**Name:**

***Julius Caesar*   
Duffy English 10**

**During Reading —The Big Picture**

**Directions:** As we read, and in addition to questions for each act, you are to compile evidence in your notebooks to support the below claims. Include the following information when citing passages from Caesar: act, scene, lines (II.i.90-94).

1. Are the conspirators justified in killing Caesar. **OR** The conspirators are not justified in killing Caesar.
2. Caesar is the best leader for Rome. **OR** Brutus is the best leader for Rome.
3. Language plays an important part in the play. Characters use language to twist meaning to achieve their own ends. Brutus’ funeral oration is the most effective. **OR** Antony’s funeral oration is the most effective.

**During Reading—The Details**

**Directions:** After each scene of the play, you should be able to answer the following questions about plot, characters, and conflicts.

ACT I, SCENE I.

1. How does Shakespeare make the common people appear to be less than noble?

He uses them as comic relief. The less than noble characters are humorous and are made to look like fools at times.

1. What are the people doing that angers Marullus and Flavius? Why does this anger them?

They are out on the streets celebrating Caesar’s victory over his rival Pompey. It angers them because Pompey was killed and they should be mourning the loss, not celebrating over his victor. They loved Pompey once.

1. What actions do Marullus and Flavius take to correct the situation?

They “disrobe the images”. They take down the decorations that are on the statues.

ACT I, SCENE II.

1. Why does Caesar want Calphurnia to stand in Antony's path during the race in honor of the feast of Lupercal?

It is a Festival of Fertility; Calphurnia is barren, and if Antony’s goatskin whip touches her during his race, she could be blessed with fertility. Caesar wants an heir; a son to continue his bloodline.

1. What is Antony's response to Caesar's instructions? What does this suggest about their relationship?

Antony replies that “whatever Caesar says, then it must be done.” This suggests that they are very close and Antony is very loyal and devoted to Caesar.

1. What is Caesar's reaction to the soothsayer's warning?

He shrugs it off- almost in a mocking way.

1. What complaint does Cassius make about Brutus's behavior towards him? How does Brutus answer this complaint?

Cassius feels that Brutus has been acting strange towards him and wants to know what he did wrong. Brutus explains that he has been going through something personally, but it has nothing to do with Cassius. (He has been at war with himself)

1. Cassius's story attacks what aspect of Caesar's makeup? What is this attack supposed to say to Brutus?

His physical strength and stamina to be King (Story 1. Cassius had to save Caesar from drowning in a race across the river; Story 2. Caesar had a fever in Spain and suffered a seizure and cried like a little girl) These stories are to portray Caesar as a weak person who should not be head of the most powerful country in the world. He tells Brutus that he should take action and he would be just as powerful as Caesar.

1. What does Cassius mean by the following statement? “ 'Brutus' will start a spirit as soon as 'Caesar.' “(147)

Essentially that Brutus is just as good as Caesar.

1. How does Brutus respond to Cassius's attack on Caesar?

Brutus affirms that he would rather that Caesar not assume the position. Brutus adds that he loves Caesar but that he also loves honor, and that he loves honor even more than he fears death. He says he will consider Cassius’s words.

1. What astute observation does Caesar make of Cassius?

That he looks like a man that thinks too much, and men who think too much are dangerous.

1. What faults does Caesar see in Cassius's nature?

Caesar says, “Cassius reads too much and finds no enjoyment in plays or music—such men are never at ease while someone greater than themselves holds the reins of power.”

1. What does Caesar mean by the following statement? “I rather tell thee what is to be feared/Than what I fear; for always I am Caesar.” (211-12)

If people are afraid of what Caesar tells them to be afraid of, then they will always need Caesar’s protection. If Caesar tells them that he is afraid, they will see him as weak.

1. What does this statement show about Caesar's nature?

Caesar likes power; he does not want people to see what he is truly made out of. He is full of himself (a huge ego).

1. What story does Casca relate to Brutus and Cassius? What does Casca tell us by the personal remarks he adds to the story?

That Caesar was offered the crown three times by Antony, but he refused each time. He also fell into a “fit,” possibly a seizure. The seizure did not affect the crowds opinion of Caesar. They will love him. Casca’s personal remarks are sarcastic and unforgiving. This tells us that he does not hold Caesar in high regard.

