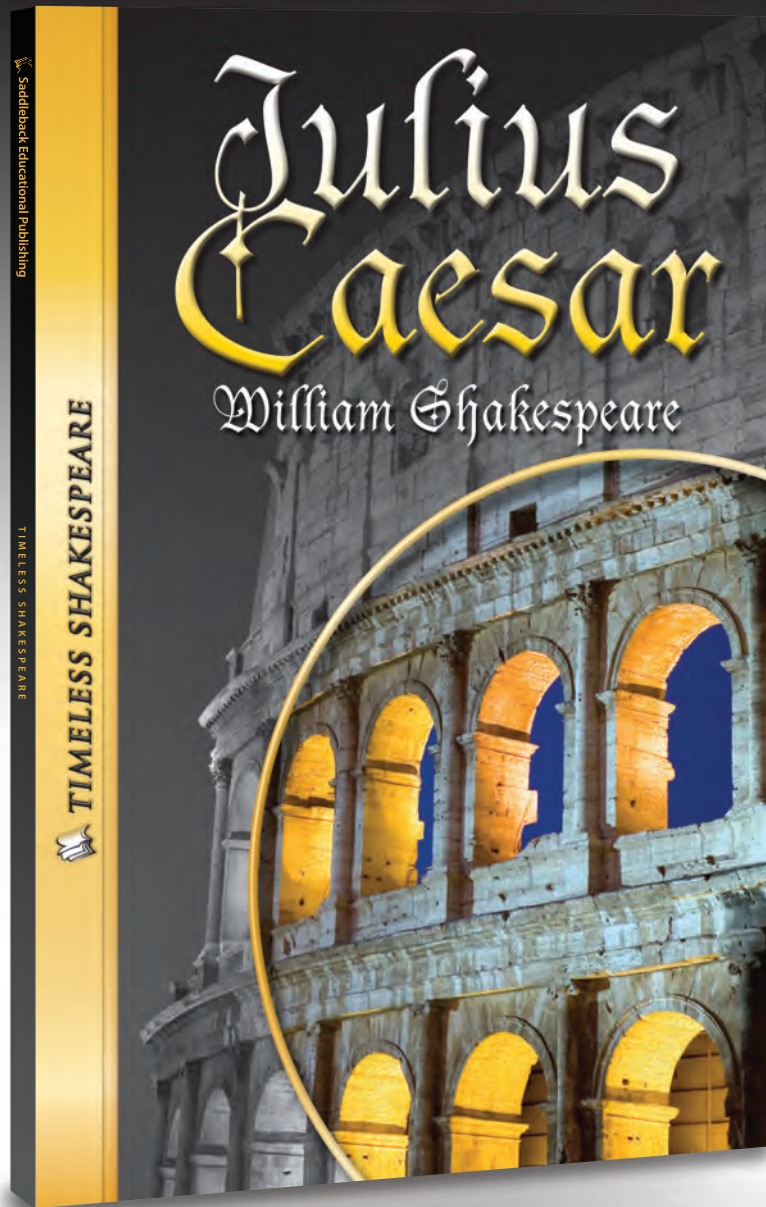




TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE

STUDY GUIDE



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TIMELESS SHAKESPEARE NOTES TO THE TEACHER

THE PROGRAM

Timeless Shakespeare were expressly designed to help students with limited reading ability gain access to some of the world's greatest literature. While retaining the essence and stylistic "flavor" of the original, each *Timeless Shakespeare* has been expertly adapted to a reading level that never exceeds grade 4.0.

An ideal introduction to later, more in-depth investigations of the original works, *Timeless Shakespeare* utilize a number of strategies to ensure the involvement of reluctant readers: airy, uncomplicated page design, shortened sentences, easy-reading type style, elimination of archaic words and spellings, shortened total book length, and handsome illustrations.

THE STUDY GUIDES

The *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guides* provide a wealth of reproducible support materials to help students extend the learning experience. Features include critical background notes on both the author and the times, character descriptions, chapter summaries, and seven "universal" exercises which may be used to follow up the reading of any *Timeless Shakespeare* novel or play.

In addition to the universal exercises, 27 title-specific exercises are included to review, test, and enrich students' comprehension as well as their grasp of important vocabulary and concepts. All reproducible, the worksheets provided

for Shakespeare's plays are designed to be used act-by-act as the student's reading of the play proceeds. Several exercises are provided for each act. One always focuses on key vocabulary. Others include a simple comprehension check and treatment of an important literary concept such as character analysis, point of view, inference, or figurative language. A three-page final exam is also included in every *Timeless Shakespeare Study Guide*.

