

## ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.02 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT I



## Objectives

**After completing this lesson, you will be able to:**

- demonstrate understanding of Shakespearean language
- identify main themes in Act I of *Julius Caesar*

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## Choose Your Identity—Text Version

Select each person to hear a different point of view about a party.

### Person 1:

**Person Holding the Party:** You have a fantastic idea for a party, and you need your friends' support to pull it together. Which one do you feel is more supportive?

**The Supporter:** Whatever you say, I'll do!

**The Skeptic:** I see both pros and cons in this. I'm conflicted.

### Person 2:

**The Supporter:** Your friend has just told you about a new idea for a party, and your help is needed to pull it together. It sounds like fun, but another friend in your group isn't so sure. How do you feel the party will turn out?

**Person Holding the Party:** Let's have a party and leave no ceremony out!

**The Skeptic:** I see both pros and cons in this. I'm conflicted.

### Person 3:

**The Skeptic:** Your friend has just told you about a new idea for a party, and your help is needed to pull it together. In your opinion, this party is a bad idea, and there is no way you want to be involved. It's difficult to explain this without being hurtful, though, and another friend in your group seems to be really excited about the party. How do you feel the party will turn out?

**Person Holding the Party:** Let's have a party and leave no ceremony out!

**The Supporter:** Whatever you say, I'll do!

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**ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.02 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT I**

In William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, like in the previous scenarios, the characters have different feelings about the situations at hand. Many people have difficulty taking sides in a dispute, especially when friendships are at stake. This is a tough part of life that people have struggled with throughout history.

In *Julius Caesar*, the historical facts of the ruler's life and death are secondary to the personal relationships that suffered due to changing loyalties. In many ways, this play is more about the pain of betrayal than it is about the details of history.

There are many characters in *Julius Caesar*. Try to keep track of each one and his or her contribution to the story. You may find that a graphic organizer will help you take notes as you go. Here is the [Julius Caesar Act I Graphic Organizer](#) that you can use. The first two slots have been filled out for you with the characters of Act I listed. This graphic organizer will help you throughout the unit as you work toward a larger writing project. Pay close attention to the last column, Evidence of Loyalty (to whom?). In this column you should put your observations about each character's loyalty to his or her country or his or her friends and family. Because this is a play about betrayal, your observations about loyalty will be particularly important.

You may also use the notes from your graphic organizers to assist you in your Discussion-Based Assessment.



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# Julius Caesar Act I Graphic Organizer

Name	Character Notes	Important Quotes	Evidence of Loyalty (to whom?)
Flavius	Annoyed with the crowd because they are too fickle.		
Marullus	Annoyed with the crowd because they are too fickle.		
commoners			
Caesar			
Casca			
Calpurnia			
Antony			
Soothsayer			
Brutus			
Cassius			
Cicero			
Cinna			

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## ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.02 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT I

**Act I, scene i: Rome. A street.**

What conquest brings he home?

— Marullus

***Ye Virtual Globe***

A play is meant to be seen on stage or filmed for audiences to view later. It is a script with directions for the cast and crew, and the entire experience comes to life on stage.

Read the first act of [Julius Caesar](#) at SparkNotes on your own. As you read, remember to fill in your graphic organizer and think about the betrayal that takes place.

After you have finished reading the first act, take a look at the following selection.

As supporters of Pompey and not of Caesar, Marullus and Flavius embark to take down the decorations that adorn the statues of Caesar, a decision they will later regret since it marks them as traitors to Caesar.

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## Marullus Excerpt—Text Version

### MARULLUS

[Wherefore](#) rejoice? What conquest brings he home?  
 What tributaries follow him to Rome,  
 To grace in captive bonds his chariot-wheels?  
 You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!  
 O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,  
 Knew you not [Pompey](#)? Many a time and [oft](#)  
 Have you climb'd up to walls and battlements,  
 To towers and windows, yea, to chimney-tops,  
 Your infants in your arms, and there have sat  
 The livelong day, with patient expectation,  
 To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome:  
 And when you saw his chariot but appear,  
 Have you not made an universal shout,  
 That [Tiber](#) trembled underneath her banks,  
 To hear the [replication](#) of your sounds  
 Made in her concave shores?  
 And do you now put on your best attire?  
 And do you now cull out a holiday?  
 And do you now strew flowers in his way  
 That comes in triumph over Pompey's blood? Be gone!  
 Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,  
 Pray to the gods to [intermit](#) the plague  
 That needs must light on this ingratitude.

