



INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Subject :English

Topic :JULIUS CAESAR-
REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

Worksheet no.:21

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Date : _____

Name of the Student : _____ Class &Division : _____ Roll Number : _____

I **Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow: -**

1. ***Caesar shall forth: the things threaten'd me***

Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see

The face of Caesar, they are vanished.

(a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?

Caesar speaks these lines to his wife, Calpurnia.

(b) Where does Caesar intend to go?

Caesar intends to go to the Capitol.

(c) What does Caesar say about himself?

Caesar says that all fearful things vanish on seeing Caesar's face.

(d) What do these lines show about Caesar's character?

These lines show that Caesar is brave, proud and over confident.

2. ***Besides the things that we have heard and seen,***

Recounts most horrid sights seen by the watch

A lioness hath whelped in the streets;

And graves have yawn'd, and yielded up their dead;

(a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?

Calpurnia speaks these lines to Caesar.

(b) By whom have the horrid sights been seen?

The horrid sights have been seen by the watchman.

(c) Where was the lioness seen? What was she doing?

The lioness was seen giving birth to its young ones on the streets.

(d) What happened to the graves?

The graves cracked open showing the dead bodies.

3. ***What can be avoided***

Whose end is purposed by the mighty Gods?

Yet Caesar shall go forth: for these predictions

Are to the world in general as to Caesar.

(a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?

Caesar speaks these lines to Calpurnia.

(b) What is the occasion?

Calpurnia has heard of some ominous happening in the city. She is a superstitious woman. So she doesn't want Caesar to go out of home on the day.

(c) Where is Caesar determined to go?

Caesar is determined to go to the Capitol.

- (d) What does he not care about and why?
He doesn't care about the supernatural things that have been seen in the city. It is because he is very brave, proud and over confident.
- (e) What does he say about the mighty gods?
He says that whatever has been desired by the mighty gods can't be avoided.
- (f) What does he say about the predictions?
He says that these predictions have as much relation to the general public as to him.
- (g) What do these lines show about Caesar?
These lines show that Caesar is a very brave and fearless person.

4. ***When beggars die, there are no comets seen
The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.***

- (a) Who speaks these lines to whom?
Calpurnia speaks these lines to Caesar.
- (b) What is the occasion?
Some supernatural things have taken place in the city. Calpurnia takes them as ill omens. So, she doesn't want Caesar to go out of home on that day.
- (c) What is the speaker's fear?
She fears that some harm can come on to Caesar if he goes out.
- (d) How does the speaker differentiate between the death of beggars and that of princes?
She says that no unusual things happen when beggars die. But heavens themselves give a clear indication of the death of princes.
- (e) What is the importance of these lines in the context of the play?
The lines indicate the forthcoming events in the story. Calpurnia's fears are right and Caesar is murdered in the play.

5. ***Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to me more strange that men should fear;***

- (a) Who speaks these lines to whom?
Caesar speaks these lines to Calpurnia.
- (b) What is the occasion?
Some supernatural events have been reported. Calpurnia takes them as ill omens and she doesn't want Caesar to leave her on that day.
- (c) What do these lines tell about the speaker?
These lines show that the speaker is a brave person and is not afraid of death.
- (d) What, according to the speaker, is the greatest wonder of the world?
That death, is the greatest wonder.
- (e) What has been called a necessary end?
Death is the necessary end and it will come when it has to come. So, it is foolish to be afraid of death.

