

Julius Caesar Act III Study Questions

Summary

1. What excuse do the conspirators use to approach Caesar at the Capitol in Act III, Scene i?
2. How does Caesar react to them?
3. What does Caesar say as he dies?
4. Why is Cassius reluctant to allow Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral?
5. At Caesar's funeral in Scene ii, what reasons does Brutus offer for the assassination?
6. What does the crowd say it will do for Brutus?
7. What does the crowd say about Caesar?
8. Why does the crowd let Antony speak at all?
9. To which qualities of Caesar's does Antony refer in Scene ii, lines 83-95?
10. What does Antony say about the assassins in lines 171-194?
11. In Scene I, why does Brutus brush aside Cassius's concern about allowing Antony to speak at the funeral?
12. Which man – Brutus or Cassius – proves the better judge of Antony?
13. How should the people view the conspirators and Caesar, according to Brutus's funeral speech?
14. How should the people view the conspirators and Caesar, according to Antony's funeral speech?
15. How does the meaning of the line "Brutus is an honorable man" change, rhetorically speaking, during Antony's funeral speech?
16. Who has replaced Caesar as the most powerful man in Rome by the end of Act III?

Analysis

1. Has Rome gained or lost from this change of power?
2. On the basis of the plebeians' behavior in Scenes ii and iii, describe Shakespeare's attitude toward democracy. Explain the validity of Shakespeare's attitude.