**Marullus and Flavius are annoyed at the commoners who are celebrating my victory over Pompey. Here, Marullus yells at one of the commoners and explains why he is annoyed. Select the lines where Marullus explains his problem with their happiness.**

1. To towers and windows, yea, to chimney-tops,  
Your infants in your arms, and there have sat
2. To hear the replication of your sounds  
Made in her concave shores?
3. Pray to the gods to intermit the plague  
That needs must light on this ingratitude.

Check Answers

## Marullus Excerpt

**Marullus and Flavius are annoyed at the commoners who are celebrating my victory over Pompey. Here, Marullus yells at one of the commoners and explains why he is annoyed. Select the lines where Marullus explains his problem with their happiness.**

1. To towers and windows, yea, to chimney-tops,  
Your infants in your arms, and there have sat

**Feedback:** Close! Take another look. These lines describe what the crowd used to do before Caesar became their favorite leader.

2. To hear the replication of your sounds  
Made in her concave shores?

**Feedback:** Close! Give this another try. These lines describe what the joyful cheers from the crowd used to sound like when the crowd loved a different leader.

3. Pray to the gods to intermit the plague

That needs must light on this ingratitude.

**Feedback:** Excellent! In these lines, Marullus explains that the commoners are ungrateful to Pompey, for whom they have cheered in the past. Now that Caesar is in power, the crowd seems to love him. Marullus sees this as a betrayal, and he thinks the crowd is too fickle.

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# Act 1 Scene 1

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## ORIGINAL TEXT

*Enter **FLAVIUS**, **MURELLUS**,  
a **CARPENTER**, a **COBBLER**, and certain  
other **COMMONERS** over the stage*

### FLAVIUS

Hence! Home, you idle creatures get you  
home!

Is this a holiday? What, know you not,  
Being mechanical, you ought not walk

Upon a laboring day without the sign

5 Of your profession?—Speak, what trade art  
thou?

### CARPENTER

Why, sir, a carpenter.

### MURELLUS

Where is thy leather apron and thy rule?

What dost thou with thy best apparel on?

—You, sir, what trade are you?

### COBBLER

10 Truly, sir, in respect of a fine workman, I am  
but, as you would say, a cobbler.

### MURELLUS

But what trade art thou? Answer me directly.

## MODERN TEXT

**FLAVIUS** and **MURELLUS** enter and speak to  
a **CARPENTER**, a **COBBLER**, and some  
other commoners.

### FLAVIUS

Get out of here! Go home, you lazy men.

What, is today a holiday? Don't you know that  
working men aren't supposed to walk around  
on a workday without wearing their work  
clothes? You there, speak up. What's your  
occupation?

### CARPENTER

I'm a carpenter, sir.

### MURELLUS

Where are your leather apron and your ruler?

What are you doing, wearing your best  
clothes? And you, sir, what's *your* trade?

### COBBLER

Well, compared to a fine workman, you might  
call me a mere cobbler.

### MURELLUS

But what's your trade? Answer me  
straightforwardly.



**COBBLER**

A trade, sir, that I hope I may use with a safe conscience, which is, indeed, sir, a mender of bad soles.

**MURELLUS**

15 What trade, thou knave? Thou naughty knave, what trade?

**COBBLER**

Nay, I beseech you, sir, be not out with me. Yet, if you be out, sir, I can mend you.

**MURELLUS**

What mean'st thou by that? "Mend" me, thou saucy fellow?

**COBBLER**

It is a trade, sir, that I practice with a clear conscience. I am a mender of worn soles.

**MURELLUS**

What trade, boy? You insolent rascal, what trade?

