



Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of Shakespearean language
- identify main themes in Act II
- determine appropriate responses to a variety of ethical dilemmas

Dilemma Fountain—Text Version

1. You do not want to go to work.
What should you do?
What do you do?
 2. Your enemy needs help.
What should you do?
What do you do?
 3. Your friend may accidentally ruin your plans.
What should you do?
What do you do?
 4. You can manipulate another person to gain control.
What should you do?
What do you do?
-

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ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.03 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT II

As you saw in the Dilemma Fountain, sometimes problems can arise for which there are several possible solutions. An ethical dilemma is a complicated situation in which a person needs to make a difficult decision. The options for [resolutions](#) usually conflict with one another so that there is no way to please everyone involved. These are struggles with [ethical](#) problems that cannot be solved with a simple answer or action.

Many people who face ethical dilemmas make what they later feel were the "wrong" choices. This is because ethical dilemmas are [notoriously](#) complex and difficult to resolve.

In *Julius Caesar*, Brutus faces a difficult decision: Should he stand by Caesar, though he disagrees with his leadership? Should he betray his friend? Though Caesar's name is the title of the play, most of the story focuses on Brutus's conflicted feelings and tough choices.

Think about the complexity of ethical dilemmas. As you examine this act, ask yourself what the "best" decision is for Brutus.

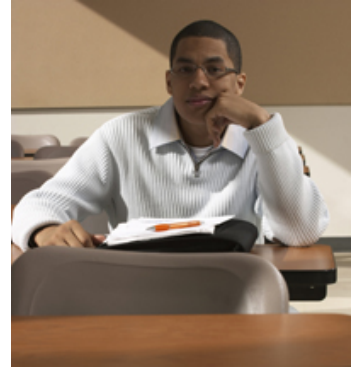
There are many characters in *Julius Caesar*. Try to keep track of each one and his or her contribution to the story. Use the following [Julius Caesar, Act II Graphic Organizer](#). The first two slots have been filled out for you, and the characters of Act II have been listed.

What does it mean about Cassius's plan that he has to mislead Brutus to make it happen?

What does it mean about Brutus that he so readily believes what Cassius says?

What does it mean about Antony that Brutus refuses to kill him?

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 II Graphic Organizer

Name	Character Notes	Important Quotes	Evidence of Loyalty (to whom?)
Brutus	Considers killing Caesar but has mixed feelings. Finally decides that it is the best option after he reads the fake letters.		
Lucius	Works for Brutus. Confirms that tomorrow is the Ides of March and introduces the conspirators who arrive at the house.		
Cassius			
Casca			
Decius Brutus			
Cinna			
Metellus Cimber			
Trebonius			
Portia			
Ligarius			
Caesar			
Calpurnia			
Publius			
Mark Antony			
Artemidorus			
soothsayer			

1. What does it mean about Cassius's plan that he has to mislead Brutus to make it happen?
2. What does it mean about Brutus that he so readily believes what Cassius says?
3. What does it mean about Antony that Brutus refuses to kill him?

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Save

Act II, scene i: Rome. Brutus's orchard.

And therefore think him as a serpent's egg
Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,
And kill him in the shell.
— Brutus

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

Act II focuses on Brutus and his ethical dilemma. He has been presented with a problem. Caesar is gaining power and popularity. Those with too much power tend to abuse their positions. Brutus must decide whether he should trust Caesar to remain an honest leader, or whether he should "kill him in his shell," as if he were killing a poisonous snake before it could be born.

As you have seen throughout this play so far, Cassius has manipulated Brutus several times. First, he suggested that Caesar should be brought down, and then he sent Brutus fake letters from the public of Rome, calling for an end to Caesar's rule.

In this video, you saw Brutus go with Cassius's plans but finally resist when Cassius suggested they should kill Antony as well. Answer the following questions in your graphic organizer:

- What does it mean about Cassius's plan that he has to mislead Brutus to make it happen?
- What does it mean about Brutus that he so readily believes what Cassius says?
- What does it mean about Antony that Brutus refuses to kill him?

Brutus's decision—Text Version

Decius Brutus

Shall no man else be touch'd but only Caesar?

Cassius

Decius, well urged: I think it is not [meet](#),
Mark Antony, so well beloved of Caesar,
Should outlive Caesar: we shall find of him
A shrewd contriver; and, you know, his means,
If he improve them, may well stretch so far
As to annoy us all: which to prevent,
Let Antony and Caesar fall together.

Brutus

Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius,
To cut the head off and then hack the limbs,
Like wrath in death and envy afterwards;
For Antony is but a limb of Caesar:
Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers, Caius.
We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar;
And in the spirit of men there is no blood:
O, that we then could come by Caesar's spirit,
And not dismember Caesar! But, alas,
Caesar must bleed for it! And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly, but not [wrathfully](#);
Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,
Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds:
And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
Stir up their servants to an act of rage,
And after seem to chide 'em. This shall make
Our purpose necessary and not envious:
Which so appearing to the common eyes,
We shall be call'd [purgers](#), not murderers.
And for Mark Antony, think not of him;
For he can do no more than Caesar's arm
When Caesar's head is off.

Interesting Note

Interesting note: Cassius and a few of the others feel that Mark Antony, a supporter of Caesar, will be dangerous once Caesar is dead. Brutus disagrees, and the others follow his wishes.

What this tells us: Brutus has resolved to kill Caesar with the other conspirators, but he wants it to be an honorable death, and he wants the killing to stop there. Brutus is still conflicted about their plans, but he clearly still has some level of control over the conspirators. They plan to leave Mark Antony alone.

Brutus gives several reasons for why the conspirators should not kill Mark Antony. Select the three lines where Brutus explains why they should leave Antony alive.

- Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius,
To cut the head off and then hack the limbs,
- Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers, Caius.
- O, that we then could come by Caesar's spirit,
And not dismember Caesar! But, alas,
- And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
- Which so appearing to the common eyes,

- For he can do no more than Caesar's arm
When Caesar's head is off.

Check Answers

Answers

Decius Brutus

Shall no man else be touch'd but only Caesar?

