

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

The Tragedy of Julius Caesar Act I comprehension questions

Scene 1

1. The workingmen have left their jobs to make a holiday to see _____ and celebrate his victory over _____. (lines 30-31)
2. _____ and _____ are angry that the workingmen are supporting Caesar. They supported Pompey and the commoners used to, but the commoners have forgotten Pompey since Caesar beat him. (lines 32-60)
3. In order to correct the situation, Flavius and Marullus take the decorations off the _____ and drive the commoners who are celebrating Caesar out of the _____. (lines 61-75)
4. What did you learn about the situation in Rome from which the plot will develop?

Scene 2

1. During the race in honor of the _____, Caesar wants _____ to stand in _____'s path so he can touch her. Romans believed that women touched by the racers would be able to have _____. (lines 1-9)
2. When Caesar asks Antony to touch Calpurnia, he responds by saying, "_____

_____."
(lines 9-10) What does this suggest about their relationship? _____

3. When the Soothsayer warns Caesar about the _____ of March, Caesar calls him a _____ and doesn't take him seriously. (lines 18-24)
4. _____ complains that _____ has been cold and unfriendly. Brutus responds by saying that he is dealing with an _____ conflict. (lines 32-47)
5. Cassius tells Brutus stories about Caesar almost _____ in the Tiber River and having a _____ in Spain. (lines 135-161)
 - Why does he tell the stories? _____

6. When Cassius says, “ ‘ _____ ’ will start a spirit as soon as ‘ _____ , ’ ” he means that Brutus is Caesar’s _____ and could be as capable a _____. (lines 135-161)
7. Caesar says that Cassius has a _____ and _____ look, _____ too much, analyzes people’s _____, and never is at _____. (lines 192-210)
- At this point in the play, what evidence do you have that Caesar’s opinion of Cassius is, or is not, correct? _____
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8. Casca reports that Antony offered Caesar the crown _____ times. Caesar _____ it, each time gentler. Then Caesar had an _____ seizure. (lines 220-294)
- What impression do you gain of Caesar and the attitude of the people toward him?
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9. To get Brutus to join the conspiracy, Cassius plans to write phony _____ to Brutus supposedly from concerned citizens worried about the effects of _____’s rule. (lines 308-322)

Scene 3

1. Omens are supernatural occurrences that have meaning or give warning. Casca has seen a storm of _____, a slave with a _____ hand, a _____ in the street, and an _____ during the day. (lines 3-32) He is afraid that these omens point to bad things for the _____. Cassius tells Casca that the omens warn against Caesar becoming _____. (lines 57-78)
2. Why is Brutus necessary to the success of the conspiracy? (lines 157-164)
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