

Julius Caesar Historical Context

"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". ~ JC

Julius Caesar: Act I Reading and Study Guide

ACT I, SCENE I.

1. How does Shakespeare make the common people appear to be less than noble?
2. What are the people doing that angers Marullus and Flavius? Why does this anger them?
3. What actions do Marullus and Flavius take to correct the situation?

ACT I, SCENE II.

4. Why does Caesar want Calphurnia to stand in Antony's path during the race in honor of the feast of Lupercal?
5. What is Antony's response to Caesar's instructions? What does this suggest about their relationship?
6. What is Caesar's reaction to the soothsayer's warning?
7. What complaint does Cassius make about Brutus's behavior towards him? How does Brutus answer this complaint?
8. Cassius's story attacks what aspect of Caesar's makeup? What is this attack supposed to say to Brutus?
10. How does Brutus respond to Cassius's attack on Caesar?
11. What astute observation does Caesar make of Cassius?

12. What faults does Caesar see in Cassius's nature?

13. What story does Casca relate to Brutus and Cassius? What does Casca tell us by the personal remarks he adds to the story?

14. How did the people react to Caesar's fit? What does this tell us about their feelings for Caesar?

15. What information does Casca give about Marullus and Flavius?

16. At the end of the scene, what plans does Cassius make to sway Brutus to his cause?

ACT I, SCENE III.

17. What wonderous things has Casca seen on this night?

18. What reason does Cassius give for the terrible storm?

19. What important news does Casca give Cassius about the Senate's plan?

20. What instructions does Cassius give Cinna that will help sway Brutus to their cause?

21. What reason does Casca give for wanting Brutus to join their cause?

Julius Caesar: Act II Reading and Study Guide

ACT II, SCENE I.

22. What question is Brutus pondering at the opening of the scene?

23. For what information does Brutus want Lucius to look at a calendar? What is the significance of what Lucius finds?

24. Why do the conspirators want Cicero to join them?

25. Why does Brutus reject Cicero? What is Cassius's reaction and what does this show about his and Brutus's relationship?

26. What does Brutus say about killing Marc Antony?

27. How does Decius say he will make sure that Caesar will come to the Capitol?

28. What has Portia done to show Brutus that she is worthy of knowing his secrets?

ACT II, SCENE II.

29. What strange and horrible things does Calphurnia report to Caesar that have been seen that night?

30. How does Decius interpret Calphurnia's dream?

31. What other arguments does Decius use to convince Caesar to go to the capitol?

ACT II, SCENE III.

32. What is Artemidorus's plan?

ACT II, SCENE IV.

33. Why is Portia so nervous and upset?

34. On what errand does she send Lucius?

35. What does the soothsayer tell Portia?

Julius Caesar: Act III Reading and Study Guide

ACT III, SCENE I.

36. In regard to Artemidorus's request, how does Caesar's nobility doom him?
37. What is Metellus Cimber's petition to Caesar? What is Caesar's response and why does he give this response?
38. What does "Et tu, Brute?" mean? What is the deeper meaning in this line?
39. Where does Caesar's dead body lie? How is this ironic?
39. What does Brutus instruct the conspirators to do before they go before the public? Why does he instruct them to do this?
40. What favor does Antony ask of the conspirators?
41. Why does Cassius object to letting Antony speak at Caesar's funeral? What reassurance does Brutus give him?
42. What restrictions are placed on Antony regarding Caesar's funeral?
43. After being left alone with Caesar's body, what does Antony promise to do?

ACT III. SCENE II.

44. According to Brutus's speech to the commoners, what reasons does he give for Caesar's death?
45. What is the mood of the crowd as Brutus finishes his speech?

46. What does Brutus offer at the end of his speech?

47. List three points of Antony's speech that work to persuade the crowd to turn on the conspirators.

48. What reason does Antony give for why he cannot read Caesar's will?

49. What has Caesar bequeathed the Romans in his will?

50. How does the crowd react to Antony's speech?

ACT III. SCENE III.

