

**LESSON NOTES****School: Ba Sangam College****Year/Level: 12****Name: _____****Subject: English****Worksheet 21****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 V, Scene 1****The Confrontation at Philippi****Sequence of Events**

- Octavius and Antony enter the battlefield at Philippi with their armies. A messenger arrives to report that the enemy is ready for battle. Antony, the more experienced soldier, tells Octavius to attack from the left. Octavius refuses and replies that he will attack from the right and Antony can come from the left. Antony asks Octavius why he questions his authority, but Octavius stands firm.
- The enemy consisting of Brutus, Cassius, and their armies—enter; Titinius, Lucilius, and Messala are among them. Octavius asks Antony if their side should attack first, and Antony, now calling Octavius “Caesar,” responds that they will wait for the enemy to attack. Antony and Octavius go to meet Brutus and Cassius.
- The leaders exchange insults. Octavius draws his sword and calls for Caesar’s death to be avenged; he swears that he will not lay the sword down again until another Caesar (namely himself) adds the deaths of the traitors to the general slaughter.
- The leaders insult each other further before parting to ready their armies for battle. After the departure of Antony and Octavius, Brutus calls Lucilius to talk privately. Cassius calls Messala to do the same.
- Cassius tells the soldier that it is his birthday and informs him of recent bad omens: two mighty eagles alighted on the foremost banners of their army and perched there, feeding from the soldiers’ hands; this morning, however, they are gone. Now ravens, crows, and other scavenger birds circle over the troops as if the men were diseased and weak prey.

- Cassius walks back to join Brutus and comments that the future looks uncertain; if they lose, they may never see each other again.
- Brutus replies that he would rather die than go to Rome as a defeated prisoner; he declares that this day “must end that work the ides of March begun”—that is, the battle represents the final stage in the struggle for power that began with the murder of Caesar (V.i.114). He bids Cassius “forever and for ever farewell” (V.i.117).

Questions

1. *What sudden change in Cassius’ character is revealed in this scene?*

2. *Give details of what has Cassius observed that has made him superstitious.*

Act V, Scene 11

Brutus Attacks

Sequence of Events

- The battle begins between the scenes, and the next scene, comprising a total of six lines, depicts the two sides’ first surge against each other.
- Brutus sends Messala to Cassius to report that he senses a weakness in Octavius’s army and will push forward to exploit it.
- This plan is successful against the inexperienced Octavius but soon proves to have been a tactical error on Brutus’ part.

Questions

1. *Brutus ineffectiveness as a leader is highlighted in this scene. In what ways does he fail as a leader?*