Cassius

Decius, well urged: I think it is not [meet](#),
Mark Antony, so well beloved of Caesar,
Should outlive Caesar: we shall find of him
A shrewd contriver; and, you know, his means,
If he improve them, may well stretch so far
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We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar;
And in the spirit of men there is no blood:
O, that we then could come by Caesar's spirit,
And not dismember Caesar! But, alas,
Caesar must bleed for it! And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly, but not [wrathfully](#) ;
Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,
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And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
Stir up their servants to an act of rage,
And after seem to chide 'em. This shall make
Our purpose necessary and not envious:
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And for Mark Antony, think not of him;
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View

Interesting note: Cassius and a few of the others feel that Mark Antony, a supporter of Caesar, will be dangerous once Caesar is dead. Brutus disagrees, and the others follow his wishes.

What this tells us: Brutus has resolved to kill Caesar with the other conspirators, but he wants it to be an honorable death, and he wants the killing to stop there. Brutus is still conflicted about their plans, but he clearly still has some level of control over the conspirators. They plan to leave Mark Antony alone.

Brutus gives several reasons for why the conspirators should not kill Mark Antony. Select the three lines where Brutus explains why they should leave Antony alive.

- **Our course will seem too bloody, Caius Cassius,
To cut the head off and then hack the limbs,**
- **Let us be sacrificers, but not butchers, Caius.**

- O, that we then could come by Caesar's spirit,
And not dismember Caesar! But, alas,
- And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
- Which so appearing to the common eyes,
- **For he can do no more than Caesar's arm
When Caesar's head is off.**

In these lines, Brutus describes Mark Antony as being like one of Caesar's arms or legs. Brutus explains that it would be too brutal to kill a man and then cut off his arm, which can do no harm once the person is already dead.

Print

Act 2 Scene 1

PAGE ACT 2 SCENE 1 PAGE 1

Page 1

ORIGINAL TEXT

Enter BRUTUS in his orchard

BRUTUS

What, Lucius, ho!—

I cannot by the progress of the stars

Give guess how near to day.—Lucius, I say!—

I would it were my fault to sleep so soundly.—

5 When, Lucius, when? Awake, I say! What,
Lucius!

Enter LUCIUS

LUCIUS

Called you, my lord?

BRUTUS

Get me a taper in my study, Lucius.

When it is lighted, come and call me here.

LUCIUS

I will, my lord.

Exit LUCIUS

BRUTUS

10 It must be by his death, and for my part

I know no personal cause to spurn at him

But for the general. He would be crowned.

How that might change his nature, there's the
question.

It is the bright day that brings forth the adder

MODERN TEXT

BRUTUS enters in his orchard.

BRUTUS

Lucius, are you there? I can't tell by the
position of the stars how near it is to daybreak

—Lucius, are you there? I wish I had that
weakness, to sleep too soundly. Come on,
Lucius! Wake up, I say! Lucius!

LUCIUS enters.

LUCIUS

Did you call me, my lord?

BRUTUS

Put a candle in my study, Lucius. Call me
when it's lit.

LUCIUS

I will, my lord.

LUCIUS exits.

BRUTUS

The only way is to kill Caesar. I have no
personal reason to strike at him—only the
best interest of the people. He wants to be
crowned. The question is, how would being
king change him? Evil can come from good,
just as poisonous snakes tend to come out

15 And that craves wary walking. Crown him that,
And then I grant we put a sting in him
That at his will he may do danger with.

into the open on bright sunny days—which means we have to walk carefully. If we crown him, I have to admit we'd be giving him the power to do damage.

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Act 2 Scene 1

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ORIGINAL TEXT

Th' abuse of greatness is when it disjoins
Remorse from power. And, to speak truth of
Caesar,

20 I have not known when his affections swayed
More than his reason. But 'tis a common
proof

That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,
Whereto the climber upward turns his face.

But when he once attains the upmost round,

25 He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base
degrees

By which he did ascend. So Caesar may.

Then, lest he may, prevent. And since the
quarrel

Will bear no color for the thing he is,

30 Fashion it thus: that what he is, augmented,
Would run to these and these extremities.

And therefore think him as a serpent's egg—

Which, hatched, would as his kind grow
mischievous—

And kill him in the shell.

Enter LUCIUS

LUCIUS

35 The taper burneth in your closet, sir.

Searching the window for a flint, I found

This paper, thus sealed up, and I am sure

It did not lie there when I went to bed.

MODERN TEXT

Rulers abuse their power when they separate it from compassion. To be honest, I've never known Caesar to let his emotions get the better of his reason. But everyone knows that an ambitious young man uses humility to advance himself, but when he reaches the top, he turns his back on his supporters and reaches for the skies while scorning those who helped him get where he is. Caesar might act like that. Therefore, in case he does, we must hold him back. And since our quarrel is with his future behavior, not what he does now, I must frame the argument like this: if his position is furthered, his character will fulfill these predictions. And therefore we should liken him to a serpent's egg—once it has hatched, it becomes dangerous, like all serpents. Thus we must kill him while he's still in the shell.

LUCIUS enters.

LUCIUS

The candle is burning in your study, sir. While I was looking for a flint to light it, I found this paper on the window, sealed up like this, and

(gives him a letter)

BRUTUS

40 Get you to bed again. It is not day.
Is not tomorrow, boy, the ides of March?

LUCIUS

I know not, sir.

BRUTUS

Look in the calendar and bring me word.

LUCIUS

I will, sir.

I'm sure it wasn't there when I went to bed. *(he gives BRUTUS the letter)*

BRUTUS

Go back to bed. It isn't daybreak yet. Is tomorrow the 15th of March, boy?

LUCIUS

I don't know, sir.

BRUTUS

Check the calendar and come tell me.

LUCIUS

I will, sir.

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Act 2 Scene 1

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ORIGINAL TEXT

Exit LUCIUS

BRUTUS

- 45 The exhalations whizzing in the air
Give so much light that I may read by them.
(opens the letter and reads)
“Brutus, thou sleep’st. Awake, and see
thyself.
Shall Rome, etc. Speak, strike, redress!”
- 50 “Brutus, thou sleep’st. Awake.”
Such instigations have been often dropped
Where I have took them up.
—“Shall Rome, etc.” Thus must I piece it out:
“Shall Rome stand under one man’s awe?”
What, Rome?
- 55 My ancestors did from the streets of Rome
The Tarquin drive when he was called a king.
—“Speak, strike, redress!” Am I entreated
To speak and strike? O Rome, I make thee
promise,
If the redress will follow, thou receivest
- 60 Thy full petition at the hand of Brutus!

Enter LUCIUS

LUCIUS

Sir, March is wasted fifteen days.

Knock within

BRUTUS

MODERN TEXT

LUCIUS exits.

