

## Study Questions for *Julius Caesar*

### Act I

1. What is the Feast of Lupercal? **Race in which Calpurnia is supposed to stand in front of Antony (to allow her to have children)**
2. Who are the tribunes? (names) How do they feel about Caesar? **Flavius & Marallus- They don't like Caesar, because he killed Pompey.**
3. What is the matter with Calpurnia? What does Caesar hope will help her? **She is barren (can't have kids.) He wants Antony to touch her during the race. (he thinks it will make her fertile)**
4. What warning does the soothsayer give Caesar? **Beware the Ides of March.**
5. How does Cassius begin the plot to overthrow Caesar? **He gives Brutus letters "from the citizens of Rome" (it is actually him) and tells him he should be the leader of Rome.**
6. Who offers Caesar the crown? Why does he not take it? **Antony & the citizens (he is being humble.)**
7. Even though Caesar wants to be all-powerful, how is he flawed? **He doesn't follow his instincts; he is deaf in one ear; he has epilepsy; he can't swim.**
8. What 4 ominous signs occurred in scene III? **Lion at the Capitol, Owl at Noon, Men with hands on fire, Men on fire**
10. What does Cassius plan to do if Caesar is made King? **He will kill himself.**
11. Whom do the conspirators believe must be won over to their plot if it is to succeed? **Brutus.**
12. Who is Calpurnia? **Caesar's wife.**
13. When is the Ides? **The 15th.**

### Act II

1. Who was Lucius? **Brutus's servant.**
2. Why does Brutus decide Caesar must be killed? **He is "too ambitious."**
3. Who talks the conspirators into just killing Caesar? **Brutus says they don't need to kill Antony because "he is but a limb of Caesar." (He says Antony is harmless).**
4. What are the conspirators' plans for Antony? **They want him to speak at the funeral and explain that they aren't bad guys.**
5. Who is sick and agrees to follow Brutus blindly? **Cicero**
6. Explain Calpurnia's dream. **She dreamed that Caesar was dead and the Romans were bathing in his blood.**
7. What other dream (in real life) could we compare this to? **Abraham Lincoln also dreamed that he was dead and that citizens were rejoicing.**
8. How does Decius talk Caesar into going to the Senate? **He tells him the dream was a good sign and that Caesar needs to go to the Capitol because they may not offer him the crown again if he doesn't.**
9. What happens, according to Calpurnia, when a Prince dies? **The stars blaze (Meaning the sky is stormy.)**
10. Who escorts Caesar to the Senate? **Decius**
11. Who was Artemidorus? What does he try to do? How? **Artemidorus was the man who tried to warn Caesar. He tried to give him a letter explaining the conspiracy.**
12. How does Brutus hurt Portia's feelings? How does he feel about her? **He won't tell her what's happening. He is annoyed by her.**
13. Who are the 8 conspirators? **1) Brutus 2)Cassius 3)Casca 4)Cinna 5)Trebonius 6)Ligarius 7)Decius 8) Metellus**

### Act III

1. What 2 warnings does Caesar receive as he walks to the capitol? **Beware the Ides of March, Artemidorus tried to get his attention**
2. Who is Cassius afraid will expose the plan? **Popilius (a random senator).**
3. Who makes the first stab? **Casca**
4. What do the conspirators agree to let Antony do? **Speak at the funeral.**
5. What is the condition they place on Antony's speech? **He must speak AFTER Brutus, he must say only nice things about the conspirators, and he must agree with Brutus.**
6. What is the turning point in the play? Why? **When Antony convinces citizens of Brutus's betrayal.**
7. To what animal does Antony compare Caesar? **A deer (innocence)**
8. Who was Octavius Caesar? **Julius Caesar's Nephew**
9. Why does Brutus say Caesar had to die? **He was too ambitious. It was for the good of Rome.**
10. What was the "most unkindest cut of all" to Caesar? **Brutus's cut. He was a friend and it was the ultimate stab.**
11. Who was an honorable man? **Brutus**
12. What 3 actions of Caesar's does Antony name that prove he was not ambitious? **He helped the poor, he brought Captives home to Rome, he rejected the crown 3 times**
13. What did Caesar leave to the citizens in his will? **75 Drachmas (money) and his property for public use**
14. Why did the mob kill Cinna the poet? What did this show? **They killed him because at first they mistook him for Cinna the conspirator, then they just killed him because they were angry. (This showed the riot mentality because of the anger the citizens felt for Caesar's murder).**
15. What do the conspirators claim they have given the common people? **Liberty**

### Act IV

1. What is a triumvirate? Who are the three people now ruling Rome? **Three person rule; Antony, Octavius, Lepidus**
2. How has Marc Antony changed since the beginning of the play? What is he now obsessed with? **He is now obsessed with power and winning; he was loyal and tame before.**
3. Who is Cassius's servant? **Pindarus.**
4. What happened to Portia and why? **She died eating hot coals, because she was so sad that Brutus may lose the war.**
5. Where are the armies going to meet? **Philippi**
6. What does Caesar's ghost tell Brutus? What is the ghost supposed to remind Brutus of? **He says he'll see him on the battlefield. The Ghost reminds Brutus of what he did at the Capitol.**

### Act V

1. How long does Octavius plan to fight? **Until Caesar's 33 wounds are avenged.**
2. Whose birthday is it on the day of the big battle? **Cassius**
3. What do Brutus and Cassius agree to do if they lose the battle? Why? **They will kill themselves, so they won't be paraded through the streets of Rome.**
4. Who stabs Cassius? **Pindarus.**

5. What happens to Titinius? **He kills himself, because he thinks it's his fault that Cassius is dead.**
6. Who holds Brutus' sword while he runs through it? **Strato**
7. Who speaks Brutus' eulogy? What does he say about Brutus? **Octavius. He says he was honorable.**
8. How does Octavius show his respect for Brutus? **He gives him a proper funeral.**