51. What happens to Cinna the Poet? Why?

Julius Caesar: Act IV Reading and Study Guide

ACT IV. SCENE I.

52. Who are the members of the second triumvirate?

53. What kind of list are the three making at the beginning of the scene?

54. What does Antony say they will do to Caesar's will?

55. What is Antony's opinion of Lepidus?

56. What reason does Antony give letting Lepidus help in choosing who shall die?

ACT IV. SCENE II.

57. Why does Brutus suggest that he and Cassius talk inside the tent?

ACT IV. SCENE III.

58. What wrong does Cassius say Brutus has done him?

59. In response, what does Brutus condemn Cassius for doing?

60. What does Cassius threaten to do if Brutus continues to "urge" him?

61. According to Brutus, how has Cassius wronged him? What is ironic about Brutus's accusation?

62. To prove that he has been wronged, what does Cassius tell Brutus to do to him?

63. What is the real reason for Brutus's ill temper? Give all of the details.

64. Messala brings what ill news of the triumvirate's actions in Rome?

65. What reasons does Cassius give for not going directly to Philippi?

66. What reasons does Brutus give for going directly to Philippi? Who prevails?

67. What unexpected visitor does Brutus see when everyone else is asleep?

Julius Caesar: Act V Reading and Study Guide

ACT V. SCENE I.

68. About what do Octavius and Antony argue?

69. Describe the insults between the generals, what are they attacking each other for?

70. What are two things Brutus says he will never do, even if he loses the war?

ACT V. SCENE II.

71. How does Brutus feel about the battle at this point?

ACT V. SCENE III.

72. Who wins the battle that day?

73. What does Cassius send Titinius to do?

74. What does Cassius do as a result of Titinius' actions?

75. How does Cassius's actions help Pindarus?

76. What mistake caused Cassius's to take these actions?

ACT V. SCENE IV.

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ACT V. SCENE V.

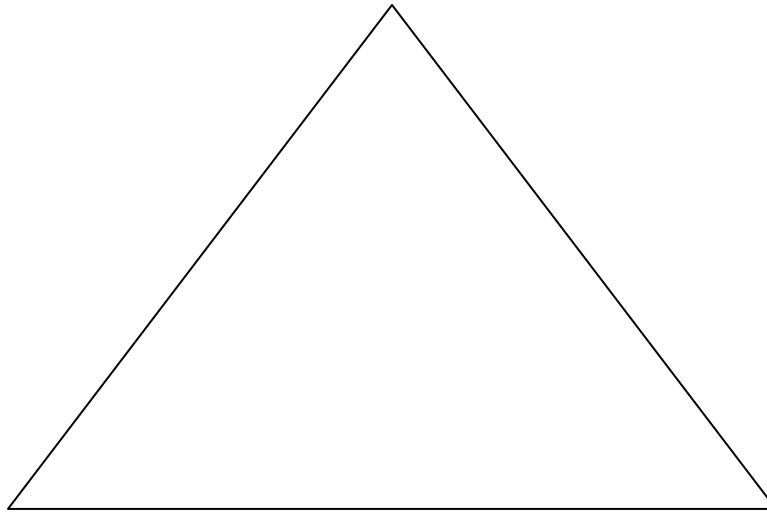
77. What does Brutus ask Clitus, Dardanius, and Volomnius to do?

78. How does Brutus do? How is this different from Cassius?

79. According to Marc Antony, why is Brutus better than the other conspirators?

The Rhetorical Triangle

Three important elements come into play when creating **any kind of argument**. These are illustrated by the rhetorical triangle:



Logos: Rational or Logical Appeals

Pathos: Emotional Appeals

Ethos: Ethical Appeals

Using the Rhetorical Triangle to Analyze Media Messages

The media – advertisements, and often TV shows and movies, are visual arguments. They attempt to persuade readers to buy a product/viewpoint using the same kinds of appeals authors use when constructing a written argument. So, when you analyze a piece of media, it is important to remember the rhetorical triangle. Ask yourself:

- Who is the author?
- How is the author trying to represent himself/herself?
- What is the message and how is that message coming across?
- Is the argument logical/emotional?
- Who are the intended receivers of the message?
- Is the argument having its desired effect on those receivers?

