

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_

### *Julius Caesar Act 2 Worksheet*

Instructions: As you read *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, answer the questions and complete the activities that go along with each scene. This worksheet will aid you in your understanding of what is taking place, of the language being used, of the characters and their development across scenes, and of themes and motifs that are still applicable today.

#### Act 2, Scene 1

1. What question leaves Brutus sleep-deprived at the beginning of Act 2?
2. Why does Brutus want Lucius to look at a calendar? What is the significance of what Lucius finds?
3. How does Brutus justify the plot against Caesar? What does this justification suggest about Brutus' values?
4. Why does Brutus want to spare Antony's life? Does he successfully convince the other conspirators to want to, as well?
5. What do the conspirators plan to do the next day, at the Capitol? How does Decius plan to ensure that Caesar is there?
6. At the end of this scene, what has Portia done? Why has she done this?

7. Figurative Language (remember to add this to the list in the back of your notebook):

analogy

Definition: An analogy is an elaborate and extensive comparison between something that is familiar and something that is less familiar.

Example: In his essay, "A Hanging", George Orwell makes an analogy between a prisoner and a fish:

“They crowded very close about him, with their hands always on him in a careful, caressing grip, as though all the while feeling him to make sure he was there. It was like men handling a fish which is still alive and may jump back into the water.”

On page 44, Brutus uses two analogies to justify why Caesar deserves to be killed. Describe one of the two analogies below.

8. Figurative Language (remember to add this to the list in the back of your notebook):

personification

Definition: Personification occurs when a thing, an idea, or an animal is given human attributes.

Example: William Blake, a poet who lived more than 100 years after Shakespeare, uses personification throughout his poem, "Two Sunflowers Move in a Yellow Room".

"Ah, William, we're weary of weather,  
said the sunflowers, shining with dew.  
Our traveling habits have tired us.  
Can you give us a room with a view?"

At the bottom of page 46, Brutus personifies the word "conspiracy". Cite one example of how he speaks of the inanimate idea, as though it has human attributes.

9. Figurative Language (remember to add this to the list in the back of your notebook):

anachronism

Definition: Anachronism comes from the word "anachronous" which means "against time". An anachronism is a reference made by an author that is out of place given the text's chronology, the sequence of events in the text, and/or the historical time period.

Example: In Act 1 Scene 2 of *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare includes an anachronism when he writes, "...he plucked me open his **doublet** and offered them his throat to cut". There weren't any doublets or close-fitted jackets, in Ancient Rome, but there were these jackets in the time of Shakespeare.

There is an example of an anachronism on page 51. Can you find it? This event is contrary to the Ancient Roman time period, but would have been a normal occurrence in Shakespeare's lifetime.

#### Act 2, Scene 2

10. Why is Calphurnia afraid to let Caesar go the Senate House? Does Caesar seem to share her fear? Cite specific examples from the play.

11. 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."(II, ii, 30-31)

12. What arguments does Decius make to change Caesar's mind? Which of Caesar's personality traits make him vulnerable to Decius' argument?

#### Act 2, Scene 3

13. What does Artemidorus plan to do? Do you think Caesar will listen? Why? Back up your answer with evidence from the play.

#### Act 2, Scene 4

14. Why is Portia so uptight? What task does she give Lucius?