USING THE STUDY GUIDES

Before assigning any of the reproducible exercises, be sure each student has a personal copy of the *Glossary* and the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times*. Students will need to be familiar with many of the literary terms in order to complete the worksheets. Obviously, the *Facts About the Author* and *About the Times* lend themselves to any number of writing, art, or research projects you may wish to assign.

The title-specific exercises may be used as a springboard for class discussions or role-playing. Alternatively, you may wish to assign some exercises as homework and others as seatwork during the closing minutes of a class period.

All exercises in this Guide are designed to accommodate independent study as well as group work. The occasional assignment of study partners or competitive teams often enhances interest and promotes creativity.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

(1564–1616)

William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the finest poet and playwright who ever lived. Yet he was the son of illiterate parents and never attended college!

Much of this remarkable man's life is shrouded in mystery. He had been dead almost a hundred years before anyone wrote a short account of his life. But we do know that his mother, Mary Arden, was the daughter of a prosperous farmer. His father, John Shakespeare, was a successful glovemaking who also traded in wool, hides, and grain. They lived in an English market town called Stratford-on-Avon, where William was born in 1564. Their house still stands.

Until the age of 13 or 14, Shakespeare probably attended the Stratford grammar school where he read the great Latin classics of Cicero, Virgil, and Seneca. Some stories say that he had to leave school early because of his father's financial difficulties. But there is no official record of his life until 1582, when he married Anne Hathaway at the age of 18. By 1585, he and Anne had three children. No one knows for

sure what happened to him during the next seven years, although one account says that he was a schoolmaster. In 1592, however, records reveal that he was working in London as both an actor and a playwright. By that year, he had published two popular poems and written at least three plays.

Records from various sources show that Shakespeare became wealthy. In 1597, he bought one of the grandest houses in Stratford. (It had 10 fireplaces!) The next year he bought 10 percent of the stock in the handsome Globe Theater and a fine house in London. His artistic life was very busy and productive. His theatrical company, known as the King's Men, presented a variety of plays, week after week. It is thought that he rehearsed in the mornings, acted in the afternoons, and wrote at night.

After 1612, he spent most of his time in Stratford with his family. He died there, at the age of 52, on April 23, 1616. The tomb of the great literary genius still stands at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford.

FACTS ABOUT THE TIMES

In 1564, when Shakespeare was born...

About 100,000 people lived in London; the horsedrawn coach was introduced in England; the great Italian sculptor and painter, Michelangelo, died; an outbreak of plague killed more than 20,000 Londoners.

In 1616, when Shakespeare died...

Sir Walter Raleigh began his search for El Dorado; tobacco was becoming a popular crop in Virginia; Pocahontas died; the Catholic church forbade Galileo from conducting any further scientific investigations.

JULIUS CAESAR

FACTS ABOUT THE CHARACTERS

Julius Caesar, Roman statesman and army general

Octavius, Roman politician. Later, he is called Augustus Caesar, first Emperor of Rome

Mark Antony, Roman politician, general, and friend of Caesar

Lepidus, Roman politician

Marcus Brutus, Cassius, Casca, Trebonius, Ligarius, Decius Brutus, Metellus Cimber, and Cinna, plotters against Caesar

Calpurnia, Caesar's wife

Portia, Marcus Brutus's wife

Cicero, Popilius, and Popilius Lena, senators

Flavius and Marullus, tribunes

Cato, Lucilius, Titinius, Messala, and Volumnius, supporters of Marcus Brutus

Artemidorus, teacher of rhetoric

Cinna, a poet

Strato and Lucius, servants to Marcus Brutus

Pindarus, servant to Cassius

The Ghost of Caesar, appears to Marcus Brutus

A soothsayer, a poet, senators, citizens, soldiers, commoners, messengers, and servants, minor roles in the play

SUMMARIES BY ACT

ACT 1

Flavius and Marullus are angry. They send home some commoners who are waiting to see Caesar enter Rome and remove banners honoring Caesar. Elsewhere, Caesar and his followers wait to watch a race for the feast of Lupercal. A soothsayer comes out of the crowd, telling Caesar to beware the Ides of March. Brutus and Cassius speak about Brutus's recent bad moods. Cassius hints that Brutus might be a better leader than Caesar. He talks about Caesar's shortcomings and great ambition. Caesar refuses the crown three times when it is offered to him by Mark Antony. Cassius resolves to change Brutus's mind about Caesar's greatness. That night, a terrible storm rages in Rome. Strange sights are reported. Cassius and Casca talk about Caesar in negative terms. Cassius invites Casca to join him and some others in a plot against

Caesar. They agree that if Brutus were on their side, their chances of success would be much greater. Cassius and Casca decide to speak to Brutus in the morning.

