



If Casca is a supporter of Caesar, then Cassius is prepared to die for his beliefs (lines 105-109).



How does Casca reassure Cassius (lines 110-114)?



Pompey built a theater in Rome which could accommodate thousands of spectators; its famous porch (**Pompey's Porch**, line 120) had one hundred marble columns.

So vile a thing as Caesar! But, O Grief, 105
Where hast thou led me? I perhaps speak this
Before a willing bondman;* then I know
My answer must be made. °But I am armed,
And dangers are to me indifferent.

CASCA: You speak to Casca, and to such a man 110
That is no fleeing* tell-tale. °Hold, my hand.
Be factious* for redress* of all these griefs,*
And I will set this foot of mine as far
As who goes farthest.

(They join hands)

CASSIUS: There's a bargain made.
Now know you, Casca, I have moved* already 115
Some certain of the noblest-minded Romans
To undergo with me an enterprise
Of honourable dangerous consequence.
And I do know by this* they stay* for me
In Pompey's Porch; for now, this fearful night, 120
There is no stir or walking in the streets,

In Other Words

But I ... indifferent (lines 108-109) — *If indeed Casca is allied with Caesar, I will use my dagger; I fear no one.*
Hold, my hand (line 111) — *Stop, shake my hand [as proof of my commitment to the scheme].*

helpful definitions

willing bondman — here, one who willingly serves Caesar.
fleeing — sneering.
factious — active in forming a faction (political party) against Caesar.
redress — retribution; reparation; correction.
griefs — here, wrongs.
moved — influenced; persuaded.
by this — for this reason.
stay — wait.

And the °complexion of the element
In favour's like* the work we have in hand,
Most bloody, fiery, and most terrible.



How does the weather
reflect Cassius'
enterprise
(lines 122-124)?

(Enter **CINNA**)

CASCA: Stand close* a while, for here comes one in haste. 125

CASSIUS: 'Tis Cinna; I do know him by his gait —
He is a friend. Cinna, where haste you so?

CINNA: To find out you. Who's that? Metellus Cimber?

CASSIUS: No, it is Casca, one incorporate*
To our attempts. Am I not stayed for, Cinna? 130

CINNA: I am glad on 't. What a fearful night is this!
There's two or three of us have seen strange sights.

CASSIUS: Am I not stayed for? Tell me.

CINNA: Yes, you are.

O Cassius, if you could

But win the noble Brutus to our party — 135

CASSIUS: Be you content. Good Cinna, take this paper,



What pleases Cinna
(line 131)?



What instructions does
Cassius give Cinna
(lines 136-141)?

(He gives **CINNA** letters)

And look you lay it in the praetor's chair,*
Where Brutus may but find it; and throw this
In at his window. Set this up with wax
Upon old Brutus' statue.* All this done, 140
Repair* to Pompey's Porch where you shall find us.

In Other Words

complexion of the element ... terrible (lines 122-124) — even the sky in its appearance seems to reflect the work that we are about to do.

helpful definitions

in favour's like — resembles.

close — hidden.

incorporate — united or closely bound up with.

praetor's chair — the chair that Brutus uses in his prominent position as chief magistrate.

Brutus' statue — the statue of Lucius Junius Brutus, one of the founders of the Roman Republic, and an ancestor of Marcus Brutus.

repair — here, go to.



CheckQuiz: Scene III

1. What extraordinary events have caused Casca to wonder?
2. Why is Casca frightened by what he has seen?
3. According to Cassius, in what way are the Romans of his day more like their mothers than their fathers?
4. What are the metaphors that Cassius uses to describe the relationship between Caesar and the Roman people? Explain each.
5. Why are the conspirators so eager for Brutus to become involved in their plan?



Literary Critique: Act 1

1. Discuss the grievances that Cassius and Brutus bear toward Caesar. How does Casca's version of the public gathering increase their anger?
2. One of Shakespeare's favorite conventions is the use of puns. Explain two of the puns used in Act 1.
3. How does Act 1, scene 1 compare to the exposition of a story?
4. What role does the weather play in Act 1? What do we learn about the superstitions and beliefs of the Romans?
5. Why does Casca compare Brutus' effect on their plot to the process of alchemy?



Writing Workshop: Act 1

1. Imagine that you are the editor of *The Roman Tribune*. You decide to publicize the issues causing the recent unrest in Rome. Write an editorial of three to five paragraphs in which you discuss the problems that might arise if the republic should again become a monarchy. Use references from the text to prove your points.
2. Who is the instigator of the plot against Caesar? How would you characterize him? How do others characterize him? What are his motives for wanting to destroy Caesar? In an essay of three to four paragraphs, discuss Cassius' character, using direct quotations to support your answer.



Shakespeare's Vocabulary: Act 1

Exercise 1

Match the word in the left-hand column to the definition in the right-hand column that is closest in meaning. Write the answers in your notebook.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. ere | a. unfastened |
| 2. sensible | b. hidden |
| 3. unbraced | c. gladly; eagerly |
| 4. close | d. sneering |
| 5. rabblement | e. before |
| 6. shadow | f. dared |
| 7. accoutered | g. reflection |
| 8. durst | h. equipped |
| 9. fleeing | i. commoners |
| 10. fain | j. aware |

Exercise 2

In your notebook, write the word from the Word Bank that best completes each sentence.

*buffet construe entreat illuminate monstrous redress surly
torrents underlings veiled*

1. Several flaming candles served to _____ the banquet hall.
2. Casca understood Cassius' _____ references to Caesar.
3. Brutus _____(s) Cassius to postpone further discussion until a later time.
4. Cassius and Casca resent being Caesar's _____.
5. Cassius asks Brutus to _____ the wrongs done by Caesar.
6. During the storm, _____ of water gushed between the banks of the Tiber.
7. Cassius seems to be quite _____; he is unfriendly and quarrelsome.
8. The conspirators plan a _____ plot to eliminate Caesar.
9. Based on subtle hints from Cassius, Casca is able to _____ that plans for a conspiracy are in the making.
10. The waves _____(ed) Caesar, forcing him to beg Cassius to save him.