BRUTUS

The meteors whizzing in the sky are so bright that I can read by them. *(he opens the letter and reads)* “Brutus, you’re sleeping. Wake up and look at yourself. Is Rome going to ... etc. Speak, strike, fix the wrongs!” “Brutus, you’re sleeping. Wake up.” I’ve noticed many such calls to action left where I would find them. “Is Rome going to ... etc.” What does this mean? Will Rome submit to one man’s power? My ancestors drove Tarquin from the streets of Rome when he was pronounced a king. “Speak, strike, fix it!” Is this asking me to speak and strike? Oh, Rome, I promise you, if you’re meant to receive justice, you’ll receive it by my hand!

LUCIUS enters.

LUCIUS

Sir, fifteen days of March have gone by.

The sound of a knock offstage.

BRUTUS

'Tis good. Go to the gate. Somebody knocks.

Exit LUCIUS

Since Cassius first did whet me against
Caesar,
I have not slept.

Good. Go to the gate. Somebody's knocking.

LUCIUS exits.

I haven't slept since Cassius first began to
turn me against Caesar.

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ORIGINAL TEXT

65 Between the acting of a dreadful thing
And the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma or a hideous dream.
The genius and the mortal instruments
Are then in council, and the state of man,
70 Like to a little kingdom, suffers then
The nature of an insurrection.

Enter LUCIUS

LUCIUS

Sir, 'tis your brother Cassius at the door,
Who doth desire to see you.

BRUTUS

Is he alone?

LUCIUS

No, sir, there are more with him.

BRUTUS

Do you know them?

LUCIUS

75 No, sir. Their hats are plucked about their
ears,
And half their faces buried in their cloaks,
That by no means I may discover them
By any mark of favor.

BRUTUS

Let 'em enter.

MODERN TEXT

From the time when you decide to do
something terrible to the moment you do it,
everything feels unreal, like a horrible dream.
The unconscious and the body work together
and rebel against the conscious mind.

LUCIUS enters.

LUCIUS

Sir, it's your brother-in-law Cassius at the
door. He wants to see you.

BRUTUS

Is he alone?

LUCIUS

No, sir. There are others with him.

BRUTUS

Do you know them?

LUCIUS

No, sir, their hats are pulled down over their
ears and their faces are half buried under their
cloaks, so there's no way to tell who they are.

BRUTUS

Let them in.

Exit LUCIUS

They are the faction. O conspiracy,
80 Shamest thou to show thy dangerous brow by
night
When evils are most free? O, then by day
Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough
To mask thy monstrous visage? Seek none,
conspiracy.
Hide it in smiles and affability.

LUCIUS exits.

It's the faction that wants to kill Caesar. Oh,
conspiracy, are you ashamed to show your
face even at night, when evil things are most
free? If so, when it's day, where are you going
to find a cave dark enough to hide your
monstrous face? No, don't bother to find a
cave, conspiracy. Instead, hide your true face
behind smiles and friendliness.

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Act 2 Scene 1

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ORIGINAL TEXT

85 For if thou path, thy native semblance on,
Not Erebus itself were dim enough
To hide thee from prevention.

Enter the

*conspirators: CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS, CINNA, METELLUS,
and TREBONIUS*

CASSIUS

I think we are too bold upon your rest.
Good morrow, Brutus. Do we trouble you?

BRUTUS

90 I have been up this hour, awake all night.
Know I these men that come along with you?

CASSIUS

Yes, every man of them, and no man here
But honors you, and every one doth wish
You had but that opinion of yourself
95 Which every noble Roman bears of you.
This is Trebonius.

BRUTUS

He is welcome hither.

CASSIUS

This, Decius Brutus.

BRUTUS

He is welcome too.

CASSIUS

This, Casca. This, Cinna. And this, Metellus Cimber.

BRUTUS

100 They are all welcome.

MODERN TEXT

If you went ahead and exposed your true face
itself wouldn't be dark enough to keep you from
being found and stopped.

The conspirators—

*CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS, CINNA, METELLUS,
and TREBONIUS—enter.*

CASSIUS

I'm afraid we're intruding too boldly on your
time. Good morning, Brutus. Are we bothering

BRUTUS

I was awake. I've been up all night. Do I know
men who are with you?

CASSIUS

Yes, every one of them. There isn't one of them
doesn't admire you, and each one of them would
you had as high an opinion of yourself as every
noble Roman has of you. This is Trebonius.

BRUTUS

He's welcome here.

CASSIUS

This is Decius Brutus.

BRUTUS

He's welcome too.

CASSIUS

This is Casca. This is Cinna. And this is Metellus
Cimber.

BRUTUS

What watchful cares do interpose themselves
Betwixt your eyes and night?

CASSIUS

Shall I entreat a word?

***BRUTUS** and **CASSIUS** withdraw and whisper*

They're all welcome. What worries have kept
awake tonight?

CASSIUS

Can I have a word with you?

***BRUTUS** and **CASSIUS** whisper together.*

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Act 2 Scene 1

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ORIGINAL TEXT

DECIUS

Here lies the east. Doth not the day break here?

CASCA

105 No.

CINNA

O, pardon, sir, it doth, and yon gray lines That fret the clouds are messengers of day.

CASCA

You shall confess that you are both deceived. *(points his sword)*

110 Here, as I point my sword, the sun arises, Which is a great way growing on the south, Weighing the youthful season of the year. Some two months hence up higher toward the north

He first presents his fire, and the high east

115 Stands, as the Capitol, directly here.

BRUTUS

(comes forward with CASSIUS)

Give me your hands all over, one by one. *(shakes their hands)*

CASSIUS

And let us swear our resolution.

BRUTUS

MODERN TEXT

DECIUS

Here's the east. Won't the dawn come from here?

CASCA

No.

CINNA

Excuse me, sir, it will. These gray lines that lace the clouds are the beginnings of the dawn.

CASCA

You're both wrong. *(pointing his sword)* Here, where I point my sword, the sun rises. It's quite near the south, since it's still winter. About two months from now, the dawn will break further toward the north, and due east is where the Capitol stands, here.

BRUTUS

(coming forward with CASSIUS) Give me your hands, all of you, one by one. *(he shakes their hands)*

CASSIUS

And let us swear to our resolution.

