



**3055 BA SANGAM COLLEGE**

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**LESSON NOTES**

**School: Ba Sangam College**

**Year/Level: 12**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Subject: English**

**Worksheet 20**

**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 IV, Scene 1**

**The Power Politics**

**Sequence of Events**

- A Triumvirate has been set up comprising Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus and they meet in Rome to decide which Romans shall live and which shall die.
- A proscription list is being drawn up and it includes the names of Lepidus' brother and Antony's nephew.
- Lepidus agrees to the death of his brother, and Antony agrees to the death of a nephew. Antony then sends Lepidus to obtain Caesar's will so that they can reduce some of the bequests.
- After he exits, Antony tells Octavius that Lepidus may be fit to run errands but that he is not fit to rule one-third of the world. Octavius does not want to argue with Antony, but he recognizes Lepidus to be a proven, brave soldier.
- Antony answers that his horse also has those qualities; therefore, Lepidus will be trained and used. Antony and Octavius then agree that they must make immediate plans to combat the armies being organized by Brutus and Cassius.

**Questions**

1. *What is the significance of the proscription list? (1 Mark)*

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## **Act IV, Scene 11**

### **The Stress and Friction**

#### **Sequence of Events**

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- Outside of his tent at a camp near Sardis, Brutus greets Titinius and Pindarus, who bring him word that Cassius is approaching. Brutus complains that Cassius has offended him, and he looks forward to hearing Cassius' explanation.
- Pindarus, Cassius' servant, is certain that the explanation will satisfy Brutus. Lucilius says that Cassius has received him with proper protocol.
- Brutus says that Lucilius has just described a cooling friendship and he suggests that Cassius may fail them when put to the test. Cassius arrives then with most of his army and immediately accuses Brutus of having wronged him.
- Brutus responds that he would not wrong a friend and suggests that they converse inside his tent so that "both our armies" will not see them quarreling. The two men then order their subordinates to lead off the armies and guard their privacy, and they all exit.

#### **Questions**

1. *What mistake does Brutus make in this scene? (1 mark)*

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## **Act IV, Scene 111**

### **The Quarrel and the Ghost**

#### **Sequence of Events**

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- The famous quarrel scene is perhaps the most explosive single scene in the play. It is full of anger, fire and threat.
- Cassius accuses Brutus of having wronged him by condemning Lucius Pella for taking bribes from the Sardinians, in spite of Cassius' letters in his defense.
- Brutus replies that Cassius should not have written defending such a cause, and Brutus charges him with having an "itching palm" — that is, Cassius has been selling offices.
- Brutus reminds Cassius that it was for the sake of justice that they killed Caesar, and he says strongly that he would "rather be a dog and bay the moon" than be a Roman who would sell his honor for money.
- The quarrel grows in intensity as Cassius threatens Brutus, but Brutus ignores his threats.
- Cassius denies this and laments that his friend no longer loves him; he invites Brutus to kill him. Finally the two men are reconciled and they grasp one another's hands in renewed friendship.
- Brutus and Cassius drink together as Titinius and Messala join them. Messala also reports the death of Portia, but Brutus gives no indication that he already knows of her suicide. He proposes that they march toward Philippi to meet the enemy at once.
- Cassius disagrees, maintaining that it would be better to wait for the enemy to come to them. This strategy would weary the enemy forces while their own men remain fresh.
- When his guests have departed, Brutus tells his servant Lucius to call some of his men to sleep with him in his tent. Varro and Claudius enter and offer to stand watch while Brutus sleeps, but he urges them to lie down and sleep as well.
- Brutus then asks Lucius to play some music. Lucius sings briefly, then falls asleep. Brutus resumes reading a book he has begun, but he is suddenly interrupted by the entry of Caesar's ghost. Brutus asks the ghost if it is "some god, some angel, or some devil," and it says that it is "thy evil spirit."

- It has appeared only to say that they will meet again at Philippi. The ghost then disappears, whereupon Brutus calls to Lucius, Varro, and Claudius, all of whom he accuses of crying out in their sleep.
- They all swear that they have seen and heard nothing.

### **Questions**

1. *What does Brutus accuse Cassius of? (2 marks)*

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2. *What does Cassius accuse Brutus of? (2 marks)*

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3. *Who do you sympathize with in this quarrel? Give reasons. (4 marks)*

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4. *What mistake does Brutus make? What reasons does he give for his suggestion? (4 marks)*

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5. *What does Caesar's ghost tell Brutus? (2 marks)*

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