

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 'sē-ənt , -ōō'nt) _____

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.

a) blank verse _____

List characters who speak in verse _____

b) prose _____

List characters who speak in prose _____

**What possible reason do some characters speak in prose and some speak in verse? _____

c) pun _____

Example from Act I, scene i: _____

d) conflict _____

External: 1. _____ vs. _____

2. _____ vs. _____

3. _____ vs. _____

Internal: 4. _____ vs. _____

e) soliloquy (sə-lī'kwē) _____

Example: _____

f) metaphor _____

Example: _____

g) simile _____

Example: _____

III. Questions: answer the following questions.

Do some background research:

Who is Pompey? Although he is not a character in the play, why is he important to the plot?

Scene 1: Answer the following question on a new document.

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

Scene 2:

1. What does Caesar tell Antony to do to Calpurnia?
2. Why might Caesar ask Antony in front of everyone else?
3. What is a soothsayer? Of what does he warn Caesar?
4. Does Marcus Brutus like Caesar? What does Brutus think of Caesar's rise to power? Use lines from play to support your answer.
5. 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?
6. What story does Cassius tell Brutus and what is his point in telling this story?
7. What is Caesar's opinion of Cassius? Why does he feel this way?
8. What handicap does Caesar reveal about himself when speaking to Antony?
9. How many times was Caesar offered a coronet, or a small crown?
10. What was Caesar's reaction to the offering, according to Casca?
11. What sickness does Caesar have?
12. What happens to Marullus and Flavius?
13. What does Cassius plan to do to convince Brutus to conspire against Caesar?

Scene 3:

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