shall die, we know; 't is but the time,..." This statement also supports one of the major themes in this play, showing that Brutus believes Fate has complete control over life.*

8. What does Brutus suggest the conspirators do before going to the marketplace? Why?

*Brutus suggests they bathe themselves in Caesar's blood. This act will mark them as conspirators who are proud, not ashamed, of what they have done.*

9. Explain Antony's message to Brutus.

*Antony declares his respect for both Brutus and Caesar: "...Say I love Brutus and I honour him;/Say I fear'd Caesar, honour'd him and loved him." Antony then asks for permission to speak with Brutus about Caesar's death. If Brutus agrees to this, Antony agrees to support him:*

*"If Brutus will vouchsafe that Antony  
May safely come to him and be resolved  
How Caesar hath deserved to lie in death,  
Mark Antony shall not love Caesar dead  
So well as Brutus living, but will follow  
The fortunes and affairs of noble Brutus  
...with all true faith."*

10. Antony thinks Brutus' group is conspiring to kill others. What is Antony's comment to Brutus? What does this comment say about Antony's character?

*Antony, believing he may be the next to be murdered says:*

*"I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,  
Who else must be let blood, who else is rank:  
If I myself, there is no hour so fit  
As Caesar's death's hour, nor no instrument  
Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich  
With the most noble blood of all this world."*

*This quote shows Antony's respect for Caesar. Antony feels so strongly about Caesar, that to die within an hour, or during the day of his death, Antony will consider it an honor.*

11. Why does Antony not seem angry with Caesar's murderers?

*Antony can be a shrewd manipulator who knows it profits him little to show anger.*

12. Brutus explains the reason for Caesar's murder. What is the reason he gives Antony?

*Brutus explains that pity is the reason for killing Caesar.*

13. Antony shakes the bloody hands of each murderer, declaring peace among them. Immediately following, Antony apostrophizes to Caesar. Define the literary term "apostrophe" in addition to explaining why you think Antony apologizes to Caesar.

*Answers will vary. Antony had a strong connection with Caesar and cared for him very much. Befriending the murderers is disrespectful to Caesar; but being that the conspirators are so powerful, at this point in the play, it is a good strategy for Antony to declare peace with them. This part of the scene is a good example of Antony's manipulative nature.*

14. "How like a deer stricken by many princes  
Dost thou here lie!"

What literary term does this quote represent?

*This quote is an example of a simile.*

15. Antony requests to present Caesar's body to the public and speak at the funeral. Cassius is leery to grant Antony's request because he knows: "...how much the people may be moved/By that which he will utter..." Cassius expresses this concern to Brutus. What is Brutus' plan?

*Brutus decides he will speak to the public first, explaining, in his own words, "...the reason of our Caesar's death...", thus winning the approval of the crowd. Then, he will let Antony speak.*

16. What conditions are placed on Antony if he is to speak at Caesar's funeral?

*Antony is allowed to speak at Caesar's funeral if he agrees to speak after Brutus; Antony is not allowed to blame the conspirators, but must speak all the good he can about Caesar. Antony is also told that he must tell the audience that he has been given permission to speak.*

17. After all the rest exit, Antony reveals his true intentions in his famous soliloquy. What are his intentions?

*Antony plans to incite a civil war and get revenge on the murderers of Caesar.*

18. Within Antony's soliloquy, there is terrific imagery. Find the passage, quote it, and then describe how you view Antony after this speech.

*The quote should be identified properly, otherwise, answers will vary.*

*"...Blood and destruction shall be so in use,  
And dreadful objects so familiar,  
That mothers shall but smile when they behold  
Their infants quarter'd with the hands of war;  
All pity choked with custom of fell deeds:  
And Caesar's spirit ranging for revenge,  
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,  
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice  
Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war;  
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth  
With carrion men, groaning for burial."*

19. What message does Antony want Octavius' servant to take to Octavius?

*Antony wants Octavius to delay his journey to Rome. He also wants the servant to observe how the Roman people respond to his oratory for Caesar and let Octavius know the mood of the population: "...Here is a mourning Rome, a dangerous Rome,/No Rome of safety for Octavius yet..."*

## Act III, Scene II – *The Forum.*

### Vocabulary

censure – evaluate, criticize

extenuated – depreciated, devalued

reverence – worship, adoration

mantle – cloak

rent – slash, wound

dint – impression, stamp

vesture – attire, apparel

forms – seats

1. What is Brutus' reasoning for murdering Caesar?

*Brutus answers the public by stating: "Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more."*

2. Find the anaphora within Brutus' speech to the Romans.

*"If any, speak; for him have I offended." This is repeated three times throughout Brutus' short speech.*

3. The last line of Brutus' speech says:

*"With this I depart, – that, as I slew my best lover for the good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country to need my death."*

Put this quote into modern speech, then explain whether you believe Brutus to be genuine or if he is trying to be manipulative over his fellow Romans.

