

## ***Julius Caesar Annotations & Questions***

### **Mark True or False**

1. Cassius plants forged letters in Brutus' house to incite Brutus .
2. Brutus personally hates Caesar and, therefore he is drawn to the conspiracy to murder Caesar.
3. Calpurnia dreams of people washing their hands in Caesar's blood.
4. Caesar dies in Casca's arms.
5. Antony does not speak against conspirators and rather admires them in his address on the funeral of Caesar.
6. Casca was the first to stab Caesar.
7. Brutus felt remorse for his part in Caesar's assassination.
8. The Ides of March falls on 14<sup>th</sup> March.
9. Brutus insists that the conspirators kill Antony too
10. Antony has Portia murdered.
11. Caesar departs for the Senate with Antony and a group of the conspirators.
12. Artemidorus, like the Soothsayer, tries to warn Caesar.
13. Pompey is the third member of the triumvirate that rules Rome after Caesar's death.
14. Cassius is visited by Caesar's ghost.
15. Cinna the poet was killed because he was mistaken for a conspirator

### Multiple Choice

Choose the appropriate alternative

16. Who spoke at Caesar's funeral?
  - a. Brutus
  - b. Antony
  - c. both
  - d. neither
  
17. All the characters predicted Caesar's death except:
  - a. Calpurnia
  - b. Soothsayer
  - c. Artemidorus
  - d. Brutus
  
18. Why does Caesar's ghost haunt Brutus?
  - a. to play a trick
  - b. he misses Brutus
  - c. to help Antony
  - d. to scare Brutus
  
19. Why didn't Caesar stay home with Calpurnia on the Ides of March?
  - a. His ambition overtook him.
  - b. He couldn't stand to be around her.
  - c. He had plans with Brutus and Antony.
  - d. None of the above.
  
20. Who was NOT a conspirator in Caesar's assassination?

- a. Brutus
  - b. Cinna the poet
  - c. Casca
  - d. Cassius
21. Who changed Caesar's mind to meet the Senators?
- a. Brutus
  - b. Portia
  - c. Decius
  - d. Publius
22. Who convinced Brutus to join the conspiracy against Caesar?
- a. Cassius
  - b. Decius
  - c. Pompey
  - d. Titinius
23. Who did NOT try to stop Caesar from going to Capitol?
- a. Soothsayer
  - b. Artemidorus
  - c. Calpurnia
  - d. Antony
24. All of the following committed suicide:
- a. Caesar, Calpurnia, Brutus
  - b. Brutus, Cassius, Octavius

- c. Brutus, Portia, Cassius
  - d. Caesar, Cinna, Decius
25. Who makes up the triumvirate?
- a. Antony, Octavius, Cassius
  - b. Octavius, Cassius, Lepidus
  - c. Cassius, Lepidus, Antony
  - d. Lepidus, Antony, Octavius
26. Which ancient world biographer was the play *Julius Caesar* based on?
- a. Homer
  - b. Ovid
  - c. Chaucer
  - d. Plutarch
27. The conspirators want Brutus to join them because
- a. He is a brave fighter.
  - b. He will make the people accept the assassination .
  - c. He is the only one who will murder Caesar.
  - d. He will be the next ruler of Rome.
28. Who stabbed Caesar first from behind?
- a. Antony
  - b. Brutus
  - c. Cassius
  - d. Casca
29. A famous London theatre in which many of Shakespeare's plays were performed was-
- a. The Renaissance
  - b. The Globe
  - c. The Metropolitan
  - d. Stratford-on-Avon

30. Antony says that all the conspirators except Brutus acted out of
- a. Patriotism
  - b. Need for money
  - c. Envy of Caesar
  - d. Personal grudge

**Short Answer**

31- 40 Answer the following questions with complete sentences.

- A. Whose death was more honorable—Brutus or Cassius?
- B. Why doesn't Cassius want Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral?
- C. Why does Brutus want Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral?
- D. Explain the significance of "Et tu, Brute"?
- E. Why does Portia stab herself in the thigh?
- F. What is the rhetorical device used by Antony in his speech on Caesar's funeral.
- G. Did Brutus care about Portia's suicide?
- H. Besides Caesar, who else was guilty of being ambitious?
- I. What does the murder of Cinna the poet show?
- J. How does Decius interpret Calpurnia's nightmare?

**41-55 Explain the following extracts with reference to context-**

41. "This was the noblest Roman of them all.

All the conspirators, save only he,

Did that they did in envy of great Caesar;

He, only in a general honest thought

- And common good to all, made one of them.  
His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, "This was a man!"
42. "Tis better that the enemy seek us.  
So shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers,  
Doing himself offense, whilst we, lying still,  
Are full of rest, defense, and nimbleness."
43. "Cowards die many times before their deaths,  
The valiant never taste of death but once."
44. "I have made strong proof of my constancy,  
Giving myself a voluntary wound  
Here, in the thigh."
45. "Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,  
In which so many smiling Romans bathed,  
Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck  
Reviving blood."
46. "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."
47. "Stoop, Romans, stoop,

And let us bathe our hands in Caesar's blood  
Up to the elbows and besmear our swords."

48. "*Et tu Brute?* Then fall, Caesar!"

49. "I could be well moved if I were as you;  
If I could pray to move, prayers would move me;  
But I am constant as the Northern Star,  
Of whose true-fixed and resting quality  
There is no fellow in the firmament."

50. "I do beseech ye, if you bear me hard,  
Now, whilst your purpled hands do reek and smoke,  
Fulfil our pleasure."

51. "Set honor in one eye and death I' the other,  
And I will look on both indifferently;  
For let the gods so speed me as I love  
The name of honor more than I fear death."

52. "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."

53. "And therefore think him as a serpent's egg,  
Which, hatched, would as his kind grow mischievous,  
And kill him in the shell."

54. "Beware the Ides of March."

55. “but this same day

Must end the work the ides of March begun,

And whether we shall meet again I know not.

Therefore our everlasting farewell take.

**56-60 Essay type Questions**

56. A major theme of *Julius Caesar* is that power can corrupt. Explain

57. What are the qualities that constitute a good leader? Based on your list of qualities, who was the best leader: Caesar, Brutus or Antony?

58. What role does 'superstition' have in the play?

59. Do you think Brutus was an “honorable man”?

60. Write an obituary on any of the characters who died during the course of the play.

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