6. *She dreamt to-night she saw my statue,
Which, like a fountain with a hundred spouts,
Did run pure blood; and many lusty Romans
Came smiling and did bathe their hands in it.*
- Who speaks these lines and to whom?
Caesar speaks these lines to Decius Brutus.
 - What is the occasion?
Decius Brutus has come to take Caesar to the Capitol, but Caesar's wife Calpurnia, doesn't want him to go. She has seen a horrible dream and takes it as an ill omen.
 - Who is 'she' referred to in these lines?
The word 'she' here refers to Caesar's wife Calpurnia.
 - What sight has been seen by her?
She has seen in her dream that blood is running out of Caesar's statue and many Romans are bathing their hands in it.
 - What does she want the speaker to do?
She wants Caesar to stay at home on that day.
 - What is the importance of these lines in the context of the play?
These lines prove prophetic because Caesar is murdered soon after.
7. *I could be well moved, if I were as you:
If I could pray to move, prayers would move me:
But I am constant as the northern star,
Of whose true-fix'd and resting quality
There is no fellow in the firmament.*
- Who speaks these lines and to whom?
These lines have been spoken by Caesar to Cassius.
 - What was the occasion?
Caesar has come to the Capitol. Caesar says this to Cassius when he request Caesar to pardon Publius Cimber.
 - What prayer has been made to the speaker?
Cimber's brother Publius Cimber, has been banished from Rome . Cassius requests Caesar for the enfranchisement of Publius.
 - What does the speaker compare himself to?
He compares himself to the North Star/Pole star.
 - What do you mean by 'northern star'?
The Pole star is called the northern star because it always remains constant in the north.
 - What to do these lines tell about the speaker?
These lines show that the speaker is very proud and arrogant.
8. *I shall not find myself so apt to die:
No place will please me so, no mean of death,
As here by Caesar, and by you cut off,
The choice and master spirits of this age.*

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?
These lines have been spoken by Antony to Brutus, Cassius and the other conspirators.
- (b) What was the occasion?
Caesar lies murdered at the Capitol. Antony is shocked at what has happened.
- (c) What does the speaker say about dying?
The speaker says that there could be no better place for him to die than the place where Caesar lies dead. And no method could be better than those by which Caesar has died.
- (d) What does the speaker mean by “master spirits of his age”?
Antony has used these words ironically. He calls the conspirators master spirits of the age.
- (e) What do these lines tell about the speaker?
These lines show that the speaker is a very wise and tactful person. He does not want to earn the wrath of the conspirators by being bitter with them. He handles the situation very tactfully.

9. *That I did love thee, Caesar, o, tis true:
If then thy spirit look upon us now,
Shall it not grieve thee dearer than thy death,
To see thy Antony making his peace,
Shaking the bloody fingers of thy foes,
Most noble! In the presence of thy corse?*

- (a) Who speaks these lines and what is the occasion?
Antony speaks these lines over the dead body of Caesar.
- (b) What will grieve Caesar’s spirit and why?
Antony says that Caesar’s spirit will be grieved to see how Antony, his best friend, was shaking hands with his enemies who had killed him.
- (c) Who has been referred to as “Most noble”?
Caesar has been referred to as “Most noble” by Antony.
- (d) Explain the phrase: ‘The bloody fingers of thy foes’.
The conspirators were Caesar’s foes. Their hands were red with Caesar’s blood.
- (e) What do these lines tell about the speaker?
These lines show the speaker’s grief and his love and loyalty towards Caesar.

10. *Friends am I with you all love you all,
Upon this hope, that you shall give me reasons
Why and where in Caesar was dangerous.*

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?
Antony speaks these lines to the conspirators who have killed Caesar.
- (b) What is the occasion?
It is when Caesar has been murdered and Antony is faced with the conspirators.
- (c) Does the speaker really mean he says, “Friends am I with you.....”?
No, Antony says all this only to trick the conspirators. He doesn’t want to annoy them until the situation is in his favour.
- (d) What reasons does he ask for?
He wants to know why Caesar was murdered and how he was dangerous.

- (e) How, according to the killers, was Caesar dangerous?
They thought he had become too ambitious and had become a threat to all others.

11. ***O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tides of times.***

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?
These lines are from Antony's soliloquy. They are spoken by Antony to the piece of earth.
- (b) What is the occasion?
Antony is left all alone with Caesar's dead body. Now he pours out his grief over the death of his dearest friend.
- (c) What has been referred to as the 'bleeding piece of earth'?
The piece of earth/land covered with Caesar's blood all over has been referred to as the "bleeding piece of earth".
- (d) Why does the speaker want to be pardoned?
The speaker has been meek and gentle with Cesar's murderers. That is why he asks the murdered Caesar to pardon him.
- (e) Who have been referred to as 'butchers' and why?
The conspirators who murdered Caesar have been referred to as 'butchers'.

