



## D.2 Julius Caesar

*by William Shakespeare*

1. Consult a dictionary and find out the difference between

- a) a killing
- b) an assassination

2. Many popular and powerful leaders have been assassinated in the past and in recent times. Can you name some of them?

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

3. Discuss in groups, the reasons why the leaders you named in (2) have been assassinated. Is assassination the end to a problem?

**Have a group discussion on the topic in the context of past/ present day political assassinations.**

### **Introduction:**

JULIUS CAESAR is the story of a man's personal dilemma over moral action, set against the backdrop of strained political drama. Julius Caesar, an able general and a conqueror returns to Rome amidst immense popularity after defeating the sons of Pompey. The people celebrate his victorious return and Mark Antony offers him the crown which he refuses. Jealous of Caesar's growing power and afraid he may one day become a dictator, Cassius instigates a conspiracy to murder Caesar. He realises that to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the Romans, he must win over the noble Brutus to his side for Brutus is one of the most trusted and respected among all Romans.

Brutus, the idealist, joins the conspiracy feeling that everyone is driven by motives as honourable as his own. Ironically, Caesar is murdered at the foot of Pompey's statue.

### Some Important Characters

Julius Caesar- The greatest and most powerful of the Romans. Assassinated by Brutus, Cassius and a band of conspirators who feel Caesar is very ambitious and wants the crown.

Calpurnia- Caesar's wife

Mark Antony- Caesar's most loyal friend

Marcus Brutus- Caesar's great friend who joins the conspiracy because of his great love for Rome and for the principle of democracy.

Cassius- Instigator and organizer of the conspiracy

Decius Brutus- Co-conspirator in Caesar's assassination

4. **The play Julius Caesar can be performed on the stage. The first step would be a reading of the play as a whole class. Your teacher will then have an audition and assign you roles. Later the play can be put up on the stage.**

**Given below are some suggestions and sites which may be visited for instructions regarding set-design, costumes and direction.**

<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/>

<http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/theatre.htm>

<http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/xGlobe.html>

<http://www.shakespearetheatre.org/plays/details.aspx?id=115>

<http://www.zunal.com/process.php?w=56091>

### Act II Scene II

#### Caesar's house.

*Thunder and lightning. Enter CAESAR in his night-gown*

**CAESAR** Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night:

Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out,

'Help, ho! they murder Caesar!' Who's within?

*Enter a servant*

**SERVANT** My lord?

**CAESAR** Go bid the priest to present sacrifice and bring me their opinions of success.

**SERVANT** I will, my lord

*Enter CALPURNIA*

**CALPURNIA**

What mean you, Caesar? Think you to walk forth?

You shall not stir out of your house to-day.

**CAESAR** Caesar shall forth: the things that threaten'd me

Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see

The face of Caesar, they are vanished.

**CALPURNIA** Caesar, I never **stood on ceremonies**<sup>1</sup>,

Yet now they fright me. There is one within,

Besides the things that we have heard and seen,

Recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch.

A lioness hath whelped in the streets;

And graves have yawn'd, and yielded up their dead;

Fierce fiery warriors fought upon the clouds,

In ranks and squadrons and **right form of war**<sup>2</sup>,

Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol;

The noise of battle **hurtled**<sup>3</sup> in the air,

Horses did neigh, and dying men did groan,

And ghosts did shriek and squeal about the streets.

O Caesar! these things are **beyond all use**<sup>4</sup>,

And I do fear them.

**CAESAR** What can be avoided

Whose end is purposed by the mighty gods?

Yet Caesar shall go forth; for these predictions



- 
- 1 **stood on ceremonies** - paid much attention to omens and forecasts
  - 2 **right form of war** - correct battle order
  - 3 **hurtled** - clashed
  - 4 **beyond all use** - most unnatural

Are to the world in general as to Caesar.

**CALPURNIA** When beggars die, there are no comets seen;  
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.

**CAESAR** Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
The valiant never taste of death but once.  
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard.

It seems to me most strange that men should fear;  
Seeing that death, a **necessary**<sup>5</sup> end,  
Will come when it will come.

*Re-enter Servant*

What say the augurers?

**SERVANT** They would not have you to stir forth to-day.  
Plucking the entrails of an offering forth,  
They could not find a heart within the beast.

**CAESAR** The gods do this in shame of cowardice:  
Caesar should be a beast without a heart,  
If he should stay at home to-day for fear.  
No, Caesar shall not: danger knows full well  
That Caesar is more dangerous than he:  
We are two lions litter'd in one day,  
And I the elder and more terrible:  
And Caesar shall go forth.

**CALPURNIA** Alas, my lord,  
Your wisdom is consumed in confidence.  
Do not go forth to-day: call it my fear  
That keeps you in the house, and not your own.  
We'll send Mark Antony to the senate-house:

And he shall say you are not well to-day:

Let me, upon my knee, prevail in this.

