

Caesar: Act II

Dramatic Conventions: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the play.

blank verse _____

free verse _____

unrhymed iambic pentameter _____

couplet _____

monologue _____

soliloquy _____

Enrichment Activity 2: Dramatic Conventions

DIRECTIONS: Identify from the text of Act I & 2. an example of: *blank verse, free verse, unrhymed iambic pentameter, and couplet*

1. **blank verse Ex:** _____

2. **free verse Ex:** _____

3. **unrhymed iambic pentameter Ex:** _____

2. **couplet Ex:** _____

Julius Caesar

Act II. Guided Reading Questions

Scene 1:

1. According to Brutus, why is it necessary that Caesar be killed?
2. What actions does Lucius perform that help the plot unfold?
3. What is Brutus's internal conflict?
4. Why does Brutus disagree about taking an oath?
5. Why does Metellus think it would be a good idea to ask Cicero to join the conspiracy?
6. Why does Brutus say they should not ask Cicero to join the conspiracy?
7. What does Brutus say about killing Marc Antony?
8. What reason does Cassius give for why Caesar might not come out of his house today?
9. By what method does Decius say he will use to get Caesar out of the house?
10. Why is Portia, Brutus's wife, worried about Brutus?

11. How does she prove her strength to Brutus?

Scene 2:

12. Why does Calpurnia want Caesar to stay home?

13. Describe Calpurnia's dream.

14. How does Decius interpret the interpret Calpurnia's dream?

15. What arguments does Decius use to change Caesar's mind about going to the Capitol?

Scene 3:

16. What does Artemidorus plan to do?

Scene 4:

17. Why is Portia so nervous?

18. What does Portia want Lucius to do?

19. What does the soothsayer tell Portia?

Understanding Characterization

Characterization is the process by which a writer reveals the personality of a character. Some methods of characterization in Shakespearean plays are (1) letting the audience hear the character speak, (2) revealing the character's private thoughts through speeches heard by the audience alone, and (3) showing how other characters react toward the character.

DIRECTIONS: After each detail characterizing Brutus, circle the letter of the *best* interpretation.

1. In a soliloquy—a speech to the audience that reveals a character's private thoughts—Brutus says, *"It must be by his death; and for my part, I know no personal cause to spurn at him, But for the general. He would be crowned. How that might change his nature, there's the question."* (Scene 1, lines 10-13)

- a. Brutus is eager to kill Caesar and take his place.
- b. Brutus has no strong personal dislike of Caesar.

2. Arriving with other conspirators, Cassius tells Brutus, *". . . no man here But honors you; and every one doth wish You had but that opinion of yourself Which every noble Roman bears of you."* (Scene 1, lines 90-93)

- a. Brutus is highly respected in Rome.
- b. Brutus is held in low esteem in Rome.

Applying Skills

DIRECTIONS: Determine what each of the following details from the play tells you about Brutus. Write your interpretation on the lines provided.

1. Before the conspirators come, Brutus paces the floor during the night, saying, *"Since Cassius first did whet me against Caesar, I have not slept. Between the acting of a dreadful thing And the first motion, all the interim is Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream."* (Scene 1, lines 61-65)

2. Ligarius is feeling sick, yet when Brutus asks him to join the plot against Caesar, Ligarius comes to attention and asks, *"What's to do?"* (Scene 1, line 326)
