

JULIUS CAESAR: ACT II STUDY QUESTIONS

SCENE 1

1. What time of day is it?
2. What two things does Brutus ask Lucius to do?
3. What question does Brutus have about Caesar if he is crowned? (12-14)
4. When is greatness abused, according to Brutus? (18-19)
5. Summarize the meaning in lines 21-28.
6. What argument does Brutus make for killing Caesar in lines 30-34?
7. What did Lucius find in Brutus's closet?
8. Who sent it?
9. What does the letter ask Brutus to do?
10. What day is tomorrow?
11. Why is it, do you think, that Brutus is having trouble sleeping?
12. Since when has it been that Brutus can't sleep?
13. Who comes to see Brutus and why?
14. What point is Brutus making in lines 76-82?
15. How do the visitors and all Romans feel about Brutus?
16. What disagreement arises between Decius, Casca, and Cinna?
17. What does Brutus NOT want to do to seal the conspiracy?
18. Interpret Brutus's point in lines 132-140.
19. Why does Metellus want to include Cicero as a conspirator?
20. What reason does Brutus give for NOT bringing Cicero into the conspiracy?
21. Who besides Caesar does Cassius want to murder? Why?
22. Why does Brutus disagree with Cassius over the murder of this other person?
23. Read line 166. What does Brutus want to make the murder seem like? Why do you think this is important to him?
24. Interpret lines 166-183.
25. What concern about their plot does Cassius raise in lines 193-201?
26. What does Decius say he can do? (202-211)
27. What is Cassius's response to Decius?
28. Who else do they decide to include in the conspiracy, and why?
29. What is Brutus's warning in lines 224-228?
30. What does Brutus envy Lucius for?
31. What is Portia's concern in lines 236-255?
32. Where does Portia suspect is Brutus's sickness?
33. What does Portia demand Brutus do? (267-278)
34. How does Portia justify her right to know what is wrong with Brutus? (291-302)
35. What does Brutus promise Portia he will do?
36. Why does Caius Ligarius show up?
37. How can Brutus make Caius Ligarius well?
- 38.***** What personal characteristics does Brutus show in this scene? Do these characteristics make him seem honorable?

SCENE 2

1. Describe the weather at the start of the scene.
2. Why is the weather significant?
3. What has Calpurnia done in her sleep?

4. What does Caesar ask the servant to have the priests do? What does he hope to gain from the Priest's actions?
5. What does Calpurnia not want Caesar to do today?
6. What things have happened that alarm Calpurnia?
7. What two reasons does Caesar give in lines 27-29 for going out despite the bad omens?
8. How does Calpurnia interpret the strange omens? (30-31)
9. Interpret Caesar's speech in lines 32-37.
10. What news does the servant bring from the "augurers"? What is the reason for the augurers' concern?
11. How does Caesar interpret the lack of a heart in the entrails? (41-43)
12. What excuse does Calpurnia say Caesar can make for not going forth today? (50-54)
13. Is Caesar being arrogant, stubborn, wise, or plain stupid to be ignoring all of these warnings?
14. What does Caesar say he will do in line 56?
15. What does Caesar reveal about Calpurnia's dream? (76-82)
16. What is Decius's goal in this scene?
17. How does Decius interpret Calpurnia's dream? What is his motive?
18. What two reasons does Decius give in lines 92-104 for Caesar to go to the Senate?
19. What personal characteristics of Caesar is Decius playing on here to get him to go to the Senate?
20. How does Caesar change his mind? (105-107)
21. Why do the conspirators come to Caesar's house?
22. Interpret what Trebonius means by his aside in lines 124-125.
23. What is the irony in lines 126-127?
24. What personal characteristics does Caesar reveal in this scene?
25. What does Brutus reveal about himself in the last speech of the scene?

SCENE 3

1. What are the basic contents of Artemidorus's letter to Caesar?
2. What does Art. decide to do?
3. In this act, there are many devices used by Shakespeare to increase suspense. What are three of them?

SCENE 4

1. Where does Portia send Lucius?
2. What is the purpose of Lucius's mission?
3. What does Portia ask the soothsayer about Caesar?
4. What do you think Portia is so worried about here? What do you think is causing her concern?
5. In line 31, what does Portia ask the soothsayer?
6. Why would she ask this question? What is her concern here?
7. What is the soothsayer going to try to do?
8. For what reason does Portia berate herself several times in this scene?