**CAESAR** Mark Antony shall say I am not well,

And, for thy humour, I will stay at home.

*Enter DECIUS BRUTUS*

Here's Decius Brutus, he shall tell them so.

**DECIUS BRUTUS** Caesar, all hail! good morrow, worthy Caesar:

I come to fetch you to the senate-house.

**CAESAR** And you are come **in very happy time**<sup>6</sup>,

To bear my greeting to the senators

And tell them that I will not come to-day:

Cannot, is false, and that I dare not, falser:

I will not come to-day: tell them so, Decius.

**CALPURNIA** Say he is sick.

**CAESAR** Shall Caesar send a lie?

Have I in conquest stretch'd mine arm so far,

To be afraid to tell **graybeards**<sup>7</sup> the truth?

Decius, go tell them Caesar will not come.

**DECIUS BRUTUS** Most mighty Caesar, let me know some cause,

Lest I be laugh'd at when I tell them so.

**CAESAR** Calpurnia here, my wife, stays me at home:

She dreamt to-night she saw my statue,

Which, like a fountain with an hundred spouts,

Did run pure blood: and many **lusty**<sup>8</sup> Romans

Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it:

And these does she apply for warnings, and portents,

And evils imminent; and on her knee

6 **in very happy time**- at the right moment

7 **graybeards**- old men (contemptuously dismissing the senators)

8 **lusty**- strong; vigorous

Hath begg'd that I will stay at home to-day.

**DECIUS BRUTUS** This dream is all amiss interpreted;

It was a vision fair and fortunate:

Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,

In which so many smiling Romans bathed,

Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck

Reviving **blood**<sup>9</sup>, and that **great men shall press**

**For tinctures, stains, relics and cognizance**<sup>10</sup>.

This by Calpurnia's dream is signified.

**CAESAR** And this way have you well expounded it.

**DECIUS BRUTUS** I have, when you have heard what I can say:

And know it now: the senate have concluded

To give this day a crown to mighty Caesar.

If you shall send them word you will not come,

Their minds may change.

**CAESAR** How foolish do your fears seem now, Calpurnia!

I am ashamed I did yield to them.

Give me my robe, for I will go.

*Enter PUBLIUS, BRUTUS, LIGARIUS, METELLUS, CASCA, TREBONIUS, and CINNA*

**CAESAR** Good friends, go in, and taste some wine with me;

And we, like friends, will straightway go together.

**BRUTUS** [Aside] **That every like is not the same, O Caesar,**

**The heart of Brutus yearns to think upon**<sup>11</sup>!

*Exeunt*

9 **blood**- In Decius' explanation the use of the term "blood" is metaphoric. It symbolizes Caesar's spirit or influence

10 **great men shall press... cognizance** - great men shall gather around Caesar and stain their handkerchiefs in his blood which will serve as colours added to a coat of arms, an object of reverence, mementos and a badge of service

11 **That every like is ... think upon**- Brutus's heart grieves when he thinks that being like a friend is not the same as being a friend

**Act III Scene I****Rome. Before the Capitol; the Senate sitting above.**

*Flourish. Enter CAESAR, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS BRUTUS, METELLUS CIMBER, TREBONIUS, CINNA, ANTONY, LEPIDUS, POPILIUS, PUBLIUS, and others*

**CAESAR** Are we all ready? What is now amiss

That Caesar and his senate must redress?

**METELLUS CIMBER** Most high, most mighty, and most **puissant**<sup>12</sup> Caesar,

Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat

An humble heart,--

*Kneeling***CAESAR** I must prevent thee, Cimber.These **couchings and these lowly courtesies**<sup>13</sup>

Might fire the blood of ordinary men,

And turn **pre-ordinance**<sup>14</sup> and **first decree**<sup>15</sup>

Into the law of children.

Thy brother by decree is banished:

If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him,

I spurn thee like a cur out of my way.

Know, Caesar doth not wrong, nor without cause

Will he be satisfied.

**METELLUS CIMBER** Is there no voice more worthy than my own

To sound more sweetly in great Caesar's ear

For the repealing of my banish'd brother?

**BRUTUS** I kiss thy hand, but not in flattery, Caesar;

Desiring thee that Publius Cimber may

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<sup>12</sup> **puissant**- powerful<sup>13</sup> **couchings and these lowly courtesies**- bowing and bending<sup>14</sup> **pre-ordinance**- order that has existed from earlier times<sup>15</sup> **first decree**- law passed earlier

Have an immediate freedom of repeal.

**CAESAR** What, Brutus!

**CASSIUS** Pardon, Caesar; Caesar, pardon:

As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall,

To beg enfranchisement for Publius Cimber.

**CAESAR** I could be well moved, if I were as you:

If I **could pray to move**<sup>16</sup>, prayers would move me:

But I am constant as the northern star,

Of whose true-fix'd and **resting**<sup>17</sup> quality

There is no fellow in the firmament.

I was constant Cimber should be banish'd,

And constant do remain to keep him so.

**CASCA** Speak, hands for me!

*CASCA first, then the other Conspirators and BRUTUS stab CAESAR*

**CAESAR** Et tu, **Brute**<sup>18</sup>! Then fall, Caesar.

*Dies*

**CINNA** Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead! Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets.

**CASSIUS** Some to the common pulpits, and cry out

'Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!'

**BRUTUS** But here comes Antony.

*Re-enter ANTONY*

Welcome, Mark Antony.

**ANTONY** O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?

Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, **spoils**<sup>19</sup>,

Shrunk to this **little measure**<sup>20</sup>? Fare thee well.

I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,

**16** **I could pray to move** - pray to others to change their minds.

**17** **resting** - permanent

**18** **Et tu, Brute** - even you, Brutus

**19** **spoils** - trophies of war

**20** **little measure** - small piece of ground on which your body lies



Who else must be let blood, who else is rank:  
 If I myself, there is no hour so fit  
 As Caesar's death hour, nor no instrument  
 Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich  
 With the most noble blood of all this world.  
 I do beseech ye, if you **bear me hard**<sup>21</sup>,  
 Now, whilst your purpled hands do **reek**<sup>22</sup> and smoke,  
 Fulfil your pleasure. Live a thousand years,  
 I shall not find myself so apt to die:  
 No place will please me so, no mean of death,  
 As here by Caesar, and by you cut off,  
 The choice and **master**<sup>23</sup> spirits of this age.

**BRUTUS** O Antony, beg not your death of us.  
 Though now we must appear bloody and cruel,  
 Yet see you but our hands  
 And this the bleeding business they have done:  
 Our hearts you see not; they are pitiful;  
 And pity to the general wrong of Rome--  
 As fire drives out fire, so pity pity--  
 Hath done this deed on Caesar. For your part,  
 To you our swords have leaden points, Mark Antony:  
 Our arms, **in strength of malice**<sup>24</sup>, and our hearts  
 Of brothers' temper, do receive you in  
 With all kind love, good thoughts, and reverence.  
**CASSIUS** Your voice shall be as strong as any man's  
 In the disposing of new **dignities**<sup>25</sup>.  
**ANTONY** I doubt not of your wisdom.

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21 **bear me hard** - bear a grudge against me

22 **reek** - stench

23 **master** - powerful

24 **in strength of malice** - which may appear to be hostile

25 **dignities** - honours

Let each man render me his bloody hand:  
Gentlemen all,--alas, what shall I say?  
My credit now stands on such slippery ground,  
That one of two bad ways you must **conceit**<sup>26</sup> me,  
Either a coward or a flatterer.

That I did love thee, Caesar, O, 'tis true:  
If then thy spirit look upon us now,  
Shall it not grieve thee dearer than thy death,  
To see thy Antony making his peace,  
Shaking the bloody fingers of thy foes,  
Most noble! in the presence of thy **corse**<sup>27</sup>?

**CASSIUS** Mark Antony,--

**ANTONY** Pardon me, Caius Cassius:  
The enemies of Caesar shall say this;  
Then, in a friend, it is cold **modesty**<sup>28</sup>.



**CASSIUS** I blame you not for praising Caesar so;  
But what **compact**<sup>29</sup> mean you to have with us?  
Will you be prick'd in number of our friends;  
Or shall we on, and not depend on you?

**ANTONY** Therefore I took your hands, but was, indeed,  
Sway'd from the point, by looking down on Caesar.  
Friends am I with you all and love you all,  
Upon this hope, that you shall give me reasons  
Why and wherein Caesar was dangerous.

**BRUTUS** Our reasons are so full of **good regard**<sup>30</sup>  
That were you, Antony, the son of Caesar,  
You should be satisfied.

26 **conceit** - consider

28 **modesty** - understatement

30 **good regard** - serious consideration

27 **corse** - corpse

29 **compact** - agreement

**ANTONY** That's all I seek:

And am moreover suitor that I may

Produce his body to the market-place;

And in the pulpit, as becomes a friend,

Speak in the **order**<sup>31</sup> of his funeral.

**BRUTUS** You shall, Mark Antony.

**CASSIUS** Brutus, a word with you.

*Aside to BRUTUS*

You know not what you do: do not consent

That Antony speak in his funeral:

Know you how much the people may be moved

By that which he will utter?

**BRUTUS** By your pardon;

I **will**<sup>32</sup> myself into the pulpit first,

And show the reason of our Caesar's death:

What Antony shall speak, I will **protest**<sup>33</sup>

He speaks by leave and by permission.

**CASSIUS** I know not what may fall; I like it not.

**BRUTUS** Mark Antony, here, take you Caesar's body.

You shall not in your funeral speech blame us,

But speak all good you can **devise of**<sup>34</sup> Caesar,

And say you do it by our permission;

Else shall you not have any hand at all

About his funeral: and you shall speak

In the same pulpit whereto I am going,

After my speech is ended.