**COBBLER**

Sir, please, don't be angry. But if your soles are worn out, I can mend you.

**MURELLUS**

What do you mean by that? "Mend" me, you impertinent fellow?!

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**Act 1, Scene 1, Page 2**

# Act 1 Scene 1

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## ORIGINAL TEXT

### COBBLER

20 Why, sir, cobble you.

### FLAVIUS

Thou art a cobbler, art thou?

### COBBLER

Truly, sir, all that I live by is with the awl. I meddle with no tradesman's matters nor women's matters, but withal I am indeed, sir, a surgeon to old shoes. When they are in great danger, I recover them. As proper men as ever trod upon neat's leather have gone upon my handiwork.

### FLAVIUS

But wherefore art not in thy shop today? Why dost thou lead these men about the streets?

### COBBLER

Truly, sir, to wear out their shoes to get myself into more work. But indeed, sir, we make holiday to see Caesar and to rejoice in his triumph.

### MURELLUS

Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he home?

## MODERN TEXT

### COBBLER

Cobble you, sir.

### FLAVIUS

You're a cobbler, are you?

### COBBLER

Sir, I make my living using an awl. I stick to my work; I don't meddle in politics or chase women. I'm a surgeon to old shoes. When they're endangered, I save them. The noblest men who ever walked on leather have walked on my handiwork.

### FLAVIUS

But why aren't you in your shop today? Why are you leading these men through the streets?

### COBBLER

Well, to wear out their shoes and get myself more work. Seriously, though, we took the day off to see Caesar, sir, and celebrate his triumph.

### MURELLUS

Why would you celebrate it? What victory does he bring home? What foreign lands has

What tributaries follow him to Rome  
To grace in captive bonds his chariot wheels?  
35 You blocks, you stones, you worse than  
senseless things,  
O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome,  
Knew you not Pompey? Many a time and oft  
Have you climbed up to walls and  
battlements,  
To towers and windows, yea, to chimney tops,  
40 Your infants in your arms, and there have sat  
The livelong day with patient expectation  
To see great Pompey pass the streets of  
Rome.  
And when you saw his chariot but appear,  
Have you not made an universal shout  
45 That Tiber trembled underneath her banks  
To hear the replication of your sounds  
Made in her concave shores?  
And do you now put on your best attire?  
And do you now cull out a holiday?

he conquered and captive foreigners chained  
to his chariot wheels? You blockheads, you  
unfeeling men! You hard hearts, you cruel  
men of Rome, didn't you know [Pompey](#) ?  
Many times you climbed up on walls and  
battlements, towers and windows—even  
chimney tops—with your babies in your arms,  
and sat there patiently all day waiting to see  
great Pompey ride through the streets of  
Rome. And when you caught a glimpse of his  
chariot, didn't you shout so loud that the river  
Tiber shook as it echoed? And now you put on  
your best clothes? And now you take a  
holiday?

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# Act 1 Scene 1

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## ORIGINAL TEXT

50 And do you now strew flowers in his way  
That comes in triumph over Pompey's blood?  
Be gone!  
Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,  
Pray to the gods to intermit the plague  
55 That needs must light on this ingratitude.

### FLAVIUS

Go, go, good countrymen, and for this fault,  
Assemble all the poor men of your sort,  
Draw them to Tiber banks, and weep your  
tears  
Into the channel till the lowest stream  
60 Do kiss the most exalted shores of all.

*Exeunt **CARPENTER, COBBLER**, and all the  
other commoners*

See whether their basest metal be not moved.  
They vanish tongue-tied in their guiltiness.  
Go you down that way towards the Capitol.  
This way will I. Disrobe the images  
65 If you do find them decked with ceremonies.

### MURELLUS

May we do so?

## MODERN TEXT

And now you toss flowers in the path of  
Caesar, who comes in triumph over  
Pompey's defeated sons? Go home! Run to  
your houses, fall on your knees, and pray to  
the gods to spare you the pain that you  
deserve for such ingratitude.

### FLAVIUS

Go, go, good countrymen, and to make up for  
having done wrong, gather up all the poor  
men like yourselves, lead them to the Tiber,  
and weep into the river until it overflows its  
banks.

