

Julius Caesar
Act III.i Study Questions

Answer each question **completely**. Answer these questions in complete sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What remark does Caesar make to the soothsayer? The soothsayer's reply? What tone of voice would each use?
2. What does Artemidorus attempt to do? Who prevents him from doing this? What reason does Caesar give for not reading his petition?
3. Quote a passage that shows Cassius' fear that the plot has been discovered.
4. Explain the conceit in lines 60-70. What appeal does Metellus make to Caesar? What is his real reason for making this appeal? What is Caesar's reply?
5. Why does Caesar say "Et tu, Brute!" What does it mean?
6. What do Cinna and Cassius say and do immediately after the assassination?
7. Why does Brutus remain calm after the assassination? Explain the meaning of his statement "Ambition's debt is paid."
8. Where does Antony go during or immediately after the assassination? Why?
9. Explain lines 98-100.
10. What symbolic act does Brutus initiate?
11. What is Antony's immediate reaction upon seeing the corpse of Caesar? (Beginning with this scene, be alert for changes in Antony's characterization; contrast this with how he is perceived in Acts I and II.)
12. What lines in Antony's eulogy reveal his loyalty to Caesar? How does he at the same time play to winning over the assassins—to get their trust?
13. Explain the conceit in lines 194-210.
14. Consider carefully Antony's soliloquy, lines 254-275. Explicate carefully. What does it show about Antony's real feelings and intentions? How has Act III.i proved Antony to be unlike the man he is portrayed as in Acts I and II?
15. Who is Octavius? What message does Antony give to Octavius? Could there be an ulterior motive on Antony's part?