*Answers may vary, but should interpret the lines correctly.*

*"With this being said, I'll confess – I murdered my best friend for Rome; the same knife can be used for myself, when the country decides it is my time to die."*

4. What is the crowd's reaction to Brutus' speech? How is their reaction ironic?

*The Romans are in agreement with Brutus. In fact, they speak of making him the new Caesar. This is ironic because the Romans do not seem to understand that Brutus protected Rome from a dictator by killing Caesar – they do not want another Caesar.*

5. What anaphora about Brutus in Antony's oration is repeated so frequently that its meaning becomes ironic?

*"Brutus is an honorable man."*

6. What does Antony claim to have?

*Antony claims to have Caesar's will.*

7. How does Antony describe the stab wound Brutus gave?

*Antony describes the wound Brutus inflicted as "...the most unkindest cut of all..." because it came from a close friend.*

8. At the end of his monologue, Antony claims to lack what talent?

*Antony claims to have no talent as a speaker. In many instances throughout this play, language is used to deceive and misinform. Antony is obviously a talented speaker.*

9. What do the reactions of the mob indicate?

*The Roman mob can be described as fickle and ready to go along with the most persuasive speaker.*

10. According to Antony, what does Caesar's will read?

*Every Roman is to receive seventy-five drachmas, all of Caesar's parks and gardens, his arbors and orchards.*

11. A servant enters to tell Antony of Octavius' arrival in the city. What other piece of information does the servant give Antony?

*The servant tells Antony that Brutus and Cassius have fled through the gates of Rome.*

12. Try to predict what Brutus and Cassius are up to based on your knowledge of each character.

*Answers will vary.*

### Act III, Scene III – A street.

#### Vocabulary

no vocabulary

1. Why is Cinna, the poet, killed by the mob?

*At first Cinna is mistaken for Cinna the conspirator, and for this he would have been killed. Finding out that he is Cinna, the poet, he is then killed for his “bad verses.” The mob needs no excuse.*

### Act IV, Scene I – A house in Rome.

#### Vocabulary

proscription – doom

perils – dangers, risks

1. How does Antony show himself to be ruthless in this scene?

*Not only does Antony easily mark people close to him for death, but he also uses Lepidus to do the killing while, at the same time, planning to cheat him out of the rewards.*

2. Why do you suppose Octavius assents to Antony’s suggestion regarding Lepidus?

*Octavius seems to be a wily person himself, possibly planning his own strategy.*

3. In what unfavorable terms does Antony describe Lepidus, and what do these lines reveal about Antony and Octavius’ plan?

*Lepidus is described as “a slight unmeritable man,” fit only to be sent on errands. It is apparent that Antony and Octavius are after power.*

4. What are Brutus and Cassius up to?

*Brutus and Cassius are getting an army together.*

5. What does Antony suggest in response to Brutus and Cassius’ actions?

*Antony suggests he and Octavius combine their alliances and retaliate against Brutus and Cassius.*

## Act IV, Scene II – *Camp near Sardis: Before Brutus's Tent*

### Vocabulary

**hollow** – devious, deceitful

**charges** – soldiers

1. Who is Brutus speaking of when he says, “Thou hast described a hot friend cooling”?

*Brutus is speaking of Cassius.*

2. Why does Brutus suggest that he and Cassius hold their discussion inside the tent?

*If the disagreement is observed by the troops, they may be demoralized if they witness their leaders fighting amongst themselves.*

## Act IV, Scene III – Brutus's Tent.

### Vocabulary

noted – dishonored

nice – trivial

mart – trade; deal

choler – wrath, fury, rage

waspish – grumpy, cross, edgy

vaunting – boasting

indirection – dishonesty; falsehood

covetous – greedy

infirmities – inner weaknesses

rote – by memory

scope – intent, purpose

vilely – carelessly, inadequately

cynic – uncultured man

offense – harm, detriment

ripe – developed, ready

omitted – ignored, disregarded

niggard – be stingy

mace – staff, rod

1. For what reason does Brutus claim that Cassius is often condemned by the people?

*Cassius is accused of having an “itching palm”, he is greedy and will take bribes and sell state offices.*

