

**LESSON NOTES****School: Ba Sangam College****Year/Level: 12****Name: _____****Subject: English****Worksheet 17****Year: _____**

Strand	Reading and Viewing
Sub Strand	Communication Text Types – media, everyday communication, literary texts
Content Learning Outcome	Read and demonstrate understanding of a variety of complex texts.

LITERATURE – DRAMA – JULIUS CAESAR – BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**Act II, Scene 11****Caesar Ignores Warnings****Sequence of events**

- Caesar wanders through his house in his dressing gown, kept awake by his wife Calpurnia's nightmares. Three times she has called out in her sleep about Caesar's murder.
- He sends a servant to bid the priests to offer a sacrifice and tell him the results. Calpurnia enters and insists that Caesar not leave the house after so many bad signs.
- Caesar refuses to give in to fear. But Calpurnia, who has never heeded omens before, speaks of what happened in the city earlier that night: dead men walked, ghosts wandered the city, a lioness gave birth in the street, and lightning shattered the skies. These signs portend true danger, she says; Caesar cannot afford to ignore them.
- Caesar counters that nothing can change the plans of the gods.
- Calpurnia says that the heavens proclaim the death of only great men, so the omens must have to do with him.
- Caesar replies that while cowards imagine their death frequently, thus dying in their minds several times over, brave men, refusing to dwell on death, die only once. He cannot understand why men fear death, which must come eventually to all.
- The servant enters, reporting that the augurs recommend that Caesar stay home. But Caesar maintains that he will not stay home out of fear.

- Decius enters, saying that he has come to bring Caesar to the Senate. Caesar tells him to tell the senators that he will be absent that day. Calpurnia tells him to plead illness, but Caesar refuses to lie.
- Decius then asks what reason he should offer. Caesar states that it is simply his will to stay home. He adds that Calpurnia has had a dream in which she saw his statue run with blood like a fountain, while many smiling Romans bathed their hands in the blood; she has taken this to portend danger for Caesar.
- Decius disputes Calpurnia interpretation, saying that actually the dream signifies that Romans will all gain lifeblood from the strength of Caesar. Caesar replies that his fears now indeed seem small. He calls for his robe and prepares to depart.
- Cassius and Brutus enter with Ligarius, Metellus, Casca, Trebonius, and Cinna to escort him to the Senate. Finally, Antony enters. Caesar prepares to depart.

QUESTIONS (5 MARKS)

1. *What is another reason why Calpurnia thinks it is not safe for Caesar to leave the house? (1m)*

2. *What is Brutus' feelings as he is about to leave Caesar's house? (1m)*

3. *List the unusual incidents that the watchman noticed in the capitol and which he mentions to Calpurnia? (1m)*

4. *What is Decius' interpretation of Calpurnia's dream? (1m)*

5. *Describe the setting and the atmosphere of Act II Scene II. (1m)*
