## Julius Caesar

Setting: February 15, the feast of Lupercal, Rome

### Characters:
- **Marullus**: Supporter of Pompey. Along with Flavius, he undecorates the statues in protest of Caesar's conquest.
- **Flavius**: Supporter of Pompey.
- **Commoners**: Fickle—They jump on the bandwagon of whoever is in power at the time.
- **Caesar**: Ruler of Rome. Ignores Soothsayer’s warning.
- **Calpurnia**: Wife of Caesar. She is barren.
- **Antony**: Caesar’s best friend.
- **Soothsayer**: “Beware the Ides of March.”
- **Brutus**: Caesar’s friend.
- **Cassius**: Against Caesar. He reads a lot, doesn’t like entertainment, smart, power hungry
- **Casca**: Second in charge of the conspiracy.
- **Portia**: Brutus’s crazy wife.
- **Lucilius**: part of Brutus’s army
- **Titinius**: part of Cassius’s army
- **Pindarus**: Brutus’s slave
- **Messalina**: a general on Brutus’s side.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caesar’s Side</th>
<th>Conspirators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caesar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calpurnia</td>
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<td>Common People</td>
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<td>Antony</td>
<td>Metellus Cimber</td>
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<td>Decius</td>
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<td>Caius Ligarius</td>
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### Act I Scene i:
- exposition-conflict: Some of the people don’t like Caesar.

### Act I Scene ii:
- **Soothsayer**
- **Brutus’s internal conflict**: He is at war with himself.
- **Brutus doesn’t want Caesar to be king**: This would make their republic no longer exist.
- **Brutus**: “I love/The name of honor more than I fear death.”
- **Cassius is listing Caesar’s weaknesses** — swimming, gets sick easily
- **Cassius**: “The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,/But in ourselves, that we are underlings.”
- **Cassius is trying to get Brutus to help him overthrow Caesar.**
- **Brutus does have some desire to do this.**
- **Caesar**: “Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;/He thinks too much, such men are dangerous.”
- Caesar is deaf in his left ear.
- Caesar is offered the crown, but turns it down three times. He secretly wants to be king.
- People are happy he turns down the crown.
- Caesar had a seizure (epilepsy).
- Cassius says that the people of Rome have the falling sickness because Caesar's rule is terrible and they are still letting him rule.
- Caesar plays on the crowd's sympathies in order to keep their devotion.
- Marullus and Flavius were "put to silence" because they were against Caesar.
- Casca pretends to be stupid so that people will talk around him and he will get more information.
- When Brutus leaves, Cassius asks him to "think of the world" (what's good for the country).
- Cassius's soliloquy: Cassius is going to write three letters saying how great Brutus is and leave them where Brutus will find them (in different handwriting) so that Brutus will join him in overthrowing Caesar.

Act I Scene iii:
- night of March 14
- Casca sees: (foreshadowing) earthquake, thunder, lightning
- Omens: slave whose hand is on fire, but not actually burning, lion just walks by him in the street without attacking him, men on fire walking in the streets, owl hooting in the marketplace at noon.
- Casca thinks these omens are because of their plan to kill Caesar.
- Cassius says that Caesar's bad actions have caused these omens.
- Cassius says he would rather die than live under Caesar's rule
- Cinna will put the letters where Brutus can find them.

Themes:
- Flattery can seduce people into helping people do things.
- A strong belief in justice, combined with ambition, can cause people to act in outrageous ways.
- Self-preservation causes people to act in ways that could seem contrary to ways they would normally act.
- People skilled in manipulation can control others.

Act II Scene i:
- Brutus's Soliloquy (see handout). He is deciding that he should kill Caesar.
- Meteor shower. March 15.
- Cassius says to swear an oath. Brutus says no. Because the cause is right, they don't have to swear. They decide not to swear.
- Brutus reads the letter Cassius wrote. "Speak, strike, redress." Right the wrong of Caesar being a tyrant.
- Conspirators come to Brutus's house.
- Who should they include in the conspiracy? Cassius says to include Cicero. Brutus says not Cicero because he won't follow something if he wasn't in it from the beginning.
- They are deciding who else to kill. Antony? Brutus says they should not kill Antony because it would be too bloody. Cassius says they should kill him because he is in league with Caesar.
- Antony is Caesar's arm, so he can do nothing if they kill Caesar.
- Decius is in charge of getting him to the capital by flattery.
- Take him there by 8:00.
- Portia wants to know what is wrong with Brutus.
- Brutus says he's sick, but Portia doesn't believe him. She says that he "has some sick offense within [his] mind.
- Portia says that Brutus is treating her like his mistress, not his wife because he won't tell her what is wrong.
- Portia stabs herself in the leg to prove that she can keep Brutus's secrets.
- Brutus decides he will tell her.
- Caius follows Brutus because he trusts him. He doesn't even know what the plan is.

Act II Scene ii:
- Calpurnia wants Caesar to stay home because of the bad omens the guard has seen.
Caesar says he will go because these omens are not just for him.

Calpurnia says "When beggars die there are no comets seen; / The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes."