12. ***And Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice
Cry 'Havoc', and let slip the dogs of war.***

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?
These lines are from Antony's soliloquy. They have been spoken by Antony to himself.
- (b) Why, according to the speaker, was Caesar's spirit ranging for revenge?
Because he was murdered cruelly by his own men.
- (c) Who will assist Caesar's spirit to have his revenge?
Ate. The goddess of revenge, will assist Caesar's spirit to have his revenge.
- (d) What prophecy does the speaker make? Does it prove true?
The speaker prophesies that there shall be a bloody civil war in country. This prophecy proves very true.

13. ***Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than Caesar were dead, to live all freemen? As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice as he was valiant, I honour him: but, as he was ambitious I slew him.***

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?
Brutus speaks these lines to the people of Rome.
- (b) What is occasion?
Brutus is making a speech to Caesar's funeral and explaining to the people why he and others had to kill Caesar.
- (c) What does the speaker say about his love for Caesar and Rome?

He says that he loved Caesar but he loved Rome more.

- (d) What according to the speaker, would have happened if Caesar were living?

He says that if Caesar had lived, all others would have died as slaves.

- (e) What good quality of Caesar does the speaker talk about?

He talks about Caesar being valiant.

- (f) Why does the speaker say he killed Caesar?

He says that he killed Caesar because Caesar was ambitious.

14. ***Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;***

I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let be with Caesar.

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?

Antony speaks these lines to the people of Rome.

- (b) What is the occasion?

Antony is making a funeral speech after the death of Caesar.

- (c) What does the speaker say he has come for?

He says that he has come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

- (d) What general truth does he speak of?

He says that bad acts of the person are remembered even after the person's death, but the good acts are forgotten as the person dies.

- (e) What does the speaker mean when he says, "So let it be with Caesar."?

He means to indirectly remind the people that they had forgotten all good acts Caesar had done in his life.

- (f) What do these lines tell about the speaker's character?

These lines show that the speaker is a very tactful person. He at once succeeds in arresting the attention of the people. First he calls them 'friends, Romans, countrymen' and then gives them a gentle reproof. He reminds them that they are proving themselves ungrateful by rejoicing over the death of Caesar.

15. ***He was my friend, faithful and just to me:***

But Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

He hath brought many captives home to Rome

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?

Antony speaks these lines to the people of Rome.

- (b) What is the occasion?

Antony is here making a speech at Caesar's funeral.

- (c) What does 'he' in these lines refer to?

The word 'he' here refers to Caesar.

- (d) Does the speaker really mean to say that Brutus was ‘an honourable man’?
No, he is saying these words satirically.
- (e) What fault did Brutus find with Caesar?
Brutus said that Caesar was very ambitious.
- (f) How does the speaker try to prove that Caesar was not ambitious?
Antony says that Caesar filled the nation’s coffers through his conquests. It was no proof of his being ambitious. He never kept the money for himself.
- (g) How was Caesar able to get ransoms?
Caesar brought captives with him after every conquest. Then he would get ransoms for releasing the captives.

16. ***When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.***

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?
Antony speaks these lines to the people.
- (b) What is the occasion?
These lines have been spoken from the pulpit at the time of Caesar’s funeral.
- (c) How does the speaker show that Caesar was a kind-hearted person?
Caesar used to weep when he saw the poor crying. Thus Antony tries to show how kind hearted Caesar was.
- (d) What did Brutus say about Caesar?
Brutus called Caesar ambitious.
- (e) Does the speaker really mean to say that Brutus was ‘an honourable man’?
No, he says these words only satirically.

17. ***O judgement I thou art to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me.***

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?
Antony speaks these lines to the people of Rome.
- (b) What is the occasion?
Antony says these words at the time of Caesar’s funeral.
- (c) Who have been called ‘brutish beasts’?
The conspirators who murdered Caesar have been called ‘brutish beasts’.
- (d) Who have lost their reason?
The common people have lost their reason.
- (e) Who does the speaker ask to bear with him and why?
The speaker asks his listeners to bear with him. He says that his heart is too full of grief to speak.
- (f) Explain the last two lines.
These lines are a clever trick by Antony. He wants to notice the effect his speech has made on the

people. He plays a master stroke by telling them that his heart is in the coffin with Caesar and he'll have to pause till it comes back.