2. Why is Brutus so outraged at official corruption?

*Brutus did not kill his good friend Caesar so others can make dirty profits.*

3. How does Cassius try to intimidate Brutus?

*Cassius tries threats, saying he is an older, better soldier and suggests that he may fly into a rage if Brutus does not respect him.*

4. What is Brutus' response?

*In effect, Brutus scoffs saying Cassius is full of words.*

5. When speaking of honesty, why does Brutus sound like he lacks modesty?

*While it may be fit for others to speak of how honest another person is, it is somewhat immodest of a man to boast of his own honesty.*



6. Brutus says that he is too honest to get money to pay his soldiers by dishonest means; he goes to Cassius, but Cassius denies the funds. If Brutus knows Cassius gets money dishonestly, how can honest Brutus ask him for it?

*It appears that Brutus is not practical enough to do what must be done to pay his soldiers, but is realistic enough to ask Cassius for his ill-gotten money.*

7. What is the point and tone of Cassius' speech in response to Brutus?

*Cassius sounds as if he is feeling sorry for himself because Brutus is treating him in a very unfriendly way.*

8. Do you think Cassius' speech is sincere? Why or why not?

*Answers will vary.*

9. In his speech, Cassius makes an allusion to Pluto. Who is Pluto and how does this allusion fit into Cassius' speech?

*Pluto is the Roman god of the underworld, however, this does not fit very well in the context of the passage. Further research shows that the reference to Pluto may have been a mistake because in later editions, Pluto has been changed to Plutus, who is the Roman god of riches. "Dearer" is used to mean, "having more value," "Pluto's mine," (Plutus') refers to gold mines. Cassius is trying to prove that he has "...a heart...richer than gold..."*

10. After the poet interrupts and speaks of "Love and be friends," what is a cause for Brutus' grief?

*Portia has committed suicide.*

11. How does Portia choose to take her life?

*Brutus says Portia, "...swallow'd fire." Portia put hot coals in her mouth until she choked.*

12. Messala comes to speak with Brutus and Cassius. Messala and Brutus have both received letters about Octavius and Mark Antony's course of action. What is Messala referring to when he says, "That, methinks, is strange"?

*Messala asks if Brutus' letters include any news about Portia. Brutus answers, "Nothing." Messala, believes this to be odd and proceeds to tell Brutus of Portia's death. Brutus does not let on that he knows about the suicide.*

13. What is the difference between Brutus and Cassius' plans for engaging the armies of Antony and Octavius?

*Cassius wants the enemy to come to them. This way, the enemy soldiers will be tired while their own soldiers will be well rested. Brutus, however, wants to go to the enemy to prevent them from picking up more soldiers along the way.*

14. Brutus says that "There is a tide in the affairs of men..." What does he mean by this?

*Brutus means that there is a time that is right to take action; if that moment is missed, it is gone forever.*

15. Brutus treats his followers (Lucius, Varro, and Claudius specifically) with kindness and respect. What theme can this element of the play support?

*This element of Brutus' personality suggests a conflict between his public and private self. Publicly, Brutus is viewed as a powerful man, capable of brutal actions – having taken severe action against his close friend, Caesar, Brutus is capable of anything. Privately, however, Brutus is kind, caring and forgiving, which contradicts with his public reputation.*

16. Brutus sits down to read while Lucius plays soothing music. What "monstrous apparition" does Brutus see and what message does it bring?

*Brutus sees the ghost of Caesar and the ghost says it will see Brutus again on the field at Philippi, where the battle is taking place.*

## Act V, Scene I – *The Plains of Philippi*

### Vocabulary

cross – challenge, oppose

exigent – crisis

parley – a meeting

reveller – one who parties

consorted – ushered, escorted

1. What does Antony think is the reason for Brutus and Cassius' armies having confronted them face-to-face?

*Antony believes Brutus and Cassius are trying to be intimidating by making a show of bravery.*

2. What is Octavius' response when Antony orders him to take the left side of the field? Why do you suppose he does this?

