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Julius Caesar Act III Study Guide

**ACT III, i**

**Synopsis:**  As Caesar approaches the senate house, Artemidorus, attempts to hand him a note, but the old man is brushed aside. Seated in the rostrum, Caesar refuses the petition; he is attached by the conspirators. First stabbed by Casca, Caesar fends off the attackers until he sees Brutus’ upraised dagger. Then, overcome by his friends’ treachery, he submits and falls dead at the foot of Pompey’s statue.

 Led by Brutus and Cassius, the conspirators bathe their hands in Caesar’s blood to show their mutual responsibility. Antony’s servant arrives, asking safe conduce of his mater, who wished to come to the senate house to hear the conspirators’ explanation for their deed. Cassius warns Brutus not to trust the tricky Antony, but Brutus disregards the warning and plans to give Antony permission to speak at the funeral after he himself has explained the reason for the assassination.

 After Brutus leaves, Antony addresses Caesar’s corpse. He is interrupted by a servant announcing the arrival in Rome of Caesar’s grandnephew Octavius.

1. Why does Decius push Artemidorus aside?

2. What does Popilius do to worry the conspirators?

3. What to the conspirators do in order to get closer to Caesar?

4.Who is the first to stab Caesar?

5. What is the climax of the play?

6. What is the crowd’s reaction to the assassination?

7. What four words show the conspiracy’s feelings about the death?

8. How is Calpurnia’s dream seen?

9. Who does Antony send to the Capitol? Why?

10. Why does Antony shake hands with the conspirators?

11. What decisions regarding the funeral are made?

12. Who has a soliloquy? What does he promise to do?

**III, ii-iii**

**Synopsis:** Brutus speaks first at the assembled crowd, successfully justifying the assassination. Overconfident of his success, he yields the pulpit to Antony and leaves. Antony delivers an impassioned oration, capping it with the revealing of Caesar’s manipulated body and the reading of his will. He turns the crowd against the conspirators, who flee the city. Having stirred the mob to action, Antony plans to meet with Octavius.

 The mob rages through Rome, burning, looting, and lynching suspected conspirators, including an innocent poet who happens to be named Cinna, as was one of the plotters.

1. What is the most important line in Brutus’ speech?

2. What things does Antony say Casear did that were not ambitious?

3. Why is the mob shocked at the sight of Caesar’s body?

4. Why doe Antony show them the body?

5. “Brutus is an honorable man”

 Speaker:

 Literary device:

6. “There is tears, for his

love; joy, for his fortune; honor, for his valor; and

death for his ambition.

 Speaker:

 Literary Device:

7.” Who here is so base that

would be a bondman?. . .

Who here is so rude that would not be a

Roman?”

 Speaker:

 Literary Element: