Drama UNIT 11

D.2 Julius Caesar

by William Shakespeare

1. Consult a dictionary and find out the difference between

a) killing

b) murder

c) assassination

2. 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) were 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 a 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 the most trusted and respected in Rome. 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 democracy.

Cassius- Inspirer 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 do 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**[1]**,**

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**[2],

Which drizzled blood upon the Capitol;

The noise of battle **hurtled**[3] in the air,

Horses did neigh, and dying men did groan,

And ghosts did shriek and squeal about the streets.

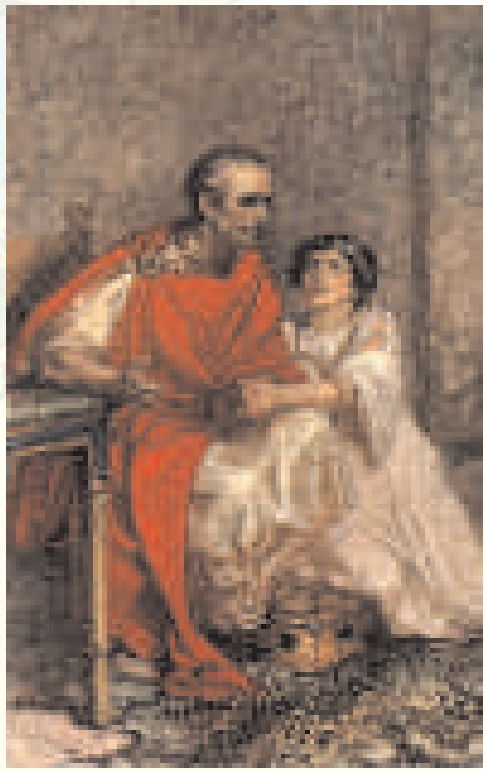
O Caesar! these things are **beyond all use**[4],

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**[5] 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:

5 **necessary -** inevitable

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**[6],

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**[7] 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**[8] 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**[9], and that **great men shall press**

For tinctures, stains, relics and cognizance[10].

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[11]**!**

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**[12] Caesar,

Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat

An humble heart,--

Kneeling

CAESAR I must prevent thee, Cimber.

These **couchings and these lowly courtesies**[13]

Might fire the blood of ordinary men,

And turn **pre-ordinance**[14] and **first decree**[15]

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

12 **puissant-** powerful
13 **couchings and these lowly courtesies-** bowing and bending
14 **pre-ordinance-** order that has existed from earlier times
15 **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.

CASSIUS I could be well moved, if I were as you:

If **I could pray to move**[16], prayers would move me:

But I am constant as the northern star,

Of whose true-fix'd and **resting**[17] 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[18] ! 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**[19],

Shrunk to this **little measure**[20]? 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 -** permanant
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**[21],

Now, whilst your purpled hands do **reek**[22] 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**[23] 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**[24], 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**[25].

ANTONY I doubt not of your wisdom.

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**[26] 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**[27]?



CASSIUS Mark Antony,--

ANTONY Pardon me, Caius Cassius:

The enemies of Caesar shall say this;

Then, in a friend, it is cold **modesty**[28].

CASSIUS I blame you not for praising Caesar so;

But what **compact**[29] 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**[30]

That were you, Antony, the son of Caesar,

You should be satisfied.

26 conceit - consider
27 corse - corpse
28 modesty - understatement
29 compact - agreement
30 good regard - serious consideration

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**[31] 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**[32] myself into the pulpit first,

And show the reason of our Caesar's death:

What Antony shall speak, I will **protest**[33]

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**[34] 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.

31 order- ceremony
32 will- will go
33 protest- announce
34 devise of- think of

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**[35] upon the limbs of men;

Domestic fury and fierce civil strife

Shall **cumber**[36] all the parts of Italy;

Blood and destruction shall be so **in use**[37]

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**[38]**:**

And Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,

With **Ate**[39] 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
36 cumber - burden
37 in use - common
38 custom of fell deeds-terrible deeds shall become so familiar
39 Ate- Greek goddess of revenge

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**[40], and be silent, that you may hear: **believe me for mine honour**[41], and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe: **censure**[42] me in your wisdom, and awake your **senses**[43], 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**[44] 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**[45]. The **question**[46] of his death is **enrolled**[47] 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**[48], 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**[49] ; as which of you shall not? With this I depart,--that, as I slew my best **lover**[50] 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**[51]

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
49 the commonwealth - the free republic
50 lover- friend
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**[52]

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**[53] 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.

---

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**[54] the world; now lies he there.

And none so **poor**[55] 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**[56], **to wrong myself**[57] and **you**[58] ,

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**[59] 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**[60] 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**[61]: 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**[62]:

Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through:

See what a rent the **envious**[63] 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[64], 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[65], 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**[66] 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!

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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**[67].

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**[68], nor words, nor **worth**[69],

Action[70], nor **utterance**[71], nor the power of speech,

To stir men's blood: I only speak **right on**[72];

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
68 **wit-** intelligence
69 **worth-** authority
70 **Action-** gestures
71 **utterance-** eloquence
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[73] 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**[74].

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

Third Citizen O **royal**[75] 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,



73 **Wherein-** in what way
74 **drachmas-** silver coins
75 **royal-** generous

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**[76],

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 ticking the correct options.

1. When Caesar says "Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night" he sounds .....

76 **afoot-** started

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. The offer that Cassius makes to Antony after Caesar's assassination is that……

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. Cassius tries to stop Brutus from letting Antony speak at Caesar's funeral as he ……..

a) knows the Roman mob loves Caesar and Antony

b) knows Brutus is not a good orator

c) knows they should not have killed Caesar

d) knows 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 …….

a) has not understood Brutus' reason for killing Caesar

b) loved Caesar more than he loves Brutus

c) loves Brutus more than he loved Caesar

d) thinks Brutus killed Caesar to assume power.

8. When Antony calls the conspirators 'honourable men' his tone is …….

a) admiring

b) flattering

c) angry

d) mocking

9. Antony's reference to Caesar's conquest of the Nervii is to …….

a) remind the mob of Caesar's greatness as a warrior

b) make the mob feel afraid of being attacked by the war-like race

c) make the crowd weep for Caesar who died at war

d) stop and collect his emotions as he is feeling very upset

10. Antony's remark **Mischief, thou art afoot**,

Take thou what course thou wilt! , shows him to be …….

a) a ruthless manipulator

b) an honourable man

c) a loyal friend

d) a tactful man

6. Answer the following questions briefly.

a) How do the heavens 'blaze forth' the death of Julius Caesar?

b) What does Calpurnia try to convince Caesar of?

c) Why does Calpurnia say Caesar's 'wisdom is consumed in confidence'? What does she mean?

d) 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 Anthony 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) At the end of the scene what is the fate of Brutus and Cassius?

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) Whom is Caesar speaking to? Why does he say these words?

   b) What fears has the listener expressed?

   c) What is the basis for the fears expressed?

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) Who speaks these words? Where is the speaker at this moment?

   b) What are the contents of Caesar's will that he is referring to?

   c) Why does the speaker read Caesar's will to the citizens?

   d) What is the reaction of the listeners to the reading of the will?

11. 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.

12. 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?

13. 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.

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