*Octavius says he will take the right side instead. It appears that Octavius is showing he is more powerful than Antony. Octavius assures Antony: "I do not cross you; but I will do so." This, meaning, Octavius will always get his way.*

3. What does Cassius remark about Antony?

*If Brutus had listened to Cassius, Antony would not be alive today: "Now, Brutus, thank yourself:/This tongue had not offended so to-day,/If Cassius might have ruled."*

4. What do the ravens and crows flying overhead mean to Cassius?

*Cassius interprets them as bad omens for his side: "...their shadows seem/A canopy most fatal, under which/Our army lies,..."*

5. What does Brutus say he finds "cowardly and vile"?

*Brutus believes that committing suicide is wrong.*

6. Brutus says he "bears too great a mind" to allow something to happen. What does he mean by this?

*Brutus will not allow himself to be captured alive and led through the streets of Rome as a captive.*

7. Why do Brutus and Cassius give each other an everlasting farewell?

*The two men swear their friendship in case they do not survive the battle.*

## Act V, Scene II – *The field of battle.*

### Vocabulary

no vocabulary

1. What message is Messala ordered to take to “the legions on the other side”?

*Brutus is ready to charge Octavius’ forces.*

## Act V, Scene III – *Another part of the field.*

### Vocabulary

disconsolate – sad

1. According to Titinius, why is Cassius’ side losing to Antony’s forces?

*Brutus attacked Octavius prematurely, thus allowing Antony to encircle Cassius’ forces.*

2. How does Cassius die? Why?

*Cassius has Pindarus kill him because he believes Titinius, a close friend, has been killed, thus the battle is lost.*

3. It turns out that Cassius killed himself prematurely. Why?

*Titinius is still alive and Brutus’ forces have almost defeated the army of Octavius.*

## Act V, Scene IV – *Another part of the field.*

### Vocabulary

no vocabulary

1. Who impersonates Brutus? Why?

*Lucilius impersonates Brutus. The reason for the impersonation may be debated, but the effect is that it saves Lucilius’ life.*

## Act V, Scene V – *Another part of the field.*

### Vocabulary

pit – vault, crypt

smatch – touch, hint

1. What do Clitus, Dardinius, and Volumnius refuse to do for Brutus that Strato does for him?

*All of the men refuse to hold the sword that Brutus will fall on.*

2. As he dies, why does Brutus say, “Caesar, now be still”?

*Ever since Caesar’s death, Brutus has felt that the spirit of Julius Caesar walked the land. Now, Caesar’s spirit may rest. Some critics maintain that although Caesar is killed relatively early in the play, his spirit dominates the entire play. For this reason, they claim that this is still Caesar’s drama.*

3. How do Antony and Octavius treat Brutus’ body?

*Brutus’ body is treated with great respect because Antony and Octavius believe that of all the conspirators, Brutus is the only one who acted for the good of Rome and not for his own selfish ends.*

4. Many critics argue that Caesar is the tragic hero of this play, others argue that Brutus is. Do you think Caesar or Brutus is the tragic hero? Either way, be sure to include the tragic flaw of the character – that which causes his downfall.

*Caesar’s tragic flaw may be that he views himself as invincible – he does not believe any harm can come to him. His first mistake is when he disregards his wife’s nightmares, then the omens seen all over the land. It is Caesar’s confidence that leads him to the capitol building that day, seats in front of the public, and makes him vulnerable, allowing the conspirators to make their brutal attack, killing the once invincible Roman leader.*

*Brutus’ tragic flaw may be his own guilt. At the end of the play, dying Brutus says, “Caesar, now be still” showing that Brutus has been living with guilt after killing his dear friend. Considering the battle was lost, Brutus sees no reason to stay alive to live with the defeat and the guilt of Caesar’s death.*

5. Identify the play’s exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

*Exposition – Caesar’s victory over Pompey.*

*Rising Action – Brutus’ involvement in the conspiracy.*

*Climax – Antony’s speech at Caesar’s funeral. The appearance of Caesar’s ghost.*

*Falling Action – When Brutus realizes he was wrong for killing Caesar. When Brutus and Cassius are defeated, they both realize their fortune has changed.*

*Resolution – Brutus’ death – puts Caesar to rest.*

# *Julius Caesar*

## Study Guide Student Copy

### Act I, Scene I – *Rome. A Street.*

#### Vocabulary

**cobbler** – a clumsy worker

**knave** – one who is of low-status, unskilled

**beseech** – to advise

**neats-leather** – cowhide

**cull** – to choose

**exalted** – elevated

**servile** – subservient, menial

1. At the very start of the scene, Flavius is yelling to the commoners. Put Flavius' first five lines into modern speech.
2. Puns and word play are a popular part of Shakespeare's plays. Identify and explain the puns the cobbler uses.
3. Flavius asks why the cobbler is out of his shop. What is the cobbler's response?
4. How do the Tribunes, Marullus and Flavius, react to this word play?

