

JULIUS CAESAR STUDY NOTES

Friends, Romans, Countrymen COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the speaker in the poem?

Its a dramatic monologue in which Mark Antony, a loyal friend of Julius Caesar, speaks

2.What did Mark Antony request his countrymen ?

Mark Antony requested his country men to listen to his words

3. Where does this speech take place?

It takes place at Caesar's funeral in Rome.
(Act 3, scene 2 of Julius Caesar)

4. According to Antony what is the purpose of his speech ?

According to him the purpose is to honour Caesar's death.

5. What does Antony say about Brutus?

He repeatedly calls Brutus an "honourable man" but he doubts his honesty.

6.Which line tells you Caesar was compassionate?

When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept

7. What does Antony say about the actions of people ?

Or

What is Antony's remark about evils and good done by men ?

He states that negative aspects have lasting impact but good things forgotten after their death

8.What is meant by the expression "so let it be with the Caesar " ?

The good things done by Caesar also forgotten after his death.

9. "Brutus is an honourable man" what was Antony's intention behind this statement?

Antony used these words ironically to mean the opposite

10. "And grievously hath Caesar answered it." What's signified in the line?

If Caesar was ambitious he has paid for it with his life.

11. How does Antony use emotion in his speech?

He speaks with sorrow and passion, making the crowd sympathize with Caesar.

12. How Antony recall Caesar as a man?

According to Antony Caesar was faithful friend and always just to him.

13. "Ambition should be made of sterner stuff" what does this line signify?

This line signifies a truly ambitious man would be more ruthless rather than compassionate.

14. Why according to Antony, Caesar was not ambitious?

Caesar brought many ransom to Rome, he was compassionate, he rejected the crown thrice.

15. "And men have lost their reason" why does Antony say so?

Antony says people have lost their power of sensibility.

16. Why does Antony pause in the speech?

He says his heart is with Caesar in the coffin, making the audience feel his grief.

17. What effect does this speech have on the people?

- It turns the crowd against Brutus and sparks rebellion in Rome.

18. What is Antony's main goal in this speech?

He wants to prove Caesar's innocence and stir emotions against his assassins.

Figures of speech from the poem

 **Pathos**

Eg: Friends, Romans, countrymen

(Appeal to emotions and feelings)

 **Verbal Irony**

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"For Brutus is an honourable man; So are they all, all honourable men" - Verbal irony

(Antony's Real intention is to make the crowd turned against Brutus and other assassins.)

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☀ Repetition

"And Brutus is an honourable man"

"ambitious" -

"Brutus says"

☀ Rhetorical Questions

"Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?"

"was this ambition?" -

"What cause withholds you, then, to mourn for him?"

(Intention is not to elicit answers but to provoke)

☀ Antithesis

Eg : "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him"

(Sets up contrasting purposes, though Antony does the opposite of what he claims.)

Eg: "The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their bones"

(Contrasts how evil and good are remembered after death.)

☀ Logos

He hath brought many captives home to Rome,

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

(Appeal to the logic and reason)

☀ Metaphor

"My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar"

(Antony's emotions are metaphorically buried with Caesar, showing his deep grief and love.)

"lend me your ears"

- Ears are metaphorically treated as something that can be borrowed, meaning

"listen to me."

☀ Personification

"O judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason!"

(Judgment is personified as something that can flee, while reason is personified as something that can be lost.)

"Ambition should be made of sterner stuff"

(Ambition is given human qualities, suggesting it should be harder or more ruthless.)

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☀️ **Apostrophe**

"O judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts" - Antony directly addresses the abstract concept of judgment as if it were a person who could hear him.

☀️ **Alliteration**

Friend, faithful

"brutish, beasts"

Sterner, stuff

☀️ **Litotes (Understatement)**

"I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke"

(Antony claims he's not contradicting Brutus, while doing exactly that throughout his speech.)

"not without cause"

(Understated way of saying there were very good reasons to love Caesar.)

☀️ **Parallelism**

"He was my friend, faithful and just to me"

Parallel structure emphasizing Caesar's positive qualities.

"I thrice presented him a kingly crown, Which he did thrice refuse"

(emphasizing the repetitive nature of Caesar's refusal.)

☀️ **Synecdoche**

"lend me your ears"

("Ears" represents the whole person's attention and listening capacity.)

☀️ **Hyperbole**

Eg : "And men have lost their reason!"

(Exaggerated claim that all men have become irrational, used for effect.)