BRUTUS

120 No, not an oath. If not the face of men,
 The sufferance of our souls, the time's abuse
 —
 If these be motives weak, break off betimes,
 And every man hence to his idle bed.
 So let high-sighted tyranny range on

125 Till each man drop by lottery. But if these—
 As I am sure they do—bear fire enough
 To kindle cowards and to steel with valor
 The melting spirits of women, then,
 countrymen,
 What need we any spur but our own cause

130 To prick us to redress? What other bond
 Than secret Romans that have spoke the
 word
 And will not palter? And what other oath
 Than honesty to honesty engaged,
 That this shall be, or we will fall for it?

135 Swear priests and cowards and men
 cautelous,
 Old feeble carrions and such suffering souls
 That welcome wrongs. Unto bad causes
 swear
 Such creatures as men doubt. But do not
 stain
 The even virtue of our enterprise,

140 Nor th' insuppressive mettle of our spirits,
 To think that or our cause or our performance
 Did need an oath, when every drop of blood
 That every Roman bears—and nobly bears—
 Is guilty of a several bastardy

145 If he do break the smallest particle
 Of any promise that hath passed from him.

No, let's not swear an oath. If the sad faces of our fellow men, the suffering of our own souls, and the corruption of the present time aren't enough to motivate us, let's break it off now and each of us go back to bed. Then we can let this ambitious tyrant continue unchallenged until each of us is killed at his whim. But if we have reasons that are strong enough to ignite cowards into action and to make weak women brave—and I think we do—then, countrymen, what else could we possibly need to spur us to action? What bond do we need other than that of discreet Romans who have said what they're going to do and won't back down? And what oath do we need other than that we honest men have told each other that this will happen or we will die trying? Swearing is for priests, cowards, overly cautious men, feeble old people, and those long-suffering weaklings who welcome abuse. Only men whom you wouldn't trust anyway would swear oaths, and for the worst reasons. Don't spoil the justness and virtue of our endeavor nor weaken our own irrepressible spirits by thinking that we need a binding oath, when the blood that every noble Roman contains within him would be proven bastard's blood if he broke the smallest part of any promise he had made.

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Act 2 Scene 1

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ORIGINAL TEXT

CASSIUS

But what of Cicero? Shall we sound him?
I think he will stand very strong with us.

CASCA

Let us not leave him out.

CINNA

No, by no means.

METELLUS

150 O, let us have him, for his silver hairs
Will purchase us a good opinion
And buy men's voices to commend our deeds.
It shall be said his judgment ruled our hands.
Our youths and wildness shall no whit appear,
155 But all be buried in his gravity.

BRUTUS

O, name him not. Let us not break with him,
For he will never follow anything
That other men begin.

CASSIUS

Then leave him out.

MODERN TEXT

CASSIUS

But what about Cicero? Should we see what
he thinks? I think he will stand strong with us.

CASCA

Let's not leave him out.

CINNA

No, by no means.

METELLUS

Yes, we should get his support, for his mature
presence will make others think well of us and
speak out in support of our actions. They'll
assume that Cicero, with his sound judgment,
ordered the actions. His dignified maturity will
distract attention from our youth and wildness.

BRUTUS

No, don't even mention him. We shouldn't tell
him about our plans. He'll never follow
anything that other men have started.

CASSIUS

Then leave him out.

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Page 8

ORIGINAL TEXT

CASCA

160 Indeed he is not fit.

DECIUS

Shall no man else be touched but only
Caesar?

CASSIUS

Decius, well urged. I think it is not meet
Mark Antony, so well beloved of Caesar,
Should outlive Caesar. We shall find of him
165 A shrewd contriver. And, you know, his
means,
If he improve them, may well stretch so far
As to annoy us all; which to prevent,
Let Antony and Caesar fall together.

BRUTUS

Our course will seem too bloody, Caius
Cassius,
170 To cut the head off and then hack the limbs,
Like wrath in death and envy afterwards,
For Antony is but a limb of Caesar.
Let us be sacrificers but not butchers, Caius.
We all stand up against the spirit of Caesar,
175 And in the spirit of men there is no blood.
Oh, that we then could come by Caesar's
spirit
And not dismember Caesar! But, alas,
Caesar must bleed for it. And, gentle friends,
Let's kill him boldly but not wrathfully.

MODERN TEXT

CASCA

Indeed, he's not right for this.

DECIUS

But should we only go after Caesar? No one
else?

CASSIUS

Good point, Decius. I don't think it would be
wise to let Mark Antony, whom Caesar is so
fond of, outlive Caesar. We'd find that he was
a dangerous plotter. And as you know, his
connections, if he put them to good use, might
be enough to hurt us all. To prevent this, Mark
Antony should die along with Caesar.

BRUTUS

Our action will seem too bloody if we cut off
Caesar's head and then hack at his arms and
legs too, Caius Cassius—because Mark
Antony is merely one of Caesar's arms. It'll
look like we killed Caesar out of anger and
Mark Antony out of envy. Let's be sacrificers
but not butchers, Caius. We're all against
what Caesar stands for, and there's no blood
in that. Oh, how I wish we could oppose
Caesar's spirit—his overblown ambition—and
not hack up Caesar himself! But,
unfortunately, Caesar has to bleed if we're
going to stop him. Noble friends, let's kill him

180 Let's carve him as a dish fit for the gods,
Not hew him as a carcass fit for hounds.
And let our hearts, as subtle masters do,
Stir up their servants to an act of rage
And after seem to chide 'em. This shall make
185 Our purpose necessary and not envious,
Which so appearing to the common eyes,
We shall be called purgers, not murderers.
And for Mark Antony, think not of him,
For he can do no more than Caesar's arm
190 When Caesar's head is off.

boldly but not with anger. Let's carve him up
like a dish fit for the gods, not chop him up like
a carcass fit for dogs. Let's be angry only long
enough to do the deed, and then let's act like
we're disgusted by what we had to do. This
will make our actions seem practical and not
vengeful. If we appear calm to the people,
they'll call us surgeons rather than murderers.
As for Mark Antony—forget him. He'll be as
useless as Caesar's arm after Caesar's head
is cut off.

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Act 2 Scene 1

PAGE ACT 2 SCENE 1 PAGE 9

Page 9

ORIGINAL TEXT

CASSIUS

Yet I fear him.
For in the engrafted love he bears to Caesar
—

BRUTUS

Alas, good Cassius, do not think of him.
If he love Caesar, all that he can do
Is to himself: take thought and die for Caesar.
195 And that were much he should, for he is given
To sports, to wildness and much company.

TREBONIUS

There is no fear in him. Let him not die,
For he will live and laugh at this hereafter.