1. How did the people react to Caesar's fit? What does this tell us about their feelings for Caesar?

They did not stop cheering for Caesar. They truly loved him and wanted him to be their leader.

1. What information does Casca give about Marullus and Flavius?

They were “silenced”. This means exiled, removed from their position in the military, imprisoned, or killed.

1. At the end of the scene, what plans does Cassius make to sway Brutus to his cause?

He decides to forge letters from Roman citizens declaring their support for Brutus and their fear of Caesar’s ascent to power. He will throw them into Brutus’s house that evening.

ACT I, SCENE III

1. What wonderous things has Casca seen on this night?

The weather is terrible. He sees a man with his hands on fire, but his flesh was not burning. He sees a lion at the capital, not interested in attacking. Many people are walking around on fire, and an owl is seen during the daytime.

1. What reason does Cassius give for the terrible storm?

He believes that the gods are using these signs to warn the Romans about a “monstrous state,” meaning both an abnormal state of affairs and an atrocious government Cassius compares the night to Caesar himself who, “like this dreadful night,…thunders, lightens, opens graves, and roars as doth the lion in the Capitol. (I.iii.72-74)

1. What important news does Casca give Cassius about the Senate's plan?

The Senators plan to make Caesar Kin the following day.

1. What does Casius mean by the following statement? “He were no lion, were not Romans hinds.”(106)

Without the support of the Roman people and army, Caesar would be nothing.

1. What instructions does Cassius give Cinna that will help sway Brutus to their cause?

He gives him the letters he has forged to put through Brutus’s window to that Brutus will read them and be persuaded.

1. What reason does Casca give for wanting Brutus to join their cause?

Casca comments that the noble Brutus’s participation in their plot will bring worthiness to their schemens, for “he sits high in all the people’s hearts,/ And that which would appear offence in us/ His countenance, like richest alchemy, / Will change to virtue and to worthiness” (I.iii.157-60).

ACT II, SCENE I

1. What question is Brutus pondering at the opening of the scene?

What he should do! He fears Caesar’s influence will ruin Rome and he must be killed to prevent the destruction, but he has never personally hurt Brutus and this whole thing is based on speculation!

1. For what information does Brutus want Lucius to look at a calendar? What is the significance of what Lucius finds?

It is the Ides of March- the Soothsayer warned Caesar about the Ides of March, also this is the day that the Senators are planning to crown Caesar/and the day that Cassius’s faction will kill him.

1. Why do the conspirators want Cicero to join them?

Cicero is older and seems wiser and people might respect his decision

1. Why does Brutus reject Cicero? What is Cassius's reaction and what does this show about his and Brutus's relationship?   
   Because Cicero never follows anyone else’s ideas. Cassius replies “then leave him out” and this shows that Cassius listens to whatever Brutus says.
2. What do the conspirators plan to do the next day?

Kill Caesar

1. How does Decius say he will make sure that Caesar will come to the Capitol?

Flatter him

1. What has Portia done to show Brutus that she is worthy of knowing his secrets?

Stabs herself in the leg and kept it a secret \*Didn’t complain to show she was strong (like a man)

ACT II, SCENE II

32. What strange and horrible things does Calphurnia report to Caesar that have been seen that night?

* A lion gave birth in the street
* Fiery people
* Graves uncovered the Dead
* Noise of Battle, blood dripping from the sky
* Horses neigh, and dying men groan
* Ghosts shriek and squeal in the street

33. What does Calphurnia mean by the following statement? “When beggars die, there are no comets seen;/The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.”(30-31)

* She believes that the horrors are omens of Caesar’s death; because he is so important, these signs are for HIM.

34. How does Decius convince Caesar to go to the Capitol?

* He explains that Calphurnia’s dream has been misinterpreted! The Romans washing their hands in Caesar’s bloody statue is a sign that Rome will be revived by Caesar’s blood.
* He also warns that if he does not go, it will be a sign of weakness to the Romans and they might change their mind about making him their King.

ACT II, SCENE III

35. What is Artemidorus's plan?

* Artemidorus has a letter revealing the plot to kill Caesar. It is a warning against the faction. He plans to hand it to Caesar when he passes by on the street.