Caesar says he will go b/c he cannot escape his fate.

Augurers say Caesar should stay home.

“Danger knows full well / That Caesar is more dangerous than he.” –Caesar

Caesar finally decides to stay home.

Calpurnia dreamed that Caesar was a fountain with 100 spouts of blood.

Decius says this is a good dream because the Romans will be revived by Caesar and that today the Senate will offer him a crown. Calls him a coward for not wanting to come.

Caesar decides to go.

All the conspirators come to Caesar’s house to take him to the Capitol.

Act II Scene iii:

- Artemidorus’s letter warning about the traitors. He will give it to Caesar as Caesar walks by him.

Act II Scene iv:

- Portia worried about Brutus.
- Soothsayer worried about Caesar.

Act III Scene i:

- March 15, 44 BCE, outside the Capitol
- Caesar doesn’t take Artemidorus’s letter.
- Brutus gets Antony out of the way.
- Caesar says he is incapable of doing anything wrong—conceited.
- Conspirators are getting close to Caesar in order to kill him. They asking for Publius Cimber’s banishment to be repealed.
- Caesar says that he is “constant as the Northern Star.”
- Conspirators all stab Caesar.
- People will cry “Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!” and “enfranchisement!”
- Conspirators bathe their hands in Caesar’s blood just like in Calpurnia’s dream.
- Antony wants to know why they killed Caesar. If he agrees with their reasoning he will join them.
- Cassius is nervous about Antony.
- Antony shakes their hands to make them think he is on their side.
- Antony compares Caesar to a deer (hart); deer are not dangerous.
- Antony wants to speak at the funeral. Cassius says no; Brutus says yes; they go with Brutus with conditions.
- Rules: Speak good of Caesar; don’t speak badly of Conspirators; speak after Brutus.
- Antony’s speech p. 1247 or 1250-extra credit.
- Apostrophe: Speaking to something inanimate or not there.
- Antony want bloodshed and death to the conspirators.
- Octavius Caesar: Caesar’s nephew. Outside of Rome with an army.

Act III Scene ii:

- Caesar’s funeral
- Brutus speaks first. He says he killed Caesar for the love of Rome. Caesar was too ambitious and was trying to make slaves of the Roman people.
- The fickle people are now on Brutus’s side.
- Brutus says when he is no longer good for Rome, he will kill himself. foreshadowing
- Brutus leaves. BIG MISTAKE!!!! ;-
- When Antony speaks he says that Caesar made money for Rome, cried with the poor, refused the crown thrice; therefore, Caesar was not ambitious.
- Antony tells people that Caesar made them his heirs. The people are now “firmly” on Antony’s side.
- “This was the most unkindest cut of all.” Antony saying this about Brutus.
- Antony points out the individuals who killed Caesar to make them each responsible for the death.
- He wants the people to mutiny!
- Caesar’s will: 75 drachmas to each citizen, given private arbors to make Roman public parks. Brutus and Cassius have left Rome.

Act III Scene iii:
- People attack Cinna the Poet in their rioting just because his name is Cinna, like one of the conspirators. The people are out of control.

Act IV Scene i:
- Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus are a triumvirate.
- They are deciding who to kill. They are even killing members of their own families as to not seem biased. They are getting rid of the conspirators.
- Antony doesn’t think Lepidus is fit to be a part of their triumvirate.

Act IV Scene ii:
- Brutus and Cassius don’t want to fight in front of their soldiers so that the soldiers will fight well.

Act IV Scene iii:
- Cassius is mad at Brutus because Brutus convicted Lucius Pella of taking bribes when Cassius said he didn’t do it.
- Brutus is mad because Cassius didn’t send him money to pay his army.
- Cassius tells Brutus to stab him if he hates him so much. Brutus says no and they make up.
- Poet comes in and provides comic relief.
- Portia is dead by eating hot coals.
- Messala comes and says that Octavius and Antony killed 100 senators. Brutus said he heard 70. Cicero is dead.
- Should they march to Philippi or not. Cassius says no. Brutus says yes. They march to Philippi.
- Caesar’s ghost comes to tell Brutus that he will see him at Philippi.

Act V Scene i:
- Antony and Octavius are not getting along.
- The opposing sides are going to get together to have parley to insult one another.
- Brutus says this battle will end this day.
- Battle starts.

Act V Scene ii:
- There weakness in Octavius’s army.

Act V Scene iii:
- Cassius sends Titinius into the camp below to see whose army is down there. He send Pindarus up the hill to watch what happens.
- Pindarus reports that Titinius was taken prisoner.
- Because Cassius thinks he sent Titinius to his death, he has Pindarus stab him. It is his birthday.
- Cassius says “Caesar, thou are revenged/Even with the sword that killed thee.”
- Brutus finds Cassius’s body.
- Cassius killed himself for the misunderstanding that Titinius was captured.
- Titinius kills himself because Cassius is dead.
- Brutus thinks Caesar’s ghosts caused the deaths.

Act V Scene iv:
- Cato is captured says he is Brutus in order to make the other army quit fighting so hard.