Clock strikes

BRUTUS

Peace! Count the clock.

CASSIUS

200 The clock hath stricken three.

TREBONIUS

'Tis time to part.

CASSIUS

But it is doubtful yet
Whether Caesar will come forth today or no.
For he is superstitious grown of late,

MODERN TEXT

CASSIUS

But I'm still afraid of him, because the deep-
rooted love he has for Caesar—

BRUTUS

Alas, good Cassius, don't think about him. If
he loves Caesar, then he can only hurt
himself—by grieving and dying for Caesar.
And I'd be surprised if he even did that, for he
prefers sports, fun, and friends.

TREBONIUS

There's nothing to fear in him. Let's not kill
him. He'll live and laugh at this afterward.

A clock strikes.

BRUTUS

Quiet! Count how many times the clock
chimes.

CASSIUS

The clock struck three.

TREBONIUS

It's time to leave.

CASSIUS

But we still don't know whether Caesar will go
out in public today or not, because he's
become superstitious lately, a complete

Quite from the main opinion he held once
 205 Of fantasy, of dreams and ceremonies.
 It may be, these apparent prodigies,
 The unaccustomed terror of this night,
 And the persuasion of his augurers
 May hold him from the Capitol today.

DECIUS

210 Never fear that. If he be so resolved,
 I can o'ersway him. For he loves to hear
 That unicorns may be betrayed with trees,
 And bears with glasses, elephants with holes,
 Lions with toils, and men with flatterers.
 215 But when I tell him he hates flatterers,
 He says he does, being then most flatterèd.
 Let me work.
 For I can give his humor the true bent,
 And I will bring him to the Capitol.

turnaround from when he used to have such a
 bad opinion of fortune-tellers, dream
 interpreters, and ritual mumbo-jumbo. It might
 happen that these strange signs, the unusual
 terror of this night, and the urgings of his
 fortune-tellers will keep him away from the
 Capitol today.

DECIUS

Don't worry about that. If he's reluctant, I can
 convince him. He loves to hear me tell him
 how men can be snared by flatterers, just like
 unicorns can be captured in trees, elephants
 in holes, and lions with nets. When I tell him
 he hates flatterers, he agrees, just at the
 moment when I'm flattering him the most.
 Let me work on him. I can put him in the right
 mood, and I'll bring him to the Capitol.

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Act 2 Scene 1

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Page 10

ORIGINAL TEXT

CASSIUS

220 Nay, we will all of us be there to fetch him.

BRUTUS

By the eighth hour. Is that the uttermost?

CINNA

Be that the uttermost, and fail not then.

METELLUS

Caius Ligarius doth bear Caesar hard,
Who rated him for speaking well of Pompey.

225 I wonder none of you have thought of him.

BRUTUS

Now, good Metellus, go along by him.
He loves me well, and I have given him
reasons.
Send him but hither and I'll fashion him.

CASSIUS

The morning comes upon 's. We'll leave you,
Brutus.

230 —And, friends, disperse yourselves. But all
remember
What you have said, and show yourselves
true Romans.

BRUTUS

MODERN TEXT

CASSIUS

No, we'll all go there to bring him.

BRUTUS

By eight o'clock. Is that the latest we can do
it?

CINNA

Let's make that the latest, but be sure to get
there before then.

METELLUS

Caius Ligarius doesn't like Caesar, who
berated him for speaking well of Pompey. I
wonder that none of you thought about getting
his support.

BRUTUS

Good Metellus, go to him now. He likes me,
and I've given him good reason to. Just send
him here, and I'll persuade him.

CASSIUS

The morning is approaching. We'll leave,
Brutus. Friends, go your separate ways. But
all of you, remember what you've said and
prove yourselves true Romans.

BRUTUS

Good gentlemen, look fresh and merrily.
Let not our looks put on our purposes,
But bear it as our Roman actors do,
235 With untired spirits and formal constancy.
And so good morrow to you every one.

*Exeunt. Manet **BRUTUS***

Good gentlemen, look like you're rested and
happy. Don't let our faces betray our plans.
Instead, carry yourselves like Roman actors,
with cheerful spirits and well-composed faces.
And so, good morning to all of you.

*Everyone except **BRUTUS** exits.*

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Act 2 Scene 1

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Page 11

ORIGINAL TEXT

Boy! Lucius!—Fast asleep? It is no matter.
 Enjoy the honey-heavy dew of slumber.
 Thou hast no figures nor no fantasies,
 240 Which busy care draws in the brains of men.
 Therefore thou sleep'st so sound.

Enter PORTIA

PORTIA

Brutus, my lord.

BRUTUS

Portia, what mean you? Wherefore rise you
 now?
 It is not for your health thus to commit
 Your weak condition to the raw, cold morning.

PORTIA

245 Nor for yours neither. Y' have ungently,
 Brutus,
 Stole from my bed. And yesternight, at
 supper,
 You suddenly arose and walked about,
 Musing and sighing, with your arms across,
 And when I asked you what the matter was,
 250 You stared upon me with ungentle looks.
 I urged you further, then you scratched your
 head
 And too impatiently stamped with your foot.
 Yet I insisted; yet you answered not,
 But with an angry wafture of your hand

MODERN TEXT

Boy! Lucius! Fast asleep? Well, enjoy the
 sweetness of deep sleep. Your brain isn't
 stuffed with the strange shapes and fantasies
 that come to men who are overwhelmed by
 worries. That's why you sleep so soundly.

PORTIA enters.

PORTIA

Brutus, my lord.

BRUTUS

Portia, what are you doing awake? It isn't
 good for your health to expose your weak
 body to the raw, cold morning.

PORTIA

It's not good for your health, either. You rudely
 snuck out of bed. And last night at dinner, you
 got up abruptly and paced back and forth with
 your arms crossed, brooding and sighing, and
 when I asked you what was the matter, you
 gave me a dirty look. I asked you again, and
 you scratched your head and stamped your
 foot impatiently. I still insisted on knowing
 what the matter was, but you wouldn't answer
 me, instead giving me an angry wave of your
 hand and telling me to leave you alone. So I
 left, afraid of further provoking anger that was
 already inflamed but still hoping this was

255 Gave sign for me to leave you. So I did,
Fearing to strengthen that impatience
Which seemed too much enkindled, and
withal
Hoping it was but an effect of humor,
Which sometime hath his hour with every
man.

