

Julius Caesar – William Shakespeare



Julius Caesar, the tragedy, is based on the life of said ancient Roman emperor and considered written by Shakespeare in the late 1500s. The story culminates in a civil war and the deaths of Caesar's former Senate members and enemies, Brutus and Cassius. This piece of historical fiction has brought the true-life story of Caesar to life for untold readers throughout the centuries.

Key points

- *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare is a play about the **assassination of Caesar**, the leader of the Roman Republic.
- Caesar's growing popularity inspires jealousy among the Roman tribunes, and a conspiracy against Caesar takes shape.
- Cassius recruits Caesar's friend **Brutus** to help. At the Senate, they and the other conspirators stab Caesar to death.
- **Mark Antony** volunteers to speak at Caesar's funeral and infuriates a mob with his speech. Brutus and Cassius quickly flee the city to raise an army.
- The two armies clash at the **Battle of Philippi**. Antony's forces soon overwhelm Brutus's men. Before he can be killed, Brutus kills himself.

Major Characters

- **Julius Caesar** – Roman General and War Hero
 - **Calpurnia**– his wife
 - **Mark Antony**– his trustworthy friend
 - **Marcus Brutus** – his best friend
 - **Cassius**
 - **Casca**
 - **Decius Brutus**
 - **Soothsayer**
- } Conspirators

Characters

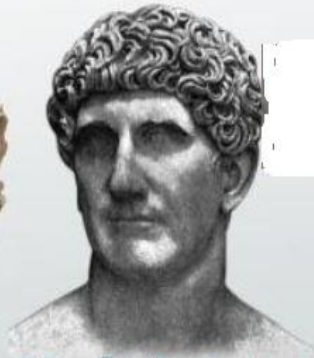
- **Julius Caesar**
- **Marcus Antonius**
- **Caius Cassius**
- **Marcus Brutus**
- Casca
- Cinna
- Metellus Cimber
- Decius Brutus
- Trebonius
- Ligarius
- Calpurnia / Portia
- Octavius / Lepidus
- Other Servants and Friends