**ANTONY** Be it so.

I do desire no more.

**BRUTUS** Prepare the body then, and follow us.

*Exeunt all but ANTONY*

**ANTONY** O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,

That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!

Thou art the ruins of the noblest man

That ever lived in the tide of times.

Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!

Over thy wounds now do I prophesy,--

Which, like dumb mouths, do ope their ruby lips,

To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue--

A curse shall **light**<sup>35</sup> upon the limbs of men;

Domestic fury and fierce civil strife

Shall **cumber**<sup>36</sup> all the parts of Italy;

Blood and destruction shall be so **in use**<sup>37</sup>

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**<sup>38</sup>:

And Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,

With **Ate**<sup>39</sup> 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.

*Exeunt with CAESAR's body*

35 **light** - fall

37 **in use** - common

39 **Ate**- Greek goddess of revenge

36 **cumber** - burden

38 **custom of fell deeds**-terrible deeds shall become so familiar

## The Forum. Act III -Scene II

*Enter BRUTUS and CASSIUS, and a throng of Citizens*

**Citizens** We will be satisfied; let us be satisfied.

**BRUTUS** Then follow me, and give me audience, friends.

### First Citizen

I will hear Brutus speak.

*BRUTUS goes into the pulpit*

### Second Citizen

The noble Brutus is ascended: silence!

### BRUTUS

Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers! hear me for **my cause**<sup>40</sup>, and be silent, that you may hear: **believe me for mine honour**<sup>41</sup>, and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe: **censure**<sup>42</sup> me in your wisdom, and awake your **senses**<sup>43</sup>, that you may the better judge.

If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: --Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men? As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honour him: but, as he was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears for his love; joy for his fortune; honour for his valour; and death for his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so **rude**<sup>44</sup> that would not be a Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

**All** None, Brutus, none.

**BRUTUS** Then none have I offended. I have done no more to Caesar than you shall **do to Brutus**<sup>45</sup>. The **question**<sup>46</sup> of his death is **enrolled**<sup>47</sup> in the Capitol; his glory not

40 **my cause**- the cause that I represent

41 **believe me for mine honour**- believe me because you know I am honourable

42 **censure**-judge, criticize me harshly

43 **senses**-understanding

44 **rude**-uncivilised

45 **do to Brutus**- you may assassinate me if I become ambitious

46 **question**- reasons for

47 **enrolled**- recorded

extenuated, wherein he was worthy, nor his offences **enforced**<sup>48</sup>, for which he suffered death.

*Enter ANTONY and others, with CAESAR's body*

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony: who, though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the benefit of his dying, a place in **the commonwealth**<sup>49</sup>; as which of you shall not? With this I depart,--that, as I slew my best **lover**<sup>50</sup> for the good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country to need my death.

**All** Live, Brutus! live, live!

**First Citizen** Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

**Second Citizen** Give him a statue with his ancestors.

**Third Citizen** Let him be Caesar.

**Fourth Citizen** Caesar's better **parts**<sup>51</sup>

Shall be crown'd in Brutus.

**First Citizen** We'll bring him to his house

With shouts and clamours.

**BRUTUS** My countrymen,--

**Second Citizen** Peace, silence! Brutus speaks.

**First Citizen** Peace, ho!

**BRUTUS** Good countrymen, let me depart alone,

And, for my sake, stay here with Antony:

Do grace to Caesar's corpse, and grace his speech

Tending to Caesar's glories; which Mark Antony,

By our permission, is allow'd to make.

I do entreat you, not a man depart,

Save I alone, till Antony have spoke.

*Exit*

**First Citizen** Stay, ho! and let us hear Mark Antony.

**Third Citizen** Let him go up into the public chair;

We'll hear him. Noble Antony, go up.

48 **enforced**- exaggerated; emphasized  
50 **lover**- friend

49 **the commonwealth** - the free republic  
51 **parts**- qualities

**ANTONY** For Brutus' sake, I am beholding to you.

*Goes into the pulpit*

**Fourth Citizen** What does he say of Brutus?

**Third Citizen** He says, for Brutus' sake,

He finds himself beholding to us all.

**Fourth Citizen** 'Twere best he speak no harm of Brutus here.

**First Citizen** This Caesar was a tyrant.

**Third Citizen** Nay, that's certain:

We are blest that Rome is rid of him.

**Second Citizen** Peace! let us hear what Antony can say.

**ANTONY** You gentle Romans,--

**Citizens** Peace, ho! let us hear him.

**ANTONY** Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;

I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus

Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:

If it were so, it was a grievous fault,

And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.

Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest--

For Brutus is an honourable man;

So are they all, all honourable men--

Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:

But Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

He hath brought many captives home to Rome

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?

When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

You all did see that on the **Lupercal**<sup>52</sup>

I thrice presented him a kingly crown,

Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And, sure, he is an honourable man.