Specific Questions to Consider (No, not necessarily all at once...)

The Author

- Who is the author? Is it a business firm trying to sell you a product or a service, a public organization seeking to inform you about its policies, a politician trying to win your allegiance, an interest group or media member trying to change your opinion about an issue? Other?
- What is the **ethos** (general credibility) of the author?
- What is the ad trying to accomplish? In other words, what is the sender's "problem?" There is often some kind of communication problem behind an ad or campaign. For example, the authors may seek more awareness on the part of the receiver, or more legitimacy for themselves. Are you aware of any problems the sender (company) may be having within that specific industry, market, or area of activity?

The Message

- What is the simple message of the media? What product is the ad trying to sell? What is the subject of the movie/TV show?
- What is the true message of the media? Are there any hidden meanings the receiver is intended to observe? Do any connotations come to mind when you view the media?
- What ideologies or values does the piece of media invoke? In other words, what images, discourses, concepts, myths, etc. of the culture does the media use when making an appeal?
- How is the message presented? In an advertisement, what is the layout? What images, text appear, etc.? If it is a TV Show or movie, who are the characters? What is the setting, etc.?
- How does the media connect concrete features with abstract values? In other words, how does the presentation of the message communicate deeper/abstract meanings (our values/norms) in addition to the simpler meaning (what is being sold)?

The Audience

- Who is the targeted audience? What individuals/group of individuals is/are intended to receive the message?
- Is the media having the desired affect on the targeted audience? Are the logical/emotional/ethical appeals working? Is the audience being persuaded to buy what the media/advertisers are selling? If yes, why? If not, why not?
- If the desired message comes across effectively, might there be any consequences for the receivers? For society as a whole?

Persuasive Appeals

Rhetorical Devices

Using Pathos, Ethos and Logos in Life

Use your knowledge of the triangle to persuade the audience of your message.

Situation	Ethos	Pathos	Logos
Persuade the teacher to let you go the bathroom because you have to send a very important text message.			
Persuade a police officer to let you off without a ticket because you were trying to make it to the ice cream stand before it closed.			
Persuade your parents into giving your cell phone back because your Facebook friends miss you.			
Persuade a college that your skills in the field of Underwater Basket Weaving would be a vital asset to a university.			
Be creative:			

Julius Caesar: Brutus vs. Cassius

Watch closely for any disagreements between Brutus and Cassius. Write down each of their opinions in an attempt to determine which character is the "better" leader.

What's the disagreement?	Cassius' Opinion?	Brutus' Opinion?

Based on the decisions above, which character do you think is the better leader? What about the decisions make him better? What kind of leader do you think this makes him?

Analyzing Antony's Persuasion

Highlight examples of rhetoric below. In the left margin, categorize major arguments as Ethos, Pathos, or Logos. Label the highlighted appeals and tactics in the right margin and briefly explain what Antony is trying to accomplish with the persuasive tactic.

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
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 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.

But yesterday the word of Caesar might
Have stood against the world; now lies he there.

And none so poor 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, to wrong myself and you,
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 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.

Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it;
It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you.
You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;
And, being men, bearing the will of Caesar,
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!

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.

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?

If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.
You all do know this mantle: 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:

Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through:
See what a rent the envious Casca made:
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, 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 statua,
Which all the while ran blood, 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 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.

Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up
To such a sudden flood of mutiny.
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, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,
To stir men's blood: I only speak right on;
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.

Why, friends, you go to do you know not what:
Wherein hath Caesar thus deserved your loves?
Alas, you know not: I must tell you then:
You have forgot the will I told you of.

Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal.
To every Roman citizen he gives,
To every several man, seventy-five drachmas.

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?