5. Why do the Tribunes chase the commoners away, and for what does Marullus reprimand them?
6. What literary term is illustrated by the following quote:  
    “And do you now put on your best attire?  
    And do you now cull out a holiday?  
    And do you now strew flowers in his way...”?
7. What does Flavius suggest to the commoners?
8. What are Flavius and Marullus planning to do?
9. Marullus mentions Lupercal. What literary term does this demonstrate? Do some research about Lupercal and explain its importance.
10. Why do Marullus and Flavius seem to fear Caesar?

## Act I, Scene II – A *public place*.

### Vocabulary

barren – sterile, unable to give birth

press – crowd, audience

throng – large group, crowd

gamesome – athletic

veil'd – covered, disguised

countenance – face

vexed – troubled, worried

cogitations – contemplations

lamented – mourned, grieved

shadow – figure, likeness

jealous on – suspicious of

rout – crowd, population

indifferently – objectively, fairly

speed – to assist; to benefit

lief – rather

accoutred – fully dressed

buffet – conquer

sinews – muscles

ere – before

bestride – walk, pace

aim – hint

chew – think, ponder

repute – consider

ferret – referring to having red eyes

fain – happily, eagerly

loath – reluctant, opposed

rabblement – crowd, mob

swounded – fainted, passed out

doublet – an article of men's clothing

rogues – scoundrel, villain

infirmity – illness, disease

mettle – tempered

1. What does Caesar say to Antony in front of everyone? What does this say about Caesar's character? What does Antony's response reveal?



2. What is the soothsayer's warning to Caesar? What does it mean?
3. When they are alone, of what does Cassius accuse Brutus? What is Brutus' response?
4. What point is Cassius making when he asks Brutus: "...can you see your face?" What does Cassius propose to do?
5. What fear does Brutus note?
6. How does Brutus explain this fear? What literary term can be used to describe Brutus' way of thinking? Identify and define the term.
7. According to Cassius, what happened when Caesar and Cassius went swimming in the Tiber? What is the point of this story?
8. Why does Cassius refer to Caesar as "a sick girl"? How would you describe Cassius at this point?
9. What does Cassius say about fate, free will, and being "underlings"?

10. After delaying an answer, what is Brutus' conclusion about his own feelings on freedom?
11. What does Caesar say to Antony about Cassius? What is Antony's response?
12. What does Caesar's response about fear show about him?
13. According to Casca, what does Antony offer Caesar three times? What is Caesar's response?
14. What is noticeably different about Casca's dialogue in comparison with Caesar or Brutus'?
15. Casca describes the scene in which Caesar refuses the crown. How does the crowd respond after Caesar's third refusal? What happens to Caesar?
16. What two physical ailments of Caesar's are mentioned in this scene?

17. What does Caesar say when he comes to?
18. In response to the “falling sickness,” what is the meaning of Cassius’ sarcasm?
19. What happens to Marullus and Flavius? Why?
20. What action will Cassius take to get Brutus to join the conspirators against Caesar?
21. After Brutus leaves, how is Cassius brutally honest with himself and the audience?  
What is your opinion of Cassius?

## Act I, Scene III – *A street.*

### Vocabulary

tempests – fierce storms

rived – separated, split, severed

exalted – raised

incenses – encouraging, provoking

glazed – stared, glared

perilous – risky, dangerous

unbracèd – unbuttoned

bared – stripped down to

heralds – messages

ordinance – customary order, expected order

yoke – bondage, domination

offal – rubbish, garbage

fleering – groveling, crawling

faction – group, party, band

redress – solution, remedy

gait – style of walking

praetor's – chief magistrate's

alchemy – the art of producing gold

conceited – understood

1. As Cicero and Casca meet, Casca explains why he travels in fear with his sword drawn. What does Casca say he has seen before and what has he seen that night? Why do the sights he has seen frighten him so much?
2. There are four specific things Casca has seen. What are they? How does Casca interpret these strange happenings?
3. What is Cassius' interpretation of the night's strange events that he reveals to Casca?

4. On whom does Cassius blame Caesar's power?
5. What theme does the following quote support?  
    "...so every bondman in his own hand bears  
    The power to cancel his captivity."
6. Cassius describes Caesar as a wolf and a lion, as well as describing the Romans as sheep. What literary term is illustrated here?
7. What does Cassius think of Rome if Caesar is to become ruler?
8. Why does Casca say he is no "fleering tell-tale"?
9. Why is it important to the conspirators to have Brutus come in with them?

