

Julius Caesar Act II Study Questions

Directions: Answer using complete sentences.

1. What reasons does Brutus give in Act II, scene I, lines 10-34, for killing Caesar?
2. Summarize the contents of the letter that Lucius finds on the windowsill in Scene i.
3. What does Brutus add to the letter?
4. In Scene I what arguments regarding the treatment of Antony are presented by Cassius and by Brutus?
5. What does the group decide to do about Antony?
6. In Scene i why is Portia disturbed about Brutus's recent behavior?
7. What does she ask of Brutus and what proof does she offer of her steadfastness?
8. In Scene ii what request does Calpurnia make of Caesar?
9. Retell Calpurnia's dream and Decius's interpretation of it in Scene ii.
10. Why does Artemidorus wish to see Caesar?
11. Why does the soothsayer wish to see Caesar?
12. In Act II what signs does Caesar give that he might eventually become a tyrant, as Brutus fears?
13. Explain the conflict in Brutus's mind over joining the conspiracy.
14. What is the difference in the way Brutus treats Portia in Scene i and the way Caesar treats Calpurnia in Scene ii? What does each man reveal about himself through his treatment of his wife?
15. Give several examples of dramatic irony (which builds suspense) that occur in Act II.

Name _____

Date _____

THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR, ACT TWO

COPY MASTER

Text Analysis**SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY: SOLILOQUY/ASIDE**

A **soliloquy** is a long speech that a character makes while alone on stage or when no one on stage is supposed to be listening. An **aside** is a remark that a character says to the audience or another character but that everyone else on stage is not supposed to hear. Shakespeare uses both devices to reveal characters' thoughts to the audience.

Directions: Use this chart to identify the soliloquies and asides in Act Two and to explain what each example reveals about the character who speaks it.

Scene and Line Nos.	Speaker	Soliloquy or Aside?	What It Reveals
Pg. 1220 L 10-34			
Pg. 1224 L 114-140			
Pg. 1225 L 162-183			
Pg. 1234 L 124-125			
Pg. 1234 L 128-129			

Active Reading

Julius Caesar Act 2

In Act 2, characters make decisions that affect the play's outcome. Use the boxes below to record four important decisions from Act 2. Briefly explain the reason for each decision and predict its possible consequence.

Decision	Reason	Possible consequence
Brutus decides to join the conspiracy.	He fears that Caesar will become a tyrant.	He could be punished for his actions.

Decision	Reason	Possible consequence

Decision	Reason	Possible consequence

Decision	Reason	Possible consequence