18. ***O masters, if I were disposed to stir
Your hands and minds to mutiny and range,
I should do Brutus wrong, and Cassius wrong,
Who, you all know, are honourable men:
I will not do them wrong: I rather choose
To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,
Than I will wrong such honourable men.***

- (a) Who speaks these lines and on what occasion?
Antony speaks these lines at the time of Caesar's funeral.
- (b) What does the speaker say about Brutus and Caesar? Does he really mean what he says?
The speaker calls Brutus and Cassius honourable men. He says these words only satirically.
- (c) What does he say he doesn't want to do and why?
He says that he doesn't want to wrong Brutus and Cassius because they are honourable men. In fact, he means the opposite of what he says. His only purpose is to arouse the people against the conspirators.
- (d) Who is 'the dead' referred to in these lines?
'The dead' refers to Caesar who has been murdered.
- (e) What do these lines show about the speaker?
These lines show that the speaker is a very tactful person. He successfully plays stroke after stroke to arouse against audience against the conspirators.

19. ***It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you.
You are not wood; you are not stones, but men;
And, being men, bearing the will of Caesar;
It will inflame you, it will make you mad:
'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs;
For, if you should, o, what would come of it!***

- (a) Who speaks these lines and on what occasion?
Antony speaks these lines at the time of Caesar's funeral.
- (b) Who does the word 'you' in these lines refer to?
The word 'you' here refers to the commoners/ Romans who are listening to Antony's speech.
- (c) What does the speaker say about Caesar's will?
The speaker says that Caesar has made the common people his heirs in the will.
- (d) What do you think is the purpose of the speaker in these lines?
The speaker's only purpose is to inflame the people against the conspirators.
- (e) What does the word 'meet' in the first line mean?
The word 'meet' here means 'proper'.
- (f) How can you say the speaker is a very clever person?
The speaker first arouses the curiosity of the listeners by talking of Caesar's will. And then plays on their emotions by telling them that Caesar had left his belongings all for them. He says that he doesn't want to inflame the people and make them mad. But in reality, this is the very thing he is

aiming at.

20. ***This was the most unkindest cut of all;
For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,
Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arm,
Quite vanquish'd him: then burst his mighty heart;***
- (a) Who speaks these lines and on what occasion?
Antony speaks these lines at the time of Caesar's funeral.
 - (b) What 'unkindest cut' is the speaker talking of?
It was the act of stabbing Caesar by Brutus.
 - (c) What does the speaker say about ingratitude?
The speaker says that ingratitude has the greater power to kill than the arms of the traitors
 - (d) Who did Caesar see stab him?
Caesar saw Brutus stab him.
 - (e) What was it that 'burst' his mighty heart?
When Caesar saw Brutus stab him, he couldn't believe his eyes. He said, "Even you, Brutus!". This terrible ingratitude on the part of a friend burst the mighty heart of Caesar.
 - (f) There is a grammatical mistake in the first line. Can you find out and say how is it a mistake?
We can't use double comparatives or superlatives. Thus it is wrong to say 'more unkindest or most unkindest'.
21. ***For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor the power of speech,
To stir men's blood: I only speak right on;
I tell you that which yourselves would know.***
- (a) Who speaks these lines and on what occasion?
Antony speaks these lines at the time of Caesar's funeral.
 - (b) What does the speaker say he doesn't have? Does he really mean what he says?
The speaker says that he doesn't have the wit, words or power to stir men's emotions. In fact, he is a master in this art.
 - (c) What do you think is the speaker trying to do? Does he succeed in it?
The speaker is trying to inflame the audience against the conspirators. He inflames them so much that they go mad to seek the conspirators and kill them.
 - (d) 'I only speak right on.' Do you think it is true?
Antony speaks nothing right on. He is a clever orator. He knows all the tricks of oratory to win the audience.
 - (e) Explain the last line.
Antony very cleverly tells the audience that he is telling them only that which they themselves know. But, in fact, the audience knows nothing. They are just dumb – driven cattle. After hearing Brutus, they were all for Brutus. and now after hearing Antony, they are out to seek Brutus and burn him alive.