## Act II, Scene I – *Rome. Brutus's Orchard.*

### Vocabulary

taper – candle

general – common good

adder – poisonous snake

proof – fact

augmented – multiplied, expanded

exhalations – meteors

whet – urge, provoke

interim – gaps, lulls

phantasma – a dream

Genius – soul

insurrection – revolt, revolution, civil disobedience

moe – more

favour – feature

visage – face

affability – generosity, compassion

semblance – appearance, manner

prick – prompt, encourage

palter – hesitate, quibble

cautelous – dishonest, insincere

carrions – corpses; mild curse

insuppressive – prompting, instigating, encouraging

bastardy – bastards, born illegitimately

contriver – schemer

envy – malevolence

hew – hack; chop

ingrafted – faithful

augurers – soothsayers, prophets

uttermost – latest

wafture – wave

contagion – plague, affliction, ailment

rheumy – causing rheumatism

unpurged – foul, contaminated

charactery – writing

1. Why does Brutus believe that Caesar must be stopped from becoming king? Do you think Brutus' fear of what Caesar may become is justified?

2. Interpret these lines by rewriting them using modern speech:

“But ’t is a common proof,  
That lowliness is young ambition’s ladder,  
Whereto the climber-upward turns his face;  
But when he once attains the upmost round,  
He then unto the ladder turns his back,  
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees  
By which he did ascend: so Caesar may;  
Then, lest he may, prevent.”
3. Brutus receives the messages planted by Cassius, and seems inclined to take action to stop Caesar. What does Brutus tell the audience about his mental and emotional state at this point?
4. The letters Cassius writes become a tool that helps in supporting a major theme of the play. What is the literary term for such a tool?
5. If the letters from Cassius to Brutus are a motif supporting a major theme, what do you think the theme is? Use specific examples from the play (up to this point) to support your answer.
6. What does Cassius suggest the conspirators do that Brutus disagrees with?

7. Cassius recognizes that Antony should die too, but Brutus vetoes this. Why?
8. As the conspirators are meeting, a clock strikes. What literary term is illustrated by including a clock in this scene?
9. There is some concern that Caesar, having grown superstitious lately, may not leave his house the following day. How does Decius say he can manipulate Caesar? What does this say of Caesar's personality?
10. What is Brutus' answer when Portia asks why he has been behaving strangely lately? What is her response to this?
11. To sway Brutus, what action does Portia take to get him to trust her enough to confide in her?
12. What is your opinion of Brutus at the end of this scene?



## Act II, Scene II – *Caesar's house.*

### Vocabulary

success – what occurred

ague – fever, illness

yearns – aches, suffers

1. What does Calpurnia cry out in her sleep? How is this a significant element of the play? What literary device is being used here?
  
2. What does Calpurnia believe that proves her point that the evening's strange events relate to Caesar alone, not the world in general?
  
3. In response to Calpurnia's fears, Caesar says:  
    "Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
    It seems to me most strange that men should fear;  
    Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
    Will come when it will come."

Rewrite this passage in modern language. What does this passage say about Caesar?  
What is your opinion of Caesar?

4. If Caesar is so confident and does not fear dying, why do you think he calls for the priests to bring their opinions about the omens?

5. The priests, “augurers,” offer an animal to the gods. What about the examination suggests that Caesar should not leave his house?
6. What is Decius’ interpretation of Calpurnia’s bloody dream?
7. What, according to Decius, might some of the senators conclude if Caesar refuses to come to the capitol?
8. Caesar, against his wife’s warnings, decides to go to the capitol that day. What themes can be identified in this scene?
9. Where is the irony in Caesar’s perception of all those who come to his house?

## Act II, Scene III – *A street near the Capitol.*

### Vocabulary

contrive – devise, concoct

1. Why is Artemidorus waiting for Caesar?
2. What important characteristic about Julius Caesar is learned in this scene?
3. Two themes are dealt with in this very short scene. Identify each theme and give a brief explanation.

## Act II, Scene IV – *Another part of the same street, before the house of Brutus.*

### Vocabulary

rumour – noise

fray – vicious fight or brawl

1. What order does Portia give Lucius? Why is she so unsettled?
2. In this scene, how is Portia different from her previous scene? How then, is Shakespeare choosing to portray women?

**Act III, Scene I – *Rome. Before the Capitol – The Senate sitting above.***

**Vocabulary**

**sirrah** – sir

**puissant** – powerful

**couchings** – bows

**children** – childlike ways

**fond** – unwise, witless

**cur** – dog

**apprehensive** – ruled by imagination

**bootless** – in vain

**knot** – group

**rank** – infected, ailing

**modesty** – control, self-restraint

**oration** – speech

1. Why does Caesar say he will not read Artemidorus' letter first?
2. What does Popilius Lena say to Cassius?
3. What does Trebonius do while Popilius Lena speaks with Caesar?
4. In response to Cimber's request to lift his brother's banishment, what posture does Caesar resume?
5. All the conspirators gather to perform their plan. Using your imagination, create the setting as well as the stage directions for this scene.