ACT II, SCENE IV

36. Why is Portia so nervous and upset? On what errand does she send Lucius?

* Brutus has told her about the conspiracy. She is nervous and showing that a woman can’t actually handle this type of news.
* She sends Lucius to the Capitol to look at Brutus and Caesar, to see if they are well, and to run back to report his findings to her

ACT III, SCENE I

37. In regard to Artemidorus's request, how does Caesar's nobility doom him?

* He decides to put his personal business last (Artemidorus' letter) and Rome's business (Decius' request) first. This decision kills him.

38. What is Metellus Cimber's petition to Caesar? What is Caesar's response and why does he give this response?

* He asks for the repeal of his brother, Publius Cimber’s banishment.
* Caesar says no. “I am constant as the Northern Star”. Caesar’s word/edicts/laws/punishment are set it stone. He is not going to be flexible.

39. What does Brutus instruct the conspirators to do before they go before the public? Why does he instruct them to do this?

* Brutus instructs the conspirators to wash their hands in Caesar’s blood and run through the streets crying “Peace, Liberty, Freedom”
* To show that this was not a gruesome murder, and to symbolize that Caesar’s blood was a sacrifice for the greater good

40. What request does Antony's servant bring to Brutus? What is Brutus's response?

* Antony wants to make sure he will not be harmed if he comes to hear Brutus’s explanation
* Brutus says that he will be satisfied with the reasoning and he will not be touched

41. Why does Cassius object to letting Antony speak at Caesar's funeral? What reassurance does Brutus give him?

* He’s afraid about what Antony might say- he doesn’t quite trust his motives
* Brutus will speak first and will explain it all- he will make sure that the people of Rome know that they ALLOWED Antony to speak only out of love for Caesar (Caesar’s Eulogy). This will prove that they truly did love/respect him.

42. What promise does Antony give Brutus about his funeral speech?

* That he will speak of all of the good things about Caesar and make sure to say that Brutus/Cassius asked him to do it.

43. After being left alone with Caesar's body, what does Antony promise to do?

* “Let slips the dogs of war”
* Avenge Caesar’s death

ACT III, SCENE II.

44. What reason does Brutus give for murdering Caesar? What is the crowd's reaction?

* He was ambitious
* The crowd is thankful for Brutus by the end of the speech!

45. What final mistake does Brutus make in letting Antony speak?

* He trusts that Antony is going to honor their wishes and not turn the crowd against them (he does!)

46. Why does Antony read Caesar's will to the people?

* To further solidify the fact that Caesar loved the people of Rome and loved Rome

47. At the end of the scene, what are the fates of Brutus and Cassius?

* The angry mob of Romans are out for their blood

ACT III, SCENE III.

48. What is the significance of this scene?

* Cinna the Poet is savagely killed simply for sharing a name with Cinna the Conspirator.
* This scene is significant because it shows that the Romans are out for blood. They mean business and are not going to stop until they avenge Caesar’s death.

ACT IV, SCENE I.

49. What are Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus doing at the opening of the scene?

* Making a list of men who need to be killed who could potentially get in their way (a hit list)

50. Why do they want Caesar's will? What is ironic about this?

* They want Caesar’s will to try to cut some of the legacies out of it to have more money for themselves and their cause. (Money for themselves, their armies, etc)
* This is ironic because it was the will that Antony used to disprove what Brutus accused Caesar of- now he’s trying to eliminate it

51. What is Antony's plan for Lepidus? What is his reason?

* To be the scapegoat- to bear the repercussions of the executed hit list
* He is an “errand boy”- not fit to rule the Roman Empire as an equal

ACT IV, SCENE II.

52. What does Brutus tell Lucilius about dying love?

* That a “hot friend cooling” is when a close friend begins to act distant- the love that Cassius and Brutus recently shared is not weakening and there is a problem between them
* Friends 🡪 Acquaintances

53. What practical instructions does Brutus give Cassius about their disagreement? What is unusual about this?

* Speak privately in his tent so to not give a negative vibe to the Armies
* Brutus typically is an open book and speaks out in front of everyone, nothing to hide

ACT IV, SCENE III.