*The **CARPENTER, COBBLER**, and all the  
commoners exit.*

Well, that ought to move even the most  
thickheaded of them. There they go, feeling  
so guilty they're now tongue-tied—they don't  
have a thing to say. You go down toward the  
Capitol, and I'll go this way. Undress the  
statues if they're decorated in honor of  
Caesar.

### MURELLUS

You know it is the feast of Lupercal.

**FLAVIUS**

It is no matter. Let no images

Be hung with Caesar's trophies. I'll about

70 And drive away the vulgar from the streets.

So do you too, where you perceive them thick.

These growing feathers plucked from

Caesar's wing

Will make him fly an ordinary pitch,

Who else would soar above the view of men

75 And keep us all in servile fearfulness.

*Exeunt severally*

Can we do that? You know it's the feast  
of [Lupercal](#) .

**FLAVIUS**

It doesn't matter. Make sure that none of the  
statues are decorated in tribute to Caesar. I'll  
walk around and force the commoners off the  
streets. You do the same, wherever the  
crowds are thick. If we take away Caesar's  
support, he'll have to come back down to  
earth; otherwise, he'll fly too high and keep  
the rest of us in a state of fear and  
obedience.

*They exit in different directions.*

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[Act 1, Scene 2](#)

## Act I, scene ii: A public place.

When Caesar says 'do this,' it is perform'd.

— Antony

After Shakespeare introduces the fickle crowd that currently supports Caesar, he moves on to more specific problems of betrayal in scene ii. Here, the main characters appear for the first time, and the audience learns how Caesar's senators truly feel about their leader.

Read the [excerpt](#) to begin answering the following questions: Who supports Caesar? Who is plotting against him? Who is undecided?

This first part of the scene sets the stage for what will happen later. Then the characters will begin to plot their betrayal.

Later in this scene, Casca arrives to explain that Antony, three times before the crowd, offered Caesar a crown to be king. Caesar turned him down each time. After the third offer, Caesar apparently had an epileptic seizure. This news only concerns Cassius and Brutus more. Antony and the crowd want Caesar to be king, though Caesar is not a strong and healthy man.

Though Brutus is unsure about what should be done, Cassius has his own plans. Read the [excerpt](#) to answer the following question: Is Cassius supposed to be a good person or a bad person?

# Excerpt: Cassius Plots—Text Version

## Brutus

What means this shouting? I do fear, the people  
Choose Caesar for their king.

## Cassius

Ay, do you fear it?  
Then must I think you would not have it so.

## Brutus

I would not, Cassius; yet I love him well.  
But wherefore do you hold me here so long?  
What is it that you would impart to me?  
If it be [aught](#) toward the general good,  
Set honour in one eye and death [i'](#) the other,  
And I will look on both indifferently,  
For let the gods so speed me as I love  
The name of honour more than I fear death.

## Cassius

I know that virtue be in you, Brutus,  
As well as I do know your outward favour.  
Well, honour is the subject of my story.  
I cannot tell you what you and other men  
Think of this life; but for my single self,  
I had [as lief](#) not be as live to be  
In awe of such a thing as I myself.  
I was born free as Caesar; so were you:  
We both have fed as well, and we can both  
Endure the winter's cold as well as he:  
For once, upon a raw and gusty day,  
The troubled Tiber [chafing](#) with her shores,  
Caesar said to me 'Darest thou, Cassius, now  
Leap in with me into this angry flood,  
And swim to yonder point?' Upon the word,  
[Accoutred](#) as I was, I plunged in  
And bade him follow; so indeed he did.  
The [torrent roar'd](#) , and we did [buffet](#) it  
With lusty [sinews](#) , throwing it aside  
And stemming it with hearts of controversy;  
But [ere](#) we could arrive the point proposed,  
Caesar cried 'Help me, Cassius, or I sink!'  
I, as [Aeneas](#) , our great ancestor,  
Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder  
The old [Anchises](#) bear, so from the waves of Tiber  
Did I the tired Caesar. And this man  
Is now become a god, and Cassius is  
A wretched creature and must bend his body,  
If Caesar carelessly but nod on him.  
He had a fever when he was in Spain,  
And when the fit was on him, I did mark  
How he did shake: 'tis true, this god did shake;  
His coward lips did from their colour fly,  
And that same eye whose bend [doth](#) awe the world  
Did lose his luster: I did hear him groan:  
Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the Romans