ACT 2

Brutus debates with himself how to best serve Rome. He knows that Caesar's ambition is dangerous and decides it would be best for Rome if Caesar were dead. The plotters arrive in the morning, and Brutus promises to support them. Brutus rejects their idea of killing Mark Antony, too, saying that Antony is not dangerous without Caesar. At Caesar's house, his wife, Calpurnia, tries to talk him out of going to the Capitol, as she has had nightmares about it, and she believes the night had been full of omens. To please her, Caesar agrees to stay home. But then Decius Brutus talks

him into it, and Caesar leaves with all the plotters for the Capitol. Artemidorus waits near the Capitol, hoping to have a chance to give a letter to Caesar. The letter warns him about his enemies.

ACT 3

Artemidorus is unable to give his letter to Caesar before Caesar enters the Capitol. Shortly after the meeting in the Senate House begins, the plotters stab Caesar to death. Brutus is the last to stab Caesar. The dying Caesar turns to Brutus, saying *Et tu, Brutè?* (“You, too, Brutus?”) The plotters then start worrying about how they will explain this to the Roman citizens. When Antony wants a meeting to hear why Caesar had to die, Brutus agrees that Antony can come in safety. At the meeting, Antony asks permission to speak at Caesar’s funeral. The others agree that he can do so—but only after Brutus speaks. After the plotters leave, Antony sends a servant to Octavius, who is camping with his army 20 miles outside of Rome. The message is that Rome is too dangerous for Octavius just now, because of what has happened. At the Forum, Brutus speaks to the crowd, telling them the reason for his actions. Then Antony arrives, with Caesar’s body. When Antony gives his speech, the crowd’s sympathies shift from Brutus to Antony, especially after Antony reads Caesar’s will. People in the crowd decide to get revenge for Caesar’s death. Some run off with plans to burn down the houses of the traitors.

ACT 4

Some time later, Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus meet and make plans about which conspirators must die. Brutus and

the other plotters have left Rome and are now in Greece with their armies. Brutus and Cassius argue and then make up. Brutus tells Cassius that he has learned that Portia is dead, having committed suicide out of grief. A messenger arrives with news that Octavius and Antony are marching toward them with a mighty army. The plotters make plans for their defense. They decide to march and meet their enemies at Philippi. That night, Caesar’s ghost appears to Brutus in his tent, telling him that he will see Brutus at Philippi.

ACT 5

On the plains of Philippi, Octavius and Antony prepare for battle. Cassius and Brutus speak about the possibility of suicide if defeat seems imminent. Brutus says that he will fight to his death rather than commit suicide or be taken prisoner. In another part of the field, Cassius and Titinius discuss the battle. Cassius sends Titinius to another part of the field to find out if troops there are friends or enemies. When Titinius is surrounded by horsemen who are shouting for joy, Cassius thinks that Titinius has been captured. Thinking his side is losing, Cassius asks Pindarus to kill him, which Pindarus does. When Titinius returns with the news that he had met friends on the field, he finds Cassius’s body and realizes that Cassius has misunderstood everything. Titinius then kills himself in despair. Elsewhere, realizing he is losing the battle, Brutus runs onto his own sword as Strato holds it. Antony calls Brutus “the noblest Roman of them all” because he had honorable motives for what he did, and he promises to give him a decent burial.

SHAKESPEARE PLAYS
LITERARY GLOSSARY

aside lines spoken by an actor that the other characters on stage supposedly cannot hear; an aside usually shares the character's inner thoughts with the audience

Although she appeared to be calm, the heroine's aside revealed her inner terror.

backstage the part of the theater where actors prepare to go onstage, where scenery is kept, etc.

Before entering, the villain impatiently waited backstage.

cast the entire company of actors performing in a play

The entire cast must attend tonight's dress rehearsal.

character a fictional person or creature in a story or play

Mighty Mouse is one of my favorite cartoon characters.

climax the outcome of the main conflict of a play or novel

The outlaw's capture made an exciting climax to the story.

comedy a funny play, film, or TV show that has a happy ending

My friends and I always enjoy a Jim Carrey comedy.

conflict the struggle between characters, forces, or ideas at the center of a story

***Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* illustrates the conflict between good and evil.**

conclusion the resolution of all plot conflicts, bringing a story to a close

That play's conclusion was very satisfying. Every conflict was resolved.

dialogue words spoken by the characters in a novel or play

Amusing dialogue is an important element of most comedies.

drama a story, usually not a comedy, especially written to be performed by actors in a play or movie

The TV drama about spies was very suspenseful.

event something that happens; a specific occurrence

The most exciting event in the story was the surprise ending.

figurative language colorful wording not meant to be taken literally, but to form a colorful, sharp picture in the mind

A "screaming" headline may be set in large type, but it makes no sound at all.

introduction a short reading that presents and explains a novel or play

The introduction to *Frankenstein* is in the form of a letter.

motive the internal or external force that makes a character do something

What was that character's motive for telling a lie?