54. What wrong does Cassius say Brutus has done him?

* Brutus condemned Lucius Pella for taking bribes from the Sardians even though Cassius sent a letter appealing on his behalf because he knew him personally.

55. In response, what does Brutus condemn Cassius for doing?

* Cassius has been filling important positions with the highest bidders rather than filling the positions with the most capable and noble men available.
* Accepting bribes and denying his money when he needed it and asked for it.

56. What does Cassius threaten to do if Brutus continues to “urge” him?

* Cassius might lose his temper and do something rash (kill him?)

57. According to Brutus, how has Cassius wronged him? What is ironic about Brutus's accusation?

* Cassius has raised money to support their armies using methods that go against Brutus's sense of honesty.
* Brutus wants the money that he criticized Cassius for accepting in bribes. Brutus is having to "stoop" and ignore his morals to survive.

58. To prove that he has been wronged, what does Cassius tell Brutus to do to him?

* Take his dagger and kill him- Carve out his heart

59. What is the real reason for Brutus's ill temper? Give all of the details.

* Portia killed herself by swallowing hot coals.

60. Messala brings what ill news of the triumvirate's actions in Rome?

* Antony, Octavius, & Lepidus killed many senators, including Cicero (the hit list)

61. What reasons does Cassius give for not going directly to Philippi?

* Let THEM wear out their troops and resources. They can wait and rest and be ready for them when they arrive, tired and worn out.

62. What reasons does Brutus give for going directly to Philippi? Who prevails?

* Attack them before their armies get larger
* They are in their prime right now, take advantage of the situation and press on
* Brutus wins, and they plan to march forth in the morning.

63. What happens to make Brutus speed up his plans to go to Philippi?

* He sees Caesar’s ghost

ACT V, SCENE I.

64. What hope of Octavius and Antony is answered? What does this say about Brutus?

That Brutus and Cassius travelled from Sardis to Philippi and they did not have to use their own resources. Brutus is ambitious, overly-eager, stubborn.

65. What does Cassius mean by the following statement? “Flatterers! Now, Brutus, thank yourself;/This tongue had not offended so today,/If Cassius might have ruled.”(45-47)

Cassius is indirectly blaming Brutus for their current situation. He says that if Brutus had listened to him, they would have killed Antony and would not be preparing to fight him.

66. What ominous sign has Cassius seen that causes him to fear the coming battle?

The eagles that flew with the army, disappeared, and in their places were scavenger birds (vultures, kites, crows).

67. What does Brutus say he will do if they lose the battle? Why is he reluctant to do this?

Never give up fighting. OR run away. Either way, he will not become a slave under the rule of Antony in his home land. Brutus is reluctant because he realizes that this is essentially a death sentence if they do not win.

ACT V, SCENE III.

68. What horrible mistake does Cassius make? What is the outcome of this mistake?

He sent Titinius to check out his camps, and THOUGHT that Titinius was captured by the enemy (Pindarus incorrectly reported). Because of his guilt, Cassius kills himself with the sword that also stabbed Caesar.

69. What is Titinius's reaction to Cassius's actions?

Titinius commits suicide as a reaction to Cassius’s death.

70. What is Brutus's response to Cassius's and Titinius's actions?

They will keep on fighting and not grieve for Cassius at the moment.

ACT V, SCENE IV.

71. What role does Lucilius take upon himself? What was Antony's response to his masquerade?

Lucilius pretends to be Brutus when captured. Antony, instead of condemning him, honors him for being a loyal soldier. He wants him to come to his side, as he would be a great man to have.

ACT V, SCENE V.

72. What request does Brutus make of Clitus? What is his response?

Hold the sword while he runs into it. His response is no.

73. What does Brutus ask Volumnius to do? What reasons does he give? What is Volumnius's response?

Brutus also asks Volumnius to do the same. He says since they have been friends since childhood, he should honor him. Volumnius says this is not the office for a friend.

74. What does Strato do for Brutus? What does Strato ask Brutus to do first? Why?

Strato holds the sword while Brutus runs into it. First, Strato asks Brutus to shake is hand. So that he knows there is good will between them.

75. What overture of peace does Octavius make to Brutus's men?

Octavius invites them to join their side after a honorable burial of Brutus.

76. How do Antony and Octavius honor Brutus?

A honorable burial