260 It will not let you eat nor talk nor sleep,
And could it work so much upon your shape
As it hath much prevailed on your condition,
I should not know you, Brutus. Dear my lord,
Make me acquainted with your cause of grief.

merely moodiness, which everyone is affected
by once in awhile. Your strange mood won't
let you eat or talk or sleep. If it had changed
your outward appearance as much as it has
affected you on the inside, I wouldn't even be
able to recognize you, Brutus. My dear lord,
tell me what's bothering you.

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Act 2 Scene 1

PAGE ACT 2 SCENE 1 PAGE 12

Page 12

ORIGINAL TEXT

BRUTUS

265 I am not well in health, and that is all.

PORTIA

Brutus is wise, and were he not in health,
He would embrace the means to come by it.

BRUTUS

Why, so I do. Good Portia, go to bed.

PORTIA

Is Brutus sick? And is it physical
270 To walk unbracèd and suck up the humors
Of the dank morning? What, is Brutus sick,
And will he steal out of his wholesome bed,
To dare the vile contagion of the night
And tempt the rheumy and unpurgèd air
275 To add unto his sickness? No, my Brutus.
You have some sick offense within your mind,
Which by the right and virtue of my place
I ought to know of.

(kneels) And upon my knees

280 I charm you, by my once-commended beauty,
By all your vows of love and that great vow
Which did incorporate and make us one
That you unfold to me, your self, your half,
Why you are heavy, and what men tonight
285 Have had to resort to you. For here have
been
Some six or seven who did hide their faces
Even from darkness.

MODERN TEXT

BRUTUS

I'm not feeling well—that's all.

PORTIA

You're smart, though, and if you were sick,
you'd take what you needed to get better.

BRUTUS

I'm doing so. Good Portia, go to bed.

PORTIA

Are you sick? And is it healthy to walk
uncovered and breathe in the dampness of
the morning? You're sick, yet you sneak out of
your warm bed and let the humid and
disease-infested air make you sicker? No, my
Brutus, you have some sickness within your
mind, which by virtue of my position I deserve
to know about. *(she kneels)* And on my
knees, I urge you, by my once-praised beauty,
by all your vows of love and that great vow of
marriage which made the two of us one
person, that you should reveal to me, who is
one half of yourself, why you're troubled and
what men have visited you tonight. For there
were six or seven men here, who hid their
faces even in the darkness.

BRUTUS

Kneel not, gentle Portia.

PORTIA

(rising) I should not need if you were gentle,
Brutus.

Within the bond of marriage, tell me, Brutus,
290 Is it excepted I should know no secrets
That appertain to you? Am I yourself
But, as it were, in sort or limitation,
To keep with you at meals, comfort your bed,
And talk to you sometimes?

BRUTUS

Don't kneel, noble Portia.

PORTIA

(getting up) I wouldn't need to if you were
acting nobly. Tell me, Brutus, as your wife,
aren't I supposed to be told the secrets that
concern you? Am I part of you only in a
limited sense—I get to have dinner with you,
sleep with you, and talk to you sometimes?

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Act 2 Scene 1

PAGE ACT 2 SCENE 1 PAGE 13

Page 13

ORIGINAL TEXT

Dwell I but in the suburbs
 295 Of your good pleasure? If it be no more,
 Portia is Brutus' harlot, not his wife.

BRUTUS

You are my true and honorable wife,
 As dear to me as are the ruddy drops
 That visit my sad heart.

PORTIA

300 If this were true, then should I know this
 secret.
 I grant I am a woman, but withal
 A woman that Lord Brutus took to wife.
 I grant I am a woman, but withal
 A woman well-reputed, Cato's daughter.
 305 Think you I am no stronger than my sex,
 Being so fathered and so husbanded?
 Tell me your counsels. I will not disclose 'em.
 I have made strong proof of my constancy,
 Giving myself a voluntary wound
 310 Here in the thigh. Can I bear that with
 patience,
 And not my husband's secrets?

BRUTUS

O ye gods,
 Render me worthy of this noble wife!

Knock within

MODERN TEXT

Is my place only on the outskirts of your
 happiness? If it's nothing more than that, then
 I'm your whore, not your wife.

BRUTUS

You're my true and honorable wife, as dear to
 me as the blood that runs through my sad
 heart.

PORTIA

If that were true, then I'd know your secret. I
 admit I'm only a woman, but nevertheless I'm
 the woman Lord Brutus took for his wife. I
 admit I'm only a woman, but I'm still a woman
 from a noble family—I'm Cato's daughter. Do
 you really think I'm no stronger than the rest
 of my sex, with such a father and such a
 husband? Tell me your secrets. I won't betray
 them. I've proved my trustworthiness by giving
 myself a voluntary wound here in my thigh. If I
 can bear that pain, then I can bear my
 husband's secrets.

BRUTUS

Oh, gods, make me worthy of this noble wife!

A knocking sound offstage.

Hark, hark! One knocks. Portia, go in awhile.

And by and by thy bosom shall partake

315 The secrets of my heart.

All my engagements I will construe to thee,

All the character of my sad brows.

Leave me with haste.

Exit PORTIA

Lucius, who's that knocking?

Listen! Someone knocks. Portia, go inside

awhile, and soon enough you'll share the

secrets of my heart. I'll explain all that I have

committed to do and all the reasons for my

sad face. Leave me quickly.

PORTIA exits.

Lucius, who's that knocking?

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Act 2 Scene 1

PAGE ACT 2 SCENE 1 PAGE 14

Page 14

ORIGINAL TEXT

Enter **LUCIUS** and **LIGARIUS**

LUCIUS

320 He is a sick man that would speak with you.

BRUTUS

Caius Ligarius, that Metellus spake of.—
Boy, stand aside.—Caius Ligarius, how?

LIGARIUS

Vouchsafe good morrow from a feeble
tongue.

BRUTUS

O, what a time have you chose out, brave
Caius,
325 To wear a kerchief! Would you were not sick!

LIGARIUS

I am not sick if Brutus have in hand
Any exploit worthy the name of honor.

BRUTUS

Such an exploit have I in hand, Ligarius,
Had you a healthful ear to hear of it.

LIGARIUS

330 *(removes his kerchief)*

MODERN TEXT

LUCIUS and **LIGARIUS** enter. Ligarius wears
a cloth wrapped around his head, indicating
that he's sick.

LUCIUS

Here's a sick man who wants to speak with
you.

BRUTUS

It's Caius Ligarius, whom Metellus spoke of.
Boy, stand aside. Caius Ligarius! How are
you?