Shakespeare's Julius Ceasar



Caesar
pride



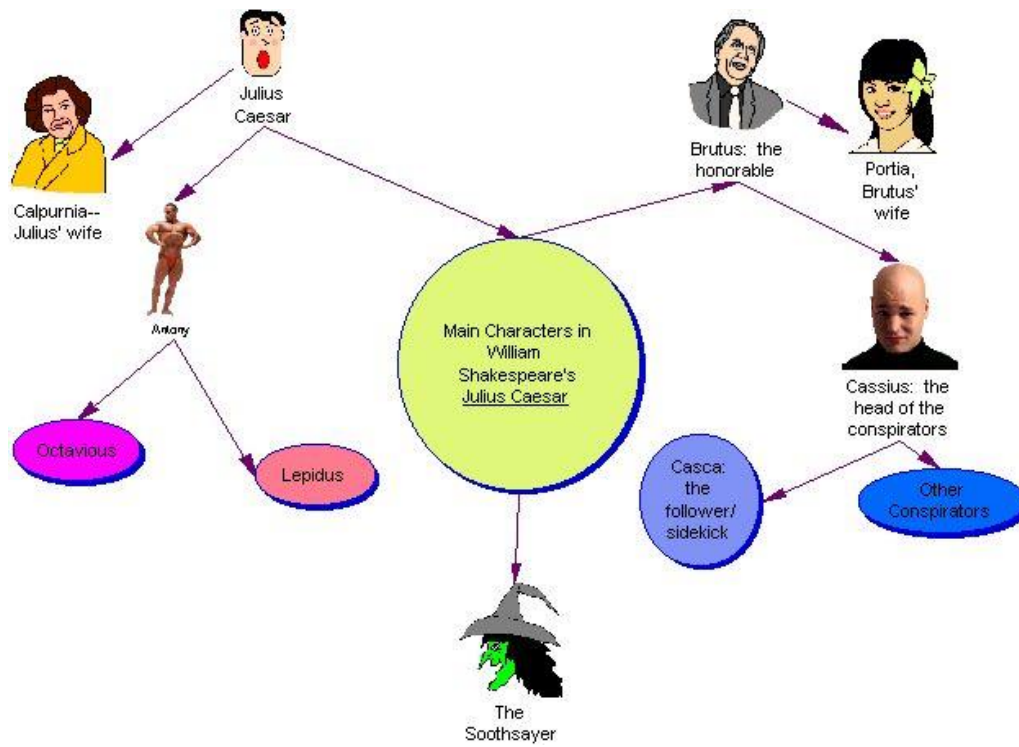
Mark Antony
shrewd revenge

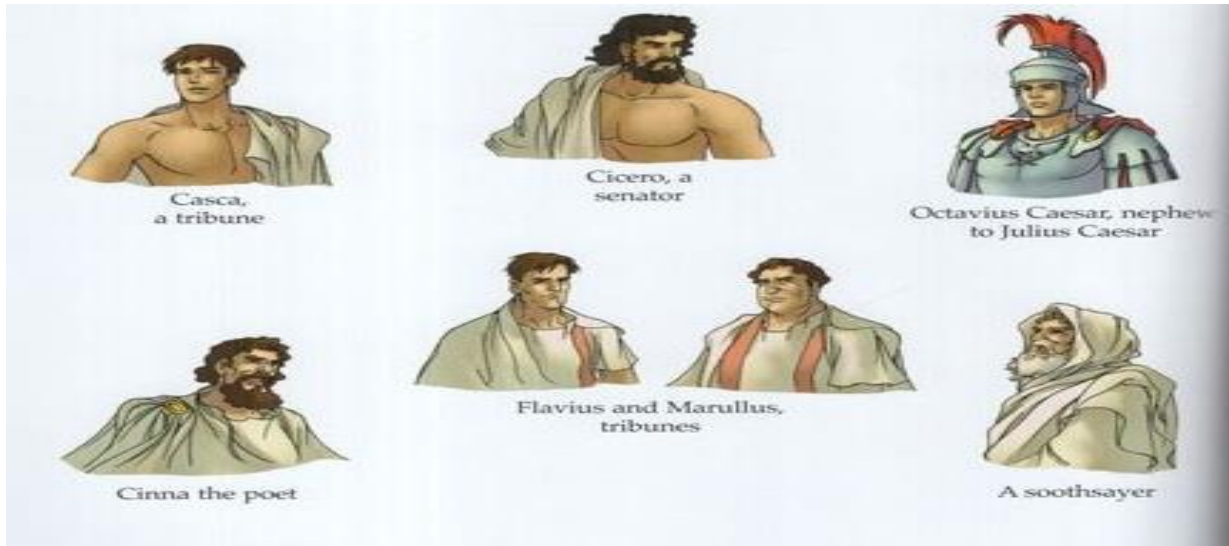


Brutus
naive nobility

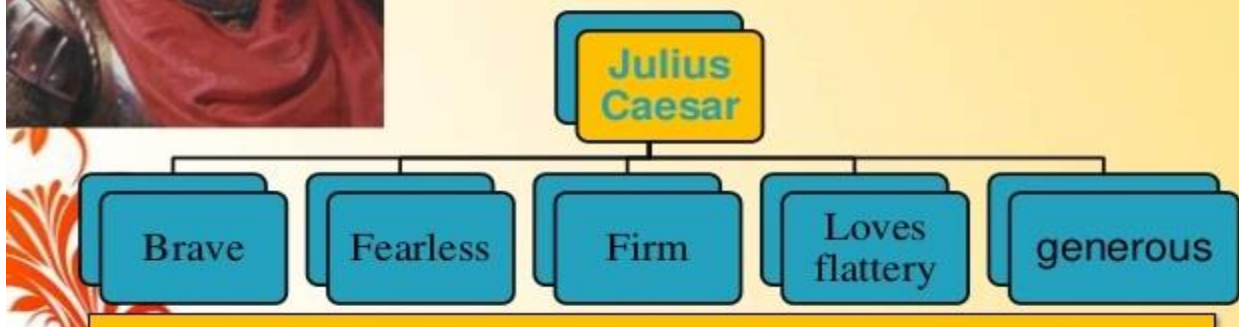


Cassius
ambition





1) **Julius Caesar** – The greatest and the most powerful of the Romans. He is assassinated by Brutus, Cassius and a band of who feel Caesar is too ambitious and wishes to be crowned as a king.



Calpurnia



- A Roman woman and the third and last wife of Julius Caesar.
- Calpurnia invests great authority in omens and portents. She warns Caesar against going to the Senate
- She is very concerned for Caesars.
- She interprets her dream which signified that it was not a lucky day for him and could prove to be very dangerous for his life if he moves out.
- Nevertheless, Caesar's ambition ultimately causes him to disregard her advice.

Brutus



- **Of Noble Heritage** Brutus is a Roman nobleman, as was his father
- **Sincere:** Brutus truly believes that his role in the assassination is for the good of Rome
- **Naive:** He believes in the essential goodness of those around him
- **Philosophical:** His philosophies guide his actions and decisions.
- **Good Orator:** he was successful in changing the mob mentality and proved that Caesar was ambitious which was not good for the citizens. **He is a powerful public figure.**

Cassius



- **Envious:** Cassius has contempt for Caesar and envies Caesar's position
- **Fearful:** Cassius is afraid that Caesar has ambitions to be king. He fears what might become of Rome in such an instance.
- **Politically Astute:** He advises Brutus to assassinate Antony along with Caesar. Understanding what can happen, he advises Brutus not to allow Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral as he feared that he would be able to rise the mob against them in mutiny.
- **Corrupt:** Prior to the battle at Philippi, he is accused by Brutus of taking bribes

Marc Antony

Antony proves himself a consummate politician, using gestures and skilled rhetoric to his advantage.