I speak not to **disprove**<sup>53</sup> what Brutus spoke,

But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause:

What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him?

O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,

And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;

My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,

And I must pause till it come back to me.

**First Citizen** Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.

**Second Citizen** If thou consider rightly of the matter,

Caesar has had great wrong.

**Third Citizen** Has he, masters?

I fear there will a worse come in his place.

**Fourth Citizen** Mark'd ye his words? He would not take the crown;

Therefore 'tis certain he was not ambitious.

**First Citizen** If it be found so, some will dear abide it.

**Second Citizen** Poor soul! his eyes are red as fire with weeping.

**Third Citizen** There's not a nobler man in Rome than Antony.

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52 **Lupercal**- the feast of the god Lupercus. Lupercus was the protector of flocks and herds, the god of fertility

53 **disprove**- contradict



**Fourth Citizen** Now mark him, he begins again to speak.

**ANTONY** But yesterday the word of Caesar might  
Have **stood against**<sup>54</sup> the world; now lies he there.

And none so **poor**<sup>55</sup> to do him reverence.

O masters, if I were disposed to stir

Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,

I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,

Who, you all know, are honourable men:

I will not do them wrong; I rather choose

To **wrong the dead**<sup>56</sup>, **to wrong myself**<sup>57</sup> and **you**<sup>58</sup>,

Than I will wrong such honourable men.

But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar;

I found it in his closet, 'tis his will:

Let but the commons hear this testament--

Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read--

And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds

And dip their **napkins**<sup>59</sup> in his sacred blood,

Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,

And, dying, mention it within their wills,

Bequeathing it as a rich legacy

Unto their issue.

**Fourth Citizen** We'll hear the will: read it, Mark Antony.

**All** The will, the will! we will hear Caesar's will.

**ANTONY** Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it;

It is not **meet**<sup>60</sup> you know how Caesar loved you.

You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;

And, being men, hearing the will of Caesar,

54 **stood against** - overcome the opposition of

55 **poor**- humble

56 **wrong the dead**- be unjust to Caesar, who has been assassinated, by calling him ambitious

57 **to wrong myself**- by not speaking what I know

58 **you**- by allowing you to be deceived by Brutus

59 **napkins**- handkerchiefs

60 **meet**- fitting ,proper

It will inflame you, it will make you mad:

'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs;

For, if you should, O, what would come of it!

**Fourth Citizen** Read the will; we'll hear it, Antony;

You shall read us the will, Caesar's will.

**ANTONY** Will you be patient? will you stay awhile?

I have o'ershot myself to tell you of it:

I fear I wrong the honourable men

Whose daggers have stabb'd Caesar; I do fear it.

**Fourth Citizen** They were traitors: honourable men!

**All** The will! the testament!

**Second Citizen** They were villains, murderers: the will! read the will.

**ANTONY** You will compel me, then, to read the will?

Then make a ring about the corpse of Caesar,

And let me show you him that made the will.

Shall I descend? and will you give me leave?

**Several Citizens** Come down.

**Second Citizen** Descend.

**Third Citizen** You shall have leave.

**ANTONY** *comes down*

**Fourth Citizen** A ring; stand round.

**ANTONY** If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.

You all do know this **mantle**<sup>61</sup>: I remember

The first time ever Caesar put it on;

'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent,

That day he overcame the **Nervii**<sup>62</sup>:

Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through:

See what a rent the **envious**<sup>63</sup> Casca made:

61 **mantle**- cloak

62 **Nervii**- the most war-like of the Gallic tribes, defeated by Caesar in 57 B.C.

63 **envious**- malicious

Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd;  
And as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,  
Mark how the blood of Caesar follow'd it,  
As rushing out of doors, to be resolved  
If Brutus so unkindly knock'd, or no;  
For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel:  
Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him!  
This was the most unkindest cut of all;  
For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,  
**Ingratitude**<sup>64</sup>, more strong than traitors' arms,  
Quite vanquish'd him: then burst his mighty heart;  
And, in his mantle muffling up his face,  
Even at the base of Pompey's statue,  
**Which all the while ran blood**<sup>65</sup>, great Caesar fell.  
O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!  
Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,  
Whilst bloody treason **flourish'd**<sup>66</sup> over us.  
O, now you weep; and, I perceive, you feel  
The dint of pity: these are gracious drops.  
Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold  
Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here,  
Here is himself, marr'd, as you see, with traitors.  
**First Citizen** O piteous spectacle!  
**Second Citizen** O noble Caesar!  
**Third Citizen** O woeful day!  
**Fourth Citizen** O traitors, villains!  
**First Citizen** O most bloody sight!

---

64 **Ingratitude**- the blow struck by Brutus' ingratitude

65 **Which all the while ran blood**- which was covered with Caesar's blood

66 **flourish'd**- triumphed

**Second Citizen** We will be revenged.

**All** Revenge! About! Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay!

Let not a traitor live!