Mark him and write his speeches in their books,  
Alas, it cried 'Give me some drink, Titinius,'  
As a sick girl. Ye gods, it doth amaze me  
A man of such a [feeble](#) temper should  
So get the start of the majestic world  
And bear the palm alone.

Cassius talks to Brutus about his past experiences with Caesar. Here, Cassius tries to manipulate Brutus into working against their leader. Read the following lines. Select the lines where Cassius explains his reason for disliking Caesar.

1. I know that virtue be in you, Brutus,  
As well as I do know your outward favour.  
Well, honour is the subject of my story.
2. Caesar said to me 'Darest thou, Cassius, now  
Leap in with me into this angry flood,  
And swim to yonder point?' Upon the word,
3. ...Ye gods, it doth amaze me  
A man of such a feeble temper should  
So get the start of the majestic world  
And bear the palm alone.

Check Answers

## Answers

Cassius talks to Brutus about his past experiences with Caesar. Here, Cassius tries to manipulate Brutus into working against their leader. Read the following lines. Select the lines where Cassius explains his reason for disliking Caesar.

1. I know that virtue be in you, Brutus,  
As well as I do know your outward favour.  
Well, honour is the subject of my story.
2. Caesar said to me 'Darest thou, Cassius, now  
Leap in with me into this angry flood,  
And swim to yonder point?' Upon the word,
3. ...Ye gods, it doth amaze me  
A man of such a feeble temper should  
So get the start of the majestic world  
And bear the palm alone.

Close! Try again. These lines show how Cassius is trying to get Brutus's attention by appealing to his sense of honor.

Close! Try again. These lines show how Cassius is trying to get Brutus's attention by appealing to his sense of honor.

Very good! In these lines, Cassius says that he is amazed to see someone as physically weak as Caesar being admired as if he were a god.



## ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.02 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT I

## Act I, scene iii: The same. A street.

"O Cassius, if you could  
But win the noble Brutus to our party"—

— Cinna

Scene iii takes place in a thunderstorm. The characters comment that many strange things are happening in town, and they fear that the strange things are signs that Caesar's rule will be bad for Rome. Here, Shakespeare shows how the plot to bring Caesar down is started.

At the end of Act I, the fake letters are on their way to Brutus. Will Brutus believe what they say?

# Excerpt—Text Version

## Casca

Indeed, they say the senators tomorrow  
Mean to establish Caesar as a king;  
And he shall wear his crown by sea and land,  
In every place, save here in Italy.

## Cassius

I know where I will wear this dagger then;  
Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius:  
Therein, ye gods, you make the weak most strong;  
Therein, ye gods, you tyrants do defeat:  
Nor stony tower, nor walls of beaten brass,  
Nor airless dungeon, nor strong links of iron,  
Can be retentive to the strength of spirit;  
But life, being weary of these worldly bars,  
Never lacks power to dismiss itself.  
If I know this, know all the world besides,  
That part of tyranny that I do bear  
I can shake off at pleasure.

In the middle of the thunderstorm, Cassius makes a promise to the gods. Select the word that suggests what Cassius plans for Caesar.

- Dagger
- Strong
- Power
- Pleasure

Check Answer

## Answer

In the middle of the thunderstorm, Cassius makes a promise to the gods. Select the word that suggests what Cassius plans for Caesar.

- **Dagger**—Correct Answer
- Strong
- Power
- Pleasure

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**ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.02 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT I**

Later in this unit, you will write an argumentative response to the following question:



**Is Brutus a betrayer or a patriot?**

At this point you still have much to explore in the play before you can answer this question intelligently. As you read and watch Julius Caesar, keep an eye on any details you see that will help you determine whether Brutus is a betrayer or a patriot. This will assist you with your work when you get started writing.