LIGARIUS

Please accept my feeble "good morning."

BRUTUS

Oh, what a time you've chosen to be sick,
brave Caius! How I wish you felt better!

LIGARIUS

I'm not sick if you've prepared some
honorable exploit for me.

BRUTUS

Indeed, I would have such an exploit for you,
Ligarius, if you were healthy enough to hear it.

LIGARIUS

By all the gods that Romans bow before,
I here discard my sickness! Soul of Rome,
Brave son derived from honorable loins,
Thou, like an exorcist, hast conjured up
335 My mortifièd spirit. Now bid me run,
And I will strive with things impossible,
Yea, get the better of them. What's to do?

BRUTUS

A piece of work that will make sick men
whole.

LIGARIUS

But are not some whole that we must make
sick?

BRUTUS

340 That must we also. What it is, my Caius,
I shall unfold to thee as we are going
To whom it must be done.

(takes off his head covering) By all the gods
that Romans worship, I hereby throw off my
sickness! Soul of Rome! Brave son of
honorable ancestors! You've conjured up my
deadened spirit like an exorcist. Now say the
word, and I will tackle all kinds of impossible
things, and succeed too. What is there to do?

BRUTUS

A deed that will make sick men healthy.

LIGARIUS

But aren't there some healthy men whom we
have to make sick?

BRUTUS

That too. My dear Caius, I'll explain the task
at hand to you as we walk toward the man we
must do it to.

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Act 2 Scene 1

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Page 15

ORIGINAL TEXT

LIGARIUS

Set on your foot,
And with a heart new-fired I follow you,
To do I know not what. But it sufficeth

345 That Brutus leads me on.

Thunder

BRUTUS

Follow me, then.

Exeunt

MODERN TEXT

LIGARIUS

Start walking, and with an energized heart, I'll follow you—to what, I don't know, but I'm satisfied, simply knowing that Brutus leads me.

Thunder.

BRUTUS

Follow me, then.

They all exit.

ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.03 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT II

Act II, scene ii: Caesar's house.

"Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace tonight:

Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out,
'Help, ho! They murder Caesar!'

— Caesar

Once the audience knows what is in store for Caesar, Shakespeare moves to Caesar's house to show what is happening there. Caesar is afraid. He is seen in his nightgown, pacing late into the evening. His wife has had nightmares that he has been murdered, and Caesar is worried.

Most of this scene deals with Caesar's decision about whether to go to the Roman Senate that day. Calpurnia begs him to stay home. He is uneasy, too, and tells her he will stay. However, he does not want to lie to his friends when they ask why he is not coming to the Senate.

What causes Caesar to change his mind?

Decius promised the other conspirators that he would bring Caesar to the Senate that day. What do you think of his tactics?

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Excerpt—Text Version

Caesar

And you are come in very happy time,
To beat my greeting to the senators
And tell them that I will not come today:
Cannot, is false, and that I dare not, falser:
I will not come today: tell them so, Decius.

Calpurnia

Say he is sick.

Caesar

Shall Caesar send a lie?
Have I in conquest stretch'd mine arm so far,
To be afraid to tell graybeards the truth?
Decius, go tell them Caesar will not come.

Decius Brutus

Most mighty Caesar, let me know some cause,
Lest I be laugh'd at when I tell them so.

Caesar

The cause is in my will: I will not come;
That is enough to satisfy the senate.
But for your private satisfaction,
Because I love you, I will let you know:
Calpurnia here, my wife, stays me at home:
She dreamt tonight she saw my [statua](#),
Which, like a fountain with a hundred spouts,
Did run pure blood: and many lusty Romans
Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it:
And these does she apply for warnings, and [portents](#) ,
And evils imminent; and on her knee
Hath begg'd that I will stay at home today.

Decius Brutus

This dream is all amiss interpreted;
It was a vision fair and fortunate:
Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,
In which so many smiling Romans bathed,
Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck
Reviving blood, and that great men shall press
For [tinctures](#) , stains, [relics](#), and [cognizance](#).
This by Calpurnia's dream is signified.

Caesar

And this way have you well expounded it.

Decius Brutus

I have, when you have heard what I can say:
And know it now: the senate have concluded
To give this day a crown to mighty Caesar.
If you shall send them word you will not come,

Their minds may change. Besides, it were a mock
 Apt to be render'd, for some one to say
 'Break up the senate till another time,
 When Caesar's wife shall meet with better dreams.'
 If Caesar hide himself, shall they not whisper
 'Lo, Caesar is afraid'?

Pardon me, Caesar; for my dear dear love
 To our proceeding bids me tell you this;
 And reason to my love is liable.

Caesar

How foolish do your fears seem now, Calpurnia!
 I am ashamed I did yield to them.
 Give me my robe, for I will go.

Caesar says that he trusts Decius Brutus, who is secretly one of the conspirators, with the truth about why he plans to stay home. It is because of a dream that Calpurnia had in which Caesar's statue sprayed blood like a fountain, and the people of Rome looked glad. Calpurnia sees this as a terrible omen of what will happen to her husband. Decius offers a different interpretation.

Select the three reasons Decius gives for Caesar to come to the Senate.

- Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,
- Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck
 Reviving blood, and that great men shall press
 For tinctures, stains, relics, and cognizance.
- I have, when you have heard what I can say:
- To give this day a crown to mighty Caesar.
- 'Break up the senate till another time,
 When Caesar's wife shall meet with better dreams.'
- Pardon me, Caesar; for my dear dear love

Check Answers

Answers

Caesar

And you are come in very happy time,
 To beat my greeting to the senators
 And tell them that I will not come today:
 Cannot, is false, and that I dare not, falser:
 I will not come today: tell them so, Decius.

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 Have I in conquest stretch'd mine arm so far,

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Most mighty Caesar, let me know some cause,
Lest I be laugh'd at when I tell them so.

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The cause is in my will: I will not come;
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But for your private satisfaction,
Because I love you, I will let you know:
Calpurnia here, my wife, stays me at home:
She dreamt tonight she saw my [statua](#),
Which, like a fountain with a hundred spouts,
Did run pure blood: and many lusty Romans
Came smiling, and did bathe their hands in it:
And these does she apply for warnings, and [portents](#),
And evils imminent; and on her knee
Hath begg'd that I will stay at home today.

