

Julius Caesar: Act I Reading and Study Guide

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the play.

wherefore _____

exeunt (ěk 'sĕ-ənt, -ōōnt) _____

vulgar _____

What part of speech is *vulgar* when used by Flavius in line 72? _____

construe _____

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the play.

tragedy _____

pun _____

Example from Act I, scene i: _____

conflict _____

External: 1. _____ vs. _____

2. _____ vs. _____

3. _____ vs. _____

Internal: 4. _____ vs. _____

soliloquy (sə-lī 'ə-kwē) _____

Example: _____

metaphor _____

Example: _____

simile _____

Example: _____

III. Questions: answer the following questions.

Background

1. Where and when was Shakespeare born?

2. What theatre did Shakespeare help build?

3. When did he die?
4. In what historical period was Shakespeare living? Who was the ruler of England at that time?
5. What three types of plays did Shakespeare write? Give an example of each.
6. What was it like to go to a play during Shakespeare's time?
7. What historian did Shakespeare use as a source for writing *Julius Caesar*?
8. When and where did Julius Caesar live?
9. Who is Pompey? Although he is not a character in the play, why is he important to the plot?

Scene 1:

10. What is the setting? What holiday is being celebrated?
12. Who are Marullus and Flavius?
13. Why do they want to drive the commoners from the street?
14. What else do Marullus and Flavius do to further hinder the celebration of Caesar's victory?

Scene 2:

15. What does Caesar tell Antony to do to Calpurnia?
16. Why might Caesar ask Antony in front of everyone else?
17. What is a soothsayer? Of what does he warn Caesar?
18. What does *ides* mean?
19. Does Marcus Brutus like Caesar? What does Brutus think of Caesar's rise to power? Use lines from play to support your answer.
20. Brutus says, "For let the gods so speed me as I love / The name of honor more than I fear death." What do these lines imply about Brutus's most important value in life?
21. What story does Cassius tell Brutus?
22. What is Cassius's point in telling this story?
23. What is Caesar's opinion of Cassius? Why does he feel this way?
24. What handicap does Caesar reveal about himself when speaking to Antony?

25. How many times was Caesar offered a coronet, or a small crown?
26. What was Caesar's reaction to the offering, according to Casca?
27. What sickness does Caesar have?
28. What happens to Marullus and Flavius?
29. What does Cassius plan to do to convince Brutus to conspire against Caesar?

Scene 3:

30. What unusual events occur during the storm?
31. What meaning does Cassius interpret from the storm?
32. According to Casca, what are the senators planning to do to Caesar tomorrow?
33. Who is definitely part of the conspiracy?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.