NAME _____

DATE _____

Read the Introduction at the front of *Julius Caesar*.

1. Julius Caesar is set in 44 B.C. How many years ago was that? _____

If the average lifetime is 70 years, about how many lifetimes have gone by since then? _____

2. What word or words in the Introduction suggest that this play is *not* a comedy? _____

3. After reading the Introduction, study the book's cover. Which characters do you think are pictured on it? _____

4. Julius Caesar himself is pictured in the *foreground* of the cover. In what way does this picture reveal what you already know about Julius Caesar? _____

5. Have you ever known anyone who seemed very jealous about another person's success? What did that person say or do that suggested jealousy was becoming a big problem? _____

6. Suppose you had a friend who seemed afraid that someone else's power was dangerous. What advice would you give to him or her? _____

7. Preview the pictures on pages 9, 43, 55, and 74. What do you think is happening in each one?

(p. 9) _____

(p. 43) _____

(p. 55) _____

(p. 74) _____

NAME _____

DATE _____

Circle a letter to answer each question.

1. Why are Marullus and Flavius angry with the commoners?
 - a. because the commoners get a day off, and Marullus and Flavius don't
 - b. because the commoners admire Caesar so much they've forgotten about Pompey
 - c. because the commoners climbed up walls and towers carrying babies
2. What do Marullus and Flavius decide to do?
 - a. remove any banners honoring Caesar
 - b. honor Caesar any way they can
 - c. weep into the Tiber River
3. What does the soothsayer say to Caesar?
 - a. "Accept the crown."
 - b. "Watch out for your enemies."
 - c. "Beware the Ides of March."
4. Why does Cassius resent Caesar so much?
 - a. because he claims all the honors for himself
 - b. because he is not a very good swimmer
 - c. because he is too old to rule Rome
5. What makes Caesar think that Cassius is dangerous?
 - a. He says that Cassius thinks too much.
 - b. He can see that Cassius is ambitious.
 - c. He knows that Cassius is very lazy.
6. What does Caesar do when Antony offers him the crown?
 - a. He accepts it after the third offer.
 - b. He refuses it three times.
 - c. He offers the crown to Antony.
7. What do Casca and Cassius decide to do regarding Brutus?
 - a. to visit him at dawn and persuade him to join them
 - b. to keep the truth from him at all costs
 - c. to give him six months to think it over

NAME _____

DATE _____

A. Find and circle the hidden vocabulary words from Act 1. Words may go up, down, across, backward, or diagonally. Check off each word as you find it.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| ___ CLOAK | ___ IDLE |
| ___ CHARIOT | ___ WEEP |
| ___ STRANGE | ___ OPINION |
| ___ MISTAKEN | ___ FAMOUS |
| ___ BARGAIN | ___ HONOR |
| ___ ANCESTORS | ___ WORTH |

A	S	R	O	T	S	E	C	N	A	C	I
D	C	B	M	U	F	S	L	E	T	D	K
M	H	L	V	H	O	N	O	R	R	O	J
E	A	C	N	N	G	H	A	W	Q	P	P
K	R	W	O	E	R	S	K	O	O	I	I
Y	I	B	P	Q	K	T	I	R	V	N	D
P	O	K	J	H	J	A	U	T	A	I	L
S	T	R	A	N	G	E	T	H	N	O	E
Q	A	F	P	X	W	I	F	S	B	N	L
Z	R	E	Y	B	A	R	G	A	I	N	C
U	E	M	L	O	S	X	H	G	D	M	E
W	N	Z	T	S	U	O	M	A	F	G	M

B. Now complete each sentence with one or more of the hidden words.

1. What you think about an issue is your _____ about it.
2. A person who is _____ is not doing anything.
3. It would be very _____ to see a _____ on a modern street.
4. You might _____ very sadly if your _____ was questioned.
5. If you are _____ about something, you are wrong.
6. Someone whose name is known by many people is _____.
7. A _____ is a type of coat without sleeves.
8. A _____ is either an agreement or a good buy.
9. Another word for *value* is _____.