

Julius Caesar Reading Guide

Julius Caesar Act I Study Guide

Scene i

1. Why are the commoners wandering the streets instead of working?
2. How do Flavius and Marullus feel about the celebration?
3. How do Flavius and Marullus show their feelings toward Caesar?

Scene ii

1. What does Caesar tell Antony to do during the race and why?
2. How does Antony respond to Caesar's request?
3. What does the Soothsayer tell Caesar?
4. What does Brutus fear when he hears the crowds shouting?
5. Why does Cassius think Caesar isn't fit to be king?
6. How does Brutus respond to Cassius's ideas?
7. What does Caesar think about Cassius?
8. Who offers Caesar the crown?
9. What is Casca's opinion of the way Caesar refused the crown?
10. What happens to Caesar after the third offering of the crown?

11. How does Brutus explain Caesar's behavior?
12. What happened to Flavius and Marullus?
13. What does Brutus say to Cassius before departing?

Scene iii

1. What things does Casca see that upset him?
2. What do the senators plan to do the next day?
3. What is the message behind Cassius drawing his dagger?
4. How does Cassius feel about the Roman people now?
5. With whom do Casca and Cinna side?
6. What is Cassius's plan to persuade Brutus to join the conspiracy?

Study Guide

Act II - Julius Caesar

ACT II Scene I

1. Who says and explain the following:
"But 'tis 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,"
2. List the conspirators.
3. Who wants Antony to die? What reason does Brutus give for not killing Antony?

4. Who wants him to live?
4. Who is Cicero, and why is he not included in the conspiracy?
6. What is an anachronism? Give an example.
7. What conflict does Brutus reveal in his soliloquy, and what resolution of the conflict does he reach?
8. Interpret Brutus's statement, "Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods, /Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds."
9. In his soliloquy, what reasons does Brutus give for killing Caesar?
10. Explain the two changes Brutus recommends in the assassination plan.

Act II Scene ii

1. Why does Caesar change his mind and yield to Calpurnia's pleas?

Act II Scene iii

1. Who is Artemidorus?
2. What is it he intends to do?

Act II Scene iv

1. Why is Portia upset?
2. Where does Shakespeare use thunder and other storm sounds in the setting to suggest cosmic disorder? How do you think this makes the audience feel?

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Act III - Study Guide

Scene i

1. Why does Antony befriend the conspirators immediately after the assassination?
2. Why does Brutus allow Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral?
3. What example of dramatic irony appears in the opening lines of this scene?

4. In the exchange between Caesar and the conspirators, pick out three images of height and lowliness
5. Look closely at Caesar's dying words. What do they reveal about him?
6. What previous event foreshadowed the conspirators' dipping their hands in Caesar's blood?
7. What does Antony reveal by his soliloquy after the conspirators have departed?

Scene ii

8. Brutus says, "Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved _____ more.
9. After Brutus' speech what is the reaction from the crowd?
10. Antony tell the people he has come to _____ Caesar, not to _____ him.
11. Antony calls Brutus an _____ man.
12. What is the parchment Antony presents to the crowd?
13. What does Caesar leave the people of Rome?
14. What is the attitude of the crowd after Antony's speech?
15. What reason does Brutus give the people for the assassination?
15. The plebeian responds to the speech of Brutus thus: "Let him be Caesar." What does this response indicate?
17. After reading rthe two speeches, do you agree with Antony's statement, "I am no oratyor as Brutus is, /But (as you know me all) a plain blunt man"? Why or why not?

Scene iii

18. Why does the mob attack Cinna the poet, and what does this reveal about them?
19. Define foil. How are Brutus and Antony foils for eachother?

Act IV Study Guide
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Scene I

1. How does Antony change from the first two acts?

2. What is meant by “prick him down”?
3. Who are the members of this new triumvirate?
4. What change do they want to make to Caesar’s will?
5. What is Antony’s opinion of Lepidus?
6. Who is older, Antony or Octavius?

Scene ii

7. What does Cassius accuse Brutus of?
8. Why does Brutus want Cassius to move away from the soldiers?

Scene iii

9. What does it mean when Brutus says Cassius has an “itching palm”?
10. Why does Brutus say, “I had rather be a dog and bay the moon than such a Roman”?
11. What request of Cassius has Brutus made that has not been honored?
12. What does Cassius ask Brutus to do with his (Cassius’s) dagger?
13. What does Cassius mean when he says, “When thou didst hat him worst, thou lovedst him better than ever thou lovedst Cassius”?
14. How did Portia die?
15. How many senators have Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus killed?
16. What old senator is also dead?
17. Why doesn’t Cassius want to march to Philippi?
18. How does Brutus contradict his reasoning?
19. What does Brutus mean when he says, “There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and miseries”?
20. What happens to Lucius as he is playing music for Brutus?
21. Who then enters to see Brutus?

22. Where does the ghost say he will see Brutus?

23. What does this mean?

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Study Guide Act V

1. Which four characters finally confront one another in Act V, Scene I?
2. What evidence do you find in this scene of dissension between Octavius and Antony?
3. What new view of life does Cassius express in this scene?
4. What does the farewell dialogue between Brutus and Cassius foreshadow?
5. On whose birthday does the battle take place, and how does he feel about the battle?
6. What does Cassius mean in Act V, Scene I, lines 45-47?
7. Explain the misunderstanding that led to the death of Cassius.
8. What is ironic about the suicide of Cassius?
9. What noble gesture does Antony make in scene iv?
10. What does Brutus mean by his final words: "Caesar, now be still;/ I killed not thee with half so good a will"? Why does Brutus think it is time to die?

11. How and why does Antony's attitude toward Brutus change from the beginning of the act to the end?