Decius Brutus

This dream is all amiss interpreted;
It was a vision fair and fortunate:
Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,
In which so many smiling Romans bathed,
Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck
Reviving blood, and that great men shall press
For [tinctures](#), stains, [relics](#), and [cognizance](#).
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And this way have you well expounded it.

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I have, when you have heard what I can say:
And know it now: the senate have concluded
To give this day a crown to mighty Caesar.
If you shall send them word you will not come,
Their minds may change. Besides, it were a mock
Apt to be render'd, for some one to say
'Break up the senate till another time,
When Caesar's wife shall meet with better dreams.'
If Caesar hide himself, shall they not whisper
'Lo, Caesar is afraid'?
Pardon me, Caesar; for my dear dear love
To our proceeding bids me tell you this;
And reason to my love is liable.

Caesar

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- Your statue spouting blood in many pipes,
- **Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck
Reviving blood, and that great men shall press
For tinctures, stains, relics, and cognizance.**
- I have, when you have heard what I can say:
- **To give this day a crown to mighty Caesar.**
- **'Break up the senate till another time,
When Caesar's wife shall meet with better dreams.'**
- Pardon me, Caesar; for my dear dear love

Decius Brutus first tells Caesar that his wife's dream was a positive one about the power of Caesar's rule. Next, he tells Caesar that the Senate plans to give him a crown that day. Finally, he asks Caesar whether he will avoid going to work on all days when his wife has had a bad dream.

Print

ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.03 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT II

Act II, scene iii and iv.

Act II, scene iii: The same. A street near the Capitol.

Act II, scene iv: Another part of the same street, before the house of Brutus.

Caesar, beware of Brutus; take heed of Cassius;

— Artemidorus

Scenes iii and iv are very short. In fact, there is only one person in scene iii and only three people in scene iv.

Both parts show people worrying about the fates of Caesar and Brutus.

In scene iii, a character named Artemidorus reads a letter he plans to give to Caesar that morning. What does he want to tell Caesar?

What causes Caesar to change his mind?

In scene iv, Brutus's wife, Portia, expresses fear about her husband's day at the Senate. Her lines show that she is very nervous about what may happen. She asks Lucius and the Soothsayer how things are going with Caesar and asks them to give her news.

O, I grow faint.

— Portia

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Artemidorus—Text Version

Act 2, scene 3

ARTEMIDORUS

‘Caesar, beware of Brutus; take heed of Cassius;
 Come not near Casca; have an eye to Cinna, trust not
 Trebonius: mark well Metellus Cimber: Decius Brutus
 loves thee not: thou hast wronged Caius Ligarius.
 There is but one mind in all these mind, and it is
 bent against Caesar. If thou beest not immortal,
 look about you: security gives way to conspiracy.
 The mighty gods defend thee! Thy lover,
 ‘ARTEMIDORUS’
 Here will I stand till Caesar pass along,
 And as a suitor will I give him this.
 My heart laments that virtue cannot live
 Out of the teeth of emulation.
 If thou read this, O Caesar, thou mayst live;
 If not, the Fates with traitors do contrive.

Artemidorus states his concerns very openly in this letter. There are several people around whom he feels Caesar should be careful. Select the person who Artemidorus believes has a personal problem with Caesar.

- Brutus
- Casca
- Cassius
- Cinna
- Trebonius
- Metellus Cimber
- Decius Brutus
- Caius Ligarius

Check Answers

Answers

Artemidorus states his concerns very openly in this letter. There are several people around whom he feels Caesar should be careful. Select the person who Artemidorus believes has a personal problem with Caesar.

- Brutus
- Casca
- Cassius
- Cinna
- Trebonius
- Metellus Cimber
- Decius Brutus
- **Caius Ligarius**

In this letter, Artemidorus lists the conspirators and gives reasons behind some of their feelings. He mentions that Caesar has “wronged,” or done something bad to, Caius Ligarius.

Ethical Dilemmas Matching—Text Version

Let's review the situation. Match the character to his or her ethical dilemma.

Character

1. Caesar
2. Decius Brutus
3. Brutus
4. Cassius

Ethical Dilemma

1. Will he kill a friend to save an empire?
2. Will he lie to his friends to appease his wife?
3. Will he lie to a colleague to save an empire?
4. Will he give a worried man false comfort to save an empire?

Check Your Answers

Answers

Let's review the situation. Match the character to his or her ethical dilemma.

1. Caesar / 2. Will he lie to his friends to appease his wife?
2. Decius Brutus / 4. Will he give a worried man false comfort to save an empire?
3. Brutus / 1. Will he kill a friend to save an empire?
4. Cassius / 3. Will he lie to a colleague to save an empire?

Print

ENGLISH 2 : MODULE 04 : BETRAYAL: 04.03 JULIUS CAESAR, ACT II

Assessment Instructions

For this assessment you must demonstrate your understanding of Julius Caesar, Act II by completing a quiz.



Assignment

1. Complete the lesson and self-checks.
2. In the Assessment area, complete the **04.03 Julius Caesar, Act II Quiz**.

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Exam: 04.03 Julius Caesar Act II 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)

(04.03 LC)

In writing the play *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare

- drew from real historical figures and real historical events
- created his own characters but drew from real historical events
- referenced specific and accurate details of Caesar's rise to power
- ignored historical facts but referenced real historical figures

Question 2 (Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

(04.03 LC)

Which themes are **most** heavily explored in Acts I through II of *Julius Caesar*?

- Dreams and love
- Greed and failure
- Honor and ambition
- Rebirth and change

Question 3 (Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

(04.03 LC)

In Act II of *Julius Caesar*, which character says, "Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out 'Help, ho, they murder Caesar!'"

Brutus Cassius Caesar Decius**Question 4**(Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

(04.03 LC)

In Act II of *Julius Caesar*, what does Brutus mean when he says, "And therefore think him as a serpent's egg, Which, hatched, would, as his kind, grow mischievous."?

 Antony will grow to become a mischievous but effective ruler. Cassius should be destroyed before he becomes dangerous. Caesar might not be dangerous now, but he will in the future. Decius is serpent-like and therefore he cannot be trusted.**Question 5**(Multiple Choice Worth 10 points)

(04.03 LC)

Which statement **best** contrasts the character of Cassius with the character of Antony?

 Antony has a bigger ego and speaks of himself grandly, while Cassius is more modest. Antony is conflicted in his goals, while Cassius has a very clear vision for Rome. Cassius has a guilty conscience, while Antony does not seem to feel guilty at all. Cassius is willing to deceive to get ahead, while Antony is loyal and honorable.

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