6. All the conspirators stab Caesar, as does Brutus. What is Caesar's anagnorisis comment after Brutus stabs him and what does it say about Caesar's perception of friendship?
7. After stabbing Caesar, the conspirators prepare for an attack from Caesar's friends. What does Brutus say about death?
8. What does Brutus suggest the conspirators do before going to the marketplace? Why?
9. Explain Antony's message to Brutus.
10. Antony thinks Brutus' group is conspiring to kill others. What is Antony's comment to Brutus? What does this comment say about Antony's character?
11. Why does Antony not seem angry with Caesar's murderers?
12. Brutus explains the reason for Caesar's murder. What is the reason he gives Antony?
13. Antony shakes the bloody hands of each murderer, declaring peace among them. Immediately following, Antony apostrophizes to Caesar. Define the literary term "apostrophe" in addition to explaining why you think Antony apologizes to Caesar.

14. “How like a deer stricken by many princes  
Dost thou here lie!”

What literary term does this quote represent?

15. Antony requests to present Caesar’s body to the public and speak at the funeral. Cassius is leery to grant Antony’s request because he knows: “...how much the people may be moved/By that which he will utter...” Cassius expresses this concern to Brutus. What is Brutus’ plan?
16. What conditions are placed on Antony if he is to speak at Caesar’s funeral?
17. After all the rest exit, Antony reveals his true intentions in his famous soliloquy. What are his intentions?
18. Within Antony’s soliloquy, there is terrific imagery. Find the passage, quote it, and then describe how you view Antony after this speech.
19. What message does Antony want Octavius’ servant to take to Octavius?

## Act III, Scene II – *The Forum*.

### Vocabulary

**censure** – evaluate, criticize

**extenuated** – depreciated, devalued

**reverence** – worship, adoration

**mantle** – cloak

**rent** – slash, wound

**dint** – impression, stamp

**vesture** – attire, apparel

**forms** – seats

1. What is Brutus' reasoning for murdering Caesar?
2. Find the anaphora within Brutus' speech to the Romans.
3. The last line of Brutus' speech says:  
  
"With this I depart, – that, as I slew my best lover for the good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country to need my death."  
  
Put this quote into modern speech, then explain whether you believe Brutus to be genuine or if he is trying to be manipulative over his fellow Romans.
4. What is the crowd's reaction to Brutus' speech? How is their reaction ironic?
5. What anaphora about Brutus in Antony's oration is repeated so frequently that its meaning becomes ironic?

6. What does Antony claim to have?
7. How does Antony describe the stab wound Brutus gave?
8. At the end of his monologue, Antony claims to lack what talent?
9. What do the reactions of the mob indicate?
10. According to Antony, what does Caesar's will read?
11. A servant enters to tell Antony of Octavius' arrival in the city. What other piece of information does the servant give Antony?
12. Try to predict what Brutus and Cassius are up to based on your knowledge of each character.



**Act III, Scene III – *A street.***

**Vocabulary**

no vocabulary

1. Why is Cinna, the poet, killed by the mob?

**Act IV, Scene I – *A house in Rome.***

**Vocabulary**

proscription – doom

perils – dangers, risks

1. How does Antony show himself to be ruthless in this scene?
2. Why do you suppose Octavius assents to Antony's suggestion regarding Lepidus?
3. In what unfavorable terms does Antony describe Lepidus, and what do these lines reveal about Antony and Octavius' plan?
4. What are Brutus and Cassius up to?
5. What does Antony suggest in response to Brutus and Cassius' actions?

## Act IV, Scene II – *Camp near Sardis: Before Brutus's Tent*

### Vocabulary

**hollow** – devious, deceitful

**charges** – soldiers

1. Who is Brutus speaking of when he says, “Thou hast described a hot friend cooling”?
2. Why does Brutus suggest that he and Cassius hold their discussion inside the tent?

## Act IV, Scene III – *Brutus's Tent.*

### Vocabulary

noted – dishonored

nice – trivial

mart – trade; deal

choler – wrath, fury, rage

waspish – grumpy, cross, edgy

vaunting – boasting

indirection – dishonesty; falsehood

covetous – greedy

infirmities – inner weaknesses

rote – by memory

scope – intent, purpose

vilely – carelessly, inadequately

cynic – uncultured man

offense – harm, detriment

ripe – developed, ready

omitted – ignored, disregarded

niggard – be stingy

mace – staff, rod

1. For what reason does Brutus claim that Cassius is often condemned by the people?
2. Why is Brutus so outraged at official corruption?
3. How does Cassius try to intimidate Brutus?
4. What is Brutus' response?