22. ***But were I Brutus,
And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony
Would ruffle up your spirits and put a tongue
In every wound of Caesar that should move
The stones of Rome to rise in mutiny.***
- Who speaks these lines and to whom?
Antony speaks these lines to the people of Rome.
 - What is the occasion?
Caesar had been killed and Antony is making a funeral speech.
 - What would Brutus do if he were Antony?
He would put a tongue in every wound of Caesar to move even the stones of Rome to rise in mutiny.
 - How did Caesar get his wounds?
Caesar had been stabbed by Cassius, Brutus and the other conspirators.
 - What is the speaker's real intension in these lines?
The speaker wants to turn the people of Rome against the conspirators.
 - What do these lines show about the speaker?
These lines show that the speaker is a very clever and tactful person. He inflames the people to mutiny against the conspirators without telling them directly to do so. He paints himself as a simple- hearted person while Brutus is clever and cunning.
23. ***Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot,
Take thou what course thou wilt!***
- Who speaks these lines and to whom?
These lines are a part of Antony's soliloquy. They are spoken by Antony to himself.
 - What is the occasion?
Antony has completed his funeral speech over Caesar's murder and feels satisfied to note its effect.
 - What does 'it' in these lines refer to?
The word 'it' here refers to 'mischief' Antony has played to revenge on the conspirators.
 - How can you say 'mischief' is afoot?
Antony has successfully inflamed the people against the conspirators. They are now out to seek the conspirators and kill them
 - What course do you think it will take?
It will turn the tide against the conspirators and punish them for their bloody act.

24. *Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once.
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,
It seems to most strange that men should fear;
Seeing that death, a necessary end,
Will come when it will come.*

- (a) Who is Caesar speaking to? why does he say these words?
Caesar is speaking to his wife Calpurnia. He says these words because Calpurnia has heard of some supernatural happenings and has fears about Caesar's safety.
- (b) What fears has the listener expressed?
The listener fears that some harm can come to Caesar if he goes out of home that day.
- (c) What is the basis for the fears expressed?
She has heard of supernatural happenings and takes them as ill omens.
- (d) Explain "Seeing that death, a necessary end, Will come when it will come."
According to Caesar, death is inevitable, and it will come when it is destined.

II Answer the following questions briefly in about 30-40 words:

1. How do the heavens 'blaze forth' the death of Julius Caesar? 2
Ans: Calpurnia sees ill omens that predict the death of Caesar beforehand. The heavens predict the death of princes and great kings. There were fierce battles, blood rained, ghosts were seen, graves opened up, battle cries were heard. All this gestured that someone as powerful as Caesar was bound to suffer.
2. Why does Calpurnia say Caesar's 'wisdom is consumed in confidence?' What does it mean? 2
Ans: When Caesar is adamant about going to the senate, Calpurnia discourages him. But Caesar believes that ill-omens are for the weak and not for the mighty like him. Then Calpurnia says that Caesar's over confidence has clouded his wisdom. He was so confident that he refused to see reason nor understood the indication behind the ill omens.
3. What horrid sights were sighted by the watchman?
Ans: Following the tradition of his age, Shakespeare presents the supernatural in Julius Caesar also. The watchman was a witness to the most unnatural and horrid sights and events. He saw a lioness giving birth to her cubs in the streets. The graves opened and the dead came out begging for reburial. Fiery warriors fought upon the clouds. Ghosts shrieked and squealed. Dying men groaned and cried. All these things were an introduction to the most terrible and tragic happenings in near future.
4. What fearful dream of Caesar does Calpurnia see? What meaning does she derive?
Ans: Calpurnia sees a fearful dream of Caesar. She saw Caesar's statue was running pure blood from 'a hundred spouts' like a fountain. 'Lusty' Romans came smiling. They bathed their hands in Caesar's blood. She considers that such warnings and omens signal the advent of death and disaster. She fears that some great calamity is going to befall Caesar. Therefore, she begs on her knees that he should not go to the Capitol that day.
5. Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar? 2
Ans: Decius interprets Calpurnia's dream as a fair and fortunate vision. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies Caesar's spirit or influence will increase manifold.

Basically, he boosts Caesar's ego, flatters his greatness and might and makes him feel more powerful. So, Caesar is happier with his version.