- **Loyal to Caesar:** Antony loved and admired Caesar
- **Clever:** Antony pretends to befriend the conspirators and asks that he be allowed to speak at Caesar's funeral
- **A skilled orator:** Antony's speech at Caesar's funeral sways the crowd
- **Hard:** Antony's role in condemning men to death shows he can be as cold hearted as he is passionate
- **A skilled military leader:** Antony has an equal voice in planning the war against the legions of Brutus and Cassius

Julius Caesar - Prophecies, dreams, and storms

The main character in this famous play is not Julius Caesar, although his death is the catalyst for the tragic events that unfold. Julius Caesar's superstitious nature, however, is worth mentioning. At the beginning of the play, Caesar asks Mark Antony, his friend, to touch his wife's garment during a race to release her from her infertility. Later, when he is approached by a soothsayer and warned to beware the Ides of March, Caesar takes note, although he minimizes the event, calling the man a dreamer.

Also, when Calpurnia, his wife, warns him not to attend the senate meeting on March 15th because of a nightmare she has had and because of odd omens and storms, he concedes to her wishes until he is persuaded to attend the fateful meeting by his conspirators. Prophecies, dreams, and storms give pause to his actions, although his pride overrules his caution.

Plot

- Julius comes defeating the sons of Pompey in a battle
- Conspirators plan to assassinate him
- In the Festival of Lupercal, Caesar rejects the crown thrice
- Soothsayer Beware of the ides of March
- Plan to join Brutus in the conspirator team for credibility and safety



- Plan to go to Capitol
- Calpurnia's bad dream
- Decius misinterpretation of dream
- Caesar is stabbed by the conspirators at the Capitol
- "You too Brutus..."
- Mark Antony's request to place Caesar's body at the market place.



A Short Summary :

The play opens with a crowd celebrating the victory of Julius Caesar over the sons of Pompey. Julius Caesar along with his wife celebrate the feast of Lupercal where a soothsayer warns him to beware of Ides of March. Antony offers the Crown to Julius Caesar but he refuses the offer three times which the commoners love. Cassius tries to poison the mind of Marcus Brutus to stand against Julius Caesar. The tricky words of Cassius succeed in drawing Brutus into the conspiracy. Casca, who is very superstitious gets afraid of thunder, lightning, and storm over the night. Cassius being cunning interprets the bad omens in such a way that Casca also joins the conspirators.

Brutus becomes double-minded and confused to choose between his friend Julius Caesar and the well being of Romans. Ultimately he chooses the latter and the plan for the murder of Caesar is made. The following morning of the 15th of March, the wife of Julius Caesar tries to stop him as she has seen some bad omens last night. Artemidorous, who is a good wisher of Julius Caesar tries to stop him by giving him a letter but Caesar did not bother reading it. Julius Caesar reaches the Senate being unaware of the conspiracy and firstly Casca and Brutus in the last stab him to death. Brutus calms down the public by acting very wisely after the death of Julius Caesar. Mark Antony gives a diplomatic speech to enrage the crowd against the conspirators.

The conspirators flee to Asia to save themselves and prepare to attack the supporters of Julius Caesar. Cassius uses unethical means to collect money which starts a quarrel between Cassius and Brutus. Portia, the wife of Brutus swallows poison and is dead. Then comes the Ghost of Julius Caesar to warn Brutus that they will again meet at the battleground of Philippi. In the battle Cassius wrongly assumes that enemies have surrounded him, he orders his servant to stab him to death. After learning that Cassius is defeated, Brutus gets afraid of the ghost of Julius Caesar and commits suicide. Antony and Octavius reach the body of Brutus to recognize his greatness and love for the country. Antony praises Brutus and orders a formal funeral before they return to rule Rome.





- Marcus Brutus' Speech convinces crowd



Famous Quotes / Quotations

"Friends, Romans, countrymen lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him". - (Act III, Scene II).

"But, for my own part, it was Greek to me". - (Act I, Scene II).

"Cry "Havoc," and let slip the dogs of war". - (Act III, Scene I).

"Et tu, Brute!" - (Act III, Scene I).{you to Brutus}

"Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more". - (Act III, Scene II).

"Beware the Ides of March". - (Act I, Scene II).

"This was the noblest Roman of them all". - (Act V, Scene V).