**ANTONY** Stay, countrymen.

**First Citizen** Peace there! hear the noble Antony.

**Second Citizen** We'll hear him, we'll follow him, we'll die with him.

**ANTONY** Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up

To such a sudden **flood of mutiny**<sup>67</sup>.

They that have done this deed are honourable:

What private griefs they have, alas, I know not,

That made them do it: they are wise and honourable,

And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.

I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts:

I am no orator, as Brutus is;

But, as you know me all, a plain blunt man,

That love my friend; and that they know full well

That gave me public leave to speak of him:

For I have neither **wit**<sup>68</sup>, nor words, nor **worth**<sup>69</sup>,

**Action**<sup>70</sup>, nor **utterance**<sup>71</sup>, nor the power of speech,

To stir men's blood: I only speak **right on**<sup>72</sup>;

I tell you that which you yourselves do know;

Show you sweet Caesar's wounds, poor poor dumb mouths,

And bid them speak for me: but were I Brutus,

And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony

Would ruffle up your spirits and put a tongue

In every wound of Caesar that should move

The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

**All** We'll mutiny.

**First Citizen** We'll burn the house of Brutus.

67 **flood of mutiny**- wave of violence  
70 **Action**- gestures

68 **wit**- intelligence  
71 **utterance**- eloquence

69 **worth**- authority  
72 **right on**- directly

**Third Citizen** Away, then! come, seek the conspirators.

**ANTONY** Yet hear me, countrymen; yet hear me speak.

**All** Peace, ho! Hear Antony. Most noble Antony!

**ANTONY** Why, friends, you go to do you know not what:

**Wherein**<sup>73</sup> hath Caesar thus deserved your loves?

Alas, you know not: I must tell you then:

You have forgot the will I told you of.

**All** Most true. The will! Let's stay and hear the will.

**ANTONY** Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal.

To every Roman citizen he gives,

To every several man, seventy-five **drachmas**<sup>74</sup>.

**Second Citizen** Most noble Caesar! We'll revenge his death.

**Third Citizen** O **royal**<sup>75</sup> Caesar!

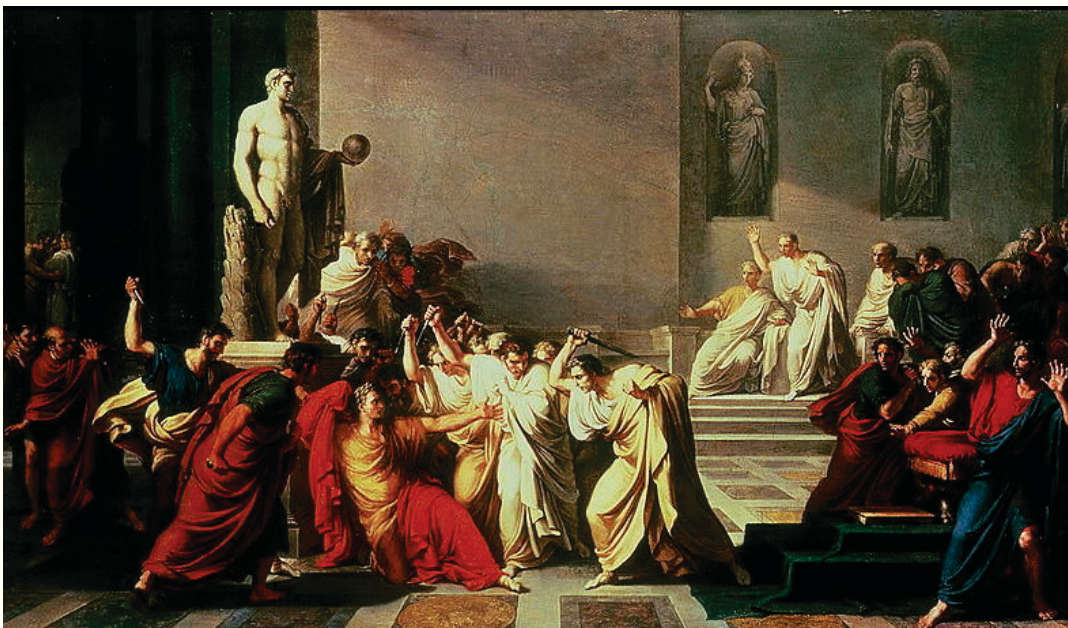
**ANTONY** Hear me with patience.

**All** Peace, ho!

**ANTONY** Moreover, he hath left you all his walks,

His private arbours and new-planted orchards,

On this side Tiber; he hath left them you,



And to your heirs for ever, common pleasures,  
To walk abroad, and recreate yourselves.  
Here was a Caesar! when comes such another?

**First Citizen** Never, never. Come, away, away!

We'll burn his body in the holy place,  
And with the brands fire the traitors' houses.

Take up the body.

