

JULIUS CAESAR ACT V QUESTIONS

1. Most people would argue that Brutus is the tragic hero of the play. Apply all criteria for the tragic hero and show to what extent he meets the criteria. Pay special attention to tragic flaw. Review your notes. Provide CD and CM for each criteria.
2. Does Brutus deserve his fate? Cassius?
3. What do you think Brutus's possible motives were for committing suicide? Go beyond what he says in the text. Infer. Do the same for Cassius.
4. Cassius knows that it is a bad idea to fight the battle at Phillipi, yet he strangely does not protest more vehemently against it. Why not? Infer.
5. Brutus knows he will see Caesar's ghost again at Phillipi. This is clearly a bad sign, yet he continues on with the plan. Then he says as he sees Cassius's lifeless body, "Caesar, thou art mighty yet." Speculate on the role Caesar continues to play even after he is dead.
6. Fate/fortune often plays an important role in Shakespeare's plays. Show how it does so in Act V.
7. Reread lines 50-51 of Act V, Scene 5: what do they reveal about Brutus's internal conflicts?
8. How is the natural order put back into balance by Shakespeare in the end? What does this suggest about who Shakespeare thought was more "monstrous": the conspiracy or Caesar? What does this, therefore, suggest about what he felt put the natural order out of balance? Review and consider the concept of "The Great Chain of Being" for this question.
9. Cicero says in Act II that "men will construe things after their fashion," meaning men will interpret things as they see fit. He also suggests they will interpret things incorrectly quite often. How does this show up yet again in Act V?
10. Reread lines 68-82 of Act V, Scene 5. Summarize what Antony and Octavius say about Brutus. Is this an accurate portrayal of Brutus's character?