# Act I Matching—Text Version

Let's review the situation. Match the character to his or her current situation at the end of Act I.

## Person

Caesar  
Antony  
Calpurnia  
Brutus  
Cassius

## Description

Unable to have children  
uncertain about what to do  
plans to bring Caesar down  
may become king  
supports Caesar  
Check Answers

## Answers

Let's review the situation. Match the character to his or her current situation at the end of Act I.

## Person

Caesar  
Antony  
Calpurnia  
Brutus  
Cassius

## Description

may become king  
supports Caesar  
Unable to have children  
uncertain about what to do  
plans to bring Caesar down

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## Act1

### Assessment Instructions

For this assessment you must demonstrate your understanding of Act I by completing a quiz. Review your notes on this act of Julius Caesar before accessing the quiz.

This information will help you with your argumentative writing project later in this unit.



#### Assignment

1. Complete the lesson.
2. Complete the self-checks in the lesson.
3. Complete the **04.02 Julius Caesar Act 1 Quiz**.

## Exam: 04.02 Julius Caesar Act 1 Quiz

### Warning

There is a checkbox at the bottom of the exam form that you **MUST** check prior to submitting this exam. Failure to do so may cause your work to be lost.

### Question 1 (Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

Based on your reading of Act I of *Julius Caesar*, to whom is the character of Cassius **most** loyal?

 Antony

 Caesar

 Himself

 Rome

### Question 2 (Matching Worth 10 points)

Match	Term	Definition
<input type="text"/>	Soothsayer	<b>A)</b> supports Caesar
<input type="text"/>	Calpurnia	<b>B)</b> gives a warning
<input type="text"/>	Brutus	<b>C)</b> Annoyed with the crowd
<input type="text"/>	Antony	<b>D)</b> plans a betrayal
<input type="text"/>	Flavius	<b>E)</b> unable to have children

### Question 3 (Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

Read the passage below carefully and then choose the correct answer.

Knew you not Pompey? Many a time and oft  
Have you climb'd up to walls and battlements,  
To towers and windows, yea, to chimney-tops,  
Your infants in your arms, and there have sat  
The livelong day, with patient expectation,  
To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome:  
And when you saw his chariot but appear,  
Have you not made an universal shout,  
That Tiber trembled underneath her banks,  
To hear the **replication** of your sounds  
Made in her concave shores?

The word in bold refers to

a general

an echo

a pause

a river

#### Question 4 (Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

Read the passage below carefully and then choose the correct answer.

Beware the ides of March.

The soothsayer says this to Caesar to warn him of the

15th of March

people in his army

end of March

1st of March

#### Question 5 (Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

Read the passage below carefully and then choose the correct answer.

He had a fever when he was in Spain,  
And when the fit was on him, I did mark  
How he did shake: 'tis true, this god did shake;  
His coward lips did from their colour fly,  
And that same eye whose bend doth awe the world  
Did lose his luster: I did hear him groan:  
Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the Romans  
Mark him and write his speeches in their books,  
Alas, it cried 'Give me some drink, Titinius,'  
As a sick girl. Ye gods, it doth amaze me  
A man of such a feeble temper should  
So get the start of the majestic world  
And bear the palm alone.

To what does Cassius compare Caesar in this speech?

A palm tree

A Roman

A little girl

A Spaniard

### Question 6 (Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

Read the passage below carefully and then choose the correct answer.

Caesar said to me 'Darest thou, Cassius, now  
Leap in with me into this angry flood,  
And swim to yonder point?' Upon the word,  
Accoutred as I was, I plunged in  
And bade him follow; so indeed he did.  
The torrent roar'd, and we did buffet it  
With lusty **sinews**, throwing it aside  
And stemming it with hearts of controversy;  
But ere we could arrive the point proposed,  
Caesar cried 'Help me, Cassius, or I sink!'

The word in bold means

rushing water

dressed in uniform



Greek mythology

muscle strength

**You must check the box below prior to submitting your exam!**