6. Who says 'Eteu Brute'? When and why? 2
Ans: Caesar utters these words which mean, "you too, Brutus". These are uttered when Brutus stabs Caesar and Caesar is too hurt to see that even his dear friend Brutus could resort to such betrayal.
7. In the moments following Caesar's death, how do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar's death? 2
Ans: The conspirators wish to justify Caesar's death by announcing their love and loyalty to Rome. They say that Caesar was very ambitious and Romans would have become slaves under his autocratic rule. According to Brutus, Caesar was a tyrant and Roman liberty and democracy was under threat and Caesar wished to become an Emperor.
8. How does Caesar react to Cimber's crouchings and low courtesies?
Ans: Metellus Cimber throws himself before Caesar and pleads in most humble terms. He requests Caesar to revoke the orders of his brother's exile. Caesar reacts furiously and asks Cimber to stop all his 'crouching' and 'lowly courtesies'. All such tactics might influence and feed the pride of lesser mortals but not of Caesar. He calls himself the pole-star. He is constant and fixed in his decisions like the polestar Cimber's brother was exiled by his orders and he will remain so by the same orders.
9. What are the contents of Caesar's will that Mark Antony refers to? 2
Ans : Antony uses emotional blackmail to provoke the Romans against the conspirators. He exploits their sentiments by saying that Caesar was not money-minded and he has left all his riches for the Romans in his will. He elaborates that Caesar has left all his walks, gardens, private chambers and newly planted orchards on the bank of Tiber for them. This revelation makes the Romans very emotional.
10. Why does Brutus kill Caesar? 2
Ans : Brutus is Caesar's friend. He has great Republican zeal, noble idealism and he is a great moralist. He is a champion of public liberty and freedom. But he is not a good judge of psychology. He gets misled by the crafty nature of the conspirators and joins them to kill Caesar because of his love for the liberty and bright future of Rome.

III LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:120 WORDS

1. What did Calpurnia see in her dream? What was her fear? What was the symbolic significance of her dream? How was the dream interpreted by Decius Brutus? Write your answer in about 100 words. 8
Calpurnia saw a horrible dream just a day before Caesar's murder. He saw Caesar's statue with a hundred spouts. Blood rushed out of those spouts or openings like a fountain. She saw in her dream that many smiling and lusty Romans were bathing their hands in Caesar's blood. Calpurnia feared that such horrid omens and sights signaled imminent danger or death. So, they had a symbolic significance.
Decius Brutus deliberately gave a flattering twist to Calpurnia's dream. He calls the dream fair and auspicious. He interpreted that Caesar's blood would give a new life, vigour and vitality to Rome. The Romans would worship Caesar as a martyr, hero and saint. Important Romans would keep his things as relics, memorials or mementos. Decius was one of the conspirators. He was sent to persuade Caesar to come to the Senate. He

succeeded in his aim by giving a flattering interpretation to Calpurnia's dream.

2. What prompts Caesar to make the statement: 'Cowards die many times before their death....'?

There can be no doubt that Caesar is a brave and valiant man. He is not afraid to die. Calpurnia begs him not to go to the Capitol. She saw a horrible dream. Such horrid sights and omens signal death and disaster. The sight of lusty Romans bathing their hands in Caesar's blood unnerved her. She thinks that her husband's life was in danger. Caesar doesn't give much weight to her irrational fears. He is not a coward who may die many times before his death. He is a brave and valiant man who tastes death but once. Therefore, Calpurnia's irrational and false fears don't impress him. If at all the omens mean evil, then they are for all and not particularly for Caesar alone. No doubt, Caesar's statement presents his fearlessness and courage. None can scare and frighten him, not even death. But his over-confidence consumed his wisdom and he became an easy prey to the evil design of the conspirators.

3. Write the characteristic features of the Roman mob in the play, 'Julius Caesar'. What lessons can one draw from the behavior of the Roman mob?

Ans: **Fickle:**

The most outstanding trait of the mob is its fickleness. A clever person can lead it as he likes. So, when Brutus speaks the mob adores him. They want him to be Caesar. They want to crown and honour him in every possible way, but as Antony has spoken, the same mob cries for revenge and wants to kill Brutus and his companions.