**Second Citizen** Go fetch fire.

**Third Citizen** Pluck down benches.

**Fourth Citizen** Pluck down forms, windows, any thing.

*Exeunt Citizens with the body*

**ANTONY** Now let it work. Mischief, thou art **afoot**<sup>76</sup>,

Take thou what course thou wilt!

*Exeunt*

#### **After the extract:**

Antony instigates the mob to revenge. He then sits with Octavius Caesar, Julius Caesar's nephew, coldly calculating how to purge any future threat. Brutus and Cassius fall apart as the idealist in Brutus is outraged by Cassius' practicality. The armies of Octavius Caesar and Antony clash with those of Brutus and Cassius at Philippi and Sardis. Brutus and Cassius are defeated and both commit suicide.

#### **About the author**

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is an English playwright and poet, recognized in much of the world as the greatest of all dramatists. Hundreds of editions of his plays have been published, including translations in all major languages. Scholars have written thousands of books and articles about his plots, characters, themes and language. He is the most widely quoted author in history and his plays have probably been performed more times than those of any other dramatist.

#### **5. Answer the following questions by selecting the correct options.**

1. How does Caesar sound when he says, "Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night"?

- a) worried  
b) angry  
c) joyous  
d) frightened
2. Caesar's reference to the senators as 'graybeards' shows his \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) confidence  
b) cowardice  
c) arrogance  
d) ambition
3. Decius Brutus changes Caesar's mind about going to the Senate by appealing to his \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) ambition  
b) vanity  
c) greed  
d) generosity
4. Select the option that correctly displays the offer that Cassius makes to Antony after Caesar's assassination.
- a) The conspirators would like to be friends with him  
b) He may take Caesar's body to the pulpit and speak to the crowd praising Caesar for his achievements  
c) His recommendations will be as strong as that of the conspirators while distributing the powers and benefits to friends  
d) He may join the conspiracy against Caesar
5. Why does Cassius try to stop Brutus from letting Antony speak at Caesar's funeral? He knows that \_\_\_\_\_.
- a) the Roman mob loves Caesar and Antony  
b) Brutus is not a good orator  
c) they should not have killed Caesar  
d) Antony is a good orator who can sway the mob
6. What prophecy does Antony make over Caesar's dead body?
- a) Romans will see Caesar's ghost roaming on the streets  
b) Rome will experience fierce civil war in which many people will die  
c) Rome will be ruled by Ate  
d) Roman women will smile at the death of Caesar

7. After listening to Brutus' speech, the Third Citizen says 'Let him be Caesar'. This clearly shows he\_\_\_\_\_.
- has not understood Brutus' reason for killing Caesar
  - loved Caesar more than he loves Brutus
  - loves Brutus more than he loved Caesar
  - thinks Brutus killed Caesar to assume power.
8. Identify Antony's tone when he calls the conspirators, 'honourable men'.
- admiring
  - flattering
  - angry
  - mocking
9. Antony's reference to Caesar's conquest of the Nervii is to\_\_\_\_\_.
- remind the mob of Caesar's greatness as a warrior
  - make the mob feel afraid of being attacked by the war-like race
  - make the crowd weep for Caesar who died at war
  - stop and collect his emotions as he is feeling very upset
10. Antony remarked :
- Mischief, thou art afoot,  
Take thou what course thou wilt!.
- What does this show him to be?
- a ruthless manipulator
  - an honourable man
  - a loyal friend
  - a tactful man
6. **Answer the following questions briefly.**
- How do the heavens 'blaze forth' the death of Julius Caesar?
  - What does Calpurnia try to convince Caesar of?
  - Why does Calpurnia say Caesar's 'wisdom is consumed in confidence'? What does she mean?
  - What does Calpurnia dream about Caesar? How does Decius Brutus interpret the dream?



- e) What are the arguments put forward by Decius Brutus to convince Caesar to go to the Capitol?
- f) Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar?
- g) What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators? How does Caesar respond to it?
- h) Who says "Et tu Brute"? When are these words spoken? Why?
- i) In the moments following Caesar's death what do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar's death?
- j) Seeing the body of Caesar, Antony is overcome by grief. What does he say about Caesar?
- k) Whom does Antony call "the choice and master spirits of this age"? Why?
- l) How do Brutus and Cassius respond to Antony's speech?
- m) Why does Cassius object to allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral? How does Brutus overcome this objection?
- n) What are the conditions imposed by the conspirators before allowing Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral?
- o) When he is left alone with the body of Caesar, what does Antony call Brutus and the others?
- p) What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?
- q) What reasons does Brutus give for murdering Caesar?
- r) Who says, "Let him be Caesar"? What light does this throw on the speaker?
- s) Why is Antony's speech more effective?
- t) What is the fate of Brutus and Cassius, at the end of the scene?