5. When speaking of honesty, why does Brutus sound like he lacks modesty?
6. Brutus says that he is too honest to get money to pay his soldiers by dishonest means; he goes to Cassius, but Cassius denies the funds. If Brutus knows Cassius gets money dishonestly, how can honest Brutus ask him for it?
7. What is the point and tone of Cassius' speech in response to Brutus?
8. Do you think Cassius' speech is sincere? Why or why not?
9. In his speech, Cassius makes an allusion to Pluto. Who is Pluto and how does this allusion fit into Cassius' speech?
10. After the poet interrupts and speaks of "Love and be friends," what is a cause for Brutus' grief?

11. How does Portia choose to take her life?
12. Messala comes to speak with Brutus and Cassius. Messala and Brutus have both received letters about Octavius and Mark Antony's course of action. What is Messala referring to when he says, "That, methinks, is strange"?
13. What is the difference between Brutus and Cassius' plans for engaging the armies of Antony and Octavius?
14. Brutus says that "There is a tide in the affairs of men..." What does he mean by this?
15. Brutus treats his followers (Lucius, Varro, and Claudius specifically) with kindness and respect. What theme can this element of the play support?
16. Brutus sits down to read while Lucius plays soothing music. What "monstrous apparition" does Brutus see and what message does it bring?

## Act V, Scene I – *The Plains of Philippi*

### Vocabulary

cross – challenge, oppose

exigent – crisis

parley – a meeting

reveller – one who parties

consorted – ushered, escorted

1. What does Antony think is the reason for Brutus and Cassius' armies having confronted them face-to-face?
2. What is Octavius' response when Antony orders him to take the left side of the field? Why do you suppose he does this?
3. What does Cassius remark about Antony?
4. What do the ravens and crows flying overhead mean to Cassius?
5. What does Brutus say he finds "cowardly and vile"?
6. Brutus says he "bears too great a mind" to allow something to happen. What does he mean by this?
7. Why do Brutus and Cassius give each other an everlasting farewell?

## Act V, Scene II – *The field of battle.*

### Vocabulary

no vocabulary

1. What message is Messala ordered to take to “the legions on the other side”?

## Act V, Scene III – *Another part of the field.*

### Vocabulary

disconsolate – sad

1. According to Titinius, why is Cassius’ side losing to Antony’s forces?
2. How does Cassius die? Why?
3. It turns out that Cassius killed himself prematurely. Why?

## Act V, Scene IV – *Another part of the field.*

### Vocabulary

no vocabulary

1. Who impersonates Brutus? Why?

Act V, Scene V – *Another part of the field.*

## Vocabulary

pit – vault, crypt

**smatch** – touch, hint

1. What do Clitus, Dardinius, and Volumnius refuse to do for Brutus that Strato does for him?
2. As he dies, why does Brutus say, “Caesar, now be still”?
3. How do Antony and Octavius treat Brutus’ body?
4. Many critics argue that Caesar is the tragic hero of this play, others argue that Brutus is. Do you think Caesar or Brutus is the tragic hero? Either way, be sure to include the tragic flaw of the character – that which causes his downfall.
5. Identify the play’s exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.



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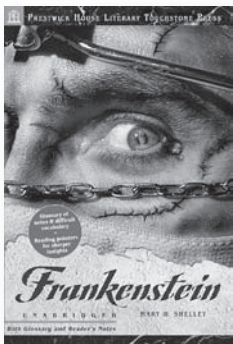
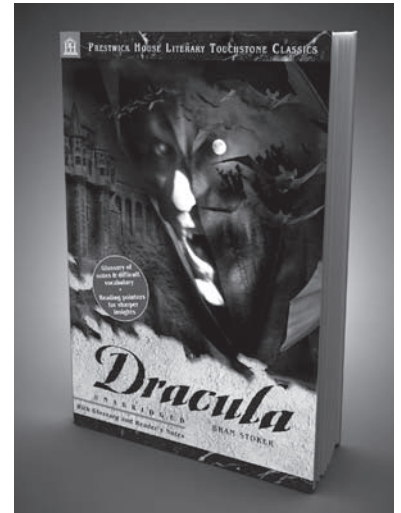
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