Eg: My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar

☀️ **Oxymoron**

"grievous fault" / "grievously hath Caesar answered it"

(The pairing of "grievous" (serious) with the supposed minor nature of ambition creates tension.)

Appreciation of Mark Antony's Funeral Speech

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This famous speech is from William Shakespeare's play "Julius Caesar," where Mark Antony speaks at Caesar's funeral after Brutus and other conspirators have killed him. The main theme of this speech is loyalty and friendship. Antony loved Caesar deeply and wants to show the Roman people that Caesar was not ambitious ruler that Brutus claimed he was. Through persuasive speech, Antony tries to turn the crowd against Brutus and the other murderers while appearing to respect them. The speech shows how powerful words can be when used skillfully to change people's minds and hearts.

In this speech, Antony pretends to agree with Brutus that Caesar was ambitious, but he gives three strong examples to prove the opposite. First, he mentions how Caesar brought the ransom money to fill the city's treasury, benefiting everyone. Second, he reminds them how Caesar wept for the poor people suffering, showing his compassionate nature. Third, and most importantly, he tells them how Caesar refused the crown three times when it was offered to him during the festival of Lupercal. Through these examples, Antony makes it clear that Caesar was not ambitious but was actually generous and humble. By the end, Antony becomes so emotional that he says his heart is buried with Caesar, showing his genuine grief and love for his friend.

Shakespeare uses many figures of speech to make this speech powerful and memorable. The most important one is irony, where Antony keeps calling Brutus "an honorable man" while proving that he is actually dishonorable. This repetition becomes more sarcastic each time he says it. Antony also uses rhetorical questions like "Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?" to make the audience think and realize that Caesar was not ambitious at all. The speech contains beautiful metaphors, especially when Antony says "My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar," showing how deeply he mourns his friend. These literary devices made it to be counted as the remarkable speeches in all of literature, proving Shakespeare's genius in understanding human psychology and the power of persuasive language.

GIST OF THE PLAY JULIUS CAESAR

Important incidents in the play Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare:

1. Celebration of Caesar's Victory

- The play opens with Roman citizens celebrating Caesar's triumph over Pompey.
- Tribunes Flavius and Marullus criticize the crowd, showing early opposition to Caesar's power

2. The Soothsayer's Warning

- A soothsayer warns Caesar to "Beware the Ides of March," but Caesar ignores it

3. Cassius Convinces Brutus to Join the Conspiracy

- Cassius persuades Brutus that Caesar is too powerful and must be stopped.
- Brutus, torn between loyalty and duty agrees to join the plot

4. Caesar Refuses the Crown

- Antony offers Caesar a crown three times, but he refuses it.
- Casca suspects Caesar secretly desires power despite his public humility

5. Calpurnia's Dream & Caesar's Decision

- Caesar's wife Calpurnia dreams of his murder and begs him to stay home.
- Decius manipulates Caesar, convincing him to go to the Senate

Circumstances Leading to Mark Antony's Funeral Speech

Mark Antony delivers this famous speech in Act III, Scene 2 of Julius Caesar, shortly after Caesar's assassination.

6. Caesar's Assassination

- A group of conspirators, led by Brutus and Cassius, murder Julius Caesar in the Senate, believing his ambition threatens Rome's democracy.
- After the killing, Antony pretends to support the assassins but secretly plots to turn public opinion against them.

Brutus's Speech to the Roman Crowd

- Brutus addresses the crowd, explaining that Caesar's ambition forced the conspirators to act for the good of Rome.
- The Roman citizens initially agree, believing Brutus acted honorably.

8. Mark Antony's Funeral Oration

- Antony is granted permission to speak at Caesar's funeral, under the condition that he does not blame the conspirators.
- However, through irony, rhetorical questions, and emotional appeals, Antony gradually undermines Brutus's justification, making the crowd realize the injustice of Caesar's murder.
- His speech turns public opinion, leading to outrage, riots, and war against the conspirators.

Outcome of the Speech

- Antony's words ignite a rebellion, and the Roman people turn against Brutus and Cassius.
- This leads to a civil war, ultimately resulting in the downfall of the conspirators.

9. The Battle Between Antony & Brutus

- Antony and Octavius fight Brutus and Cassius for control of Rome.
- Cassius, believing they lost, commits suicide

10. Antony Honors Brutus

- Antony calls Brutus "the noblest Roman of them all," recognizing his intentions were pure.
- The play ends with Octavius taking control of Rome

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