7. **Julius Caesar and Antony reveal something about their character in their words and actions. We also learn about them from what other people say. Can you pick out the words that describe them from the box given below? Also, pick out lines from the play to illustrate your choice.**

superstitious	arrogant	loyal	clever
overconfident	manipulative	good orator	ambitious
brave	great conqueror	generous	fearless
loves flattery	firm	shrewd	crafty

Person	Extract from play	What it tells us about the character
Julius Caesar	1. the things that threaten'd me Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see The face of Caesar, they are vanished.  2. _____ _____ 3. _____ _____ _____ 4. _____ _____ _____ 5. _____ _____ _____ 6. _____ _____ _____	1. arrogant
Mark Antony	1. _____ _____ _____ 2. _____ _____ _____ 3. _____ _____ _____ 4. _____ _____ _____ 5. _____ _____ _____	1. Loyal

8. In the play 'Julius Caesar', we meet the Roman mob. We find that as Brutus and Antony speak, the mob displays certain qualities and characteristics.

Given below are some characteristics of the mob. Complete the table by quoting the lines wherein these are revealed.

Words/ actions of the mob	Characteristics
1. _____ _____	Foolish
2. _____ _____	Does not understand the ideals of democracy
3. _____ _____	Emotional
4. _____ _____	Greedy
5. _____ _____	Fickle
6. _____ _____	Violent

9. Antony employs a number of devices to produce the desired effect on the mob. These devices maybe described as rhetorical devices. He first speaks in such a manner that it seems to the mob that he is in full agreement with Brutus about Caesar. Then step by step he moves away from Brutus' position, depicting Brutus as a villain and Caesar as a wronged man. Copy and complete the following table by showing how Antony builds the argument in Caesar's favour.

Antony's words	Argument
1. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.	Does not wish to eulogise Caesar
2. The noble Brutus Hath told you Caesar was ambitious: If it were so, it was a grievous fault, And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.	Seemingly agrees with Brutus
3. _____	
4. _____	
5. _____	

10. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. **CAESAR** Cowards die many times before their deaths;

The valiant never taste of death but once.

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.

- a) Choose the option that is relevant to [A] Assertion and [R] Reason.

[A] A brave person dies only once.

[R] A brave person faces any difficult situation or challenges.

A. Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is the correct explanation of [A].

B. Both [A] and [R] are true and [R] is not the correct explanation of [A].

C. [A] is true but [R] is false.

D. [A] is false but [R] is true.

- b) The strangest thing that Caesar ponders is why\_\_\_\_\_.

A. cowardly people die again and again

B. brave people die only once

C. men are afraid of death

D. death is inevitable

- c) What fears has the listener expressed?

- d) What is the basis for the fears expressed?

- e) Why has death been called a 'necessary' end?

2. But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar;

I found it in his closet, 'tis his will:

Let but the commons hear this testament--

Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read--

And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds

- a) select the option that appropriately fills the blank.

parchment:\_\_\_\_\_ : will: testament

A. dry land

B. front area

C. pulp

D. paper

- b) Antony says he doesn't mean to read the will because
  - A. he feels it is confidential.
  - B. he finds the contents inappropriate.
  - C. the Romans will grieve for Caesar's death.
  - D. the Romans will kiss Caesar.
- c) What are the contents of Caesar's will that he is referring to?
- d) Why does the speaker read Caesar's will to the citizens?
- e) Identify the option that this the technique used by Antony in the given extract.
  - A. reverse psychology
  - B. rhetoric
  - C. dramatic contrast
  - D. persuasion
- f) Choose the option that lists the emotion of the citizens after listening to the 'will'.
  - 1. aggressive
  - 2. nervous
  - 3. enraged
  - 4. berserk
  - 5. powerful

### 11. Questions for Further Study :

Given below are some questions based on reading of the play 'Julius Caesar'. These questions are not for testing in the Exam. These are for a deeper understanding of the play and the characters.

- a) Why was the conspiracy to assassinate Julius Caesar hatched?
- b) Was Caesar really ambitious? Find evidence from the play to support your answer.
- c) What was Cassius' motive for murdering Julius Caesar?
- d) Why was it essential for the conspirators to include Brutus in the conspiracy?
- e) What were the mistakes made by Brutus that led to the failure of the conspiracy?
- f) Comment on Caesar's friendship with Antony.
- g) Write a brief character sketch of Antony.

- h) What is the role of Julius Caesar's ghost in the play, *Julius Caesar*?
- i) Why does Antony call Brutus 'the noblest Roman of them all'?
- j) How do Brutus and Cassius meet their end?

**12. A reporter covers the event of the assassination of Julius Caesar in the senate. Giving graphic details and a catchy headline, write the newspaper report in about 200 words.**

**13. Activity**

Stage a press conference that takes place shortly after Caesar's death. The "reporters" should have their questions written down ahead of time to ask the students who play the roles of Brutus, Antony and Cassius. These questions should focus on the key events in the play, as well as the characters' intentions.