Foolish and emotional:

Roman mob is made of foolish people who are sentimental and incapable of judging a situation or a person properly. The description of the way Caesar was killed brings tears to their eyes.

Greedy:

Antony knows that the common Romans are greedy. Caesar has left seventy-five silver coins for each Roman and the mob immediately cries "Noble Caesar".

Violent:

The mob is violent. They always seem ready to attack those they don't like. They call for burning of Brutus's house and killing all the conspirators.

4. Compare and contrast the characters of Brutus and Mark Antony.

Ans. Brutus is a powerful public figure, a dignified military leader and a loving friend. The conflicting value systems that battle with each other, in the play, are enacted on a micro level in Brutus' mind. Even after the murder of Caesar has been committed, questions remain whether it was a noble, selfless act or failure of a great nobleman and friend. Brutus' rigid idealism is both his greatest virtue and his most deadly flaw. He lives up to Antony's sad description as 'the noblest of Romans.' His commitment to principles leads him to miscalculations: wanting to limit violence, he ignores Cassius' advice and does not kill Antony as well. In another moment of innocent idealism, he allows Antony to give his funeral oration over Caesar's body. So, he loses the authority of having the last word on the murder and allows Antony to provoke the mob to riot against him. He later endangers his good relationship with Cassius by self-righteously condemning the fundraising tactics.

So, Brutus acts out of a desire to limit the self-serving aspects of his actions, ironically in each incident he dooms the very cause, he seeks to promote, thus serving no one.

5. Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot, Take thou what course thou wilt!’ Who says the above lines? How does he succeed in instigating the people of Rome against the conspirators?

OR

Antony in his speech presents Caesar as “a paragon of virtue and patriotism.” Discuss the glowing tributes he paid to Caesar in his funeral speech.

Ans : Antony in his speech, highlights the positive qualities of Julius Caesar. Caesar was a great warrior, a tough General who brought captives to Rome and filled its coffers. He was valiant and fearless. Moreover, he was not ambitious, as projected by the conspirators. He had thrice refused the crown when he was offered. Caesar’s heart bled for the welfare of Rome and he had Roman interests on top of any other consideration. He had also left all his property, money, walks, chambers and orchards for the people of Rome. He was a champion of Roman liberty and wanted to make Rome a very powerful nation. Hearing all this, mob feel emotionally supportive of Antony and he could provoke them to rise against Brutus and others.

6. What was the tactical blunder of Brutus? What did Brutus tell the mob? Was his decision to permit Antony to speak a wise one? What values did Brutus cherish and why? Answer in about 100 words.

Ans: Brutus spoke before Antony in order to justify the murder of Caesar before the Roman mob. He didn’t murder Caesar because he had any personal grudge or enmity against him. He murdered Caesar because he loved Rome more than Caesar. He murdered Caesar because he was growing very powerful and ambitious. He was becoming a threat to freedom and republicanism. If not checked or eliminated, Romans would be reduced to his mere bondmen and slaves. Brutus’s decision of allowing Antony to speak before the Roman mob was a tactical blunder. Cassius understood the situation better. Brutus’s idealism allowed Antony to exploit the situation in his favour and against the conspirators. Antony could arouse the passions of the mob. He directed its anger and fury against the conspirators.

7. Give two instances from the play, ‘Julius Caesar’ to prove that Mark Antony was a master of eloquence and oratory. How could he create sympathy for Caesar.

Mark Antony was indeed a wonderful orator. His funeral speech is a masterpiece of eloquence and oratory. He straightaway targeted the audience. He aroused their passions by showing Caesar’s cloak and wounds on the dead body. His master stroke was his ironical use of the word ‘honourable’. His speech achieved both the purposes. It was able to create sympathy for the dead Caesar and it aroused the mob’s fury and anger against the conspirators. He aroused sympathy for Caesar by reading his will. Caesar opened all his parks and orchards for public use. Then Antony proved that Brutus and others were liars. Caesar was not ambitious. He refused the crown that was offered to him thrice. All these instances in the play prove that Antony was a matchless orator. His speech contained all the elements that made a perfect orator. His strong remarks, irony and mockery made the desired effect on the masses.