

## Review and Anticipate

Having ignored the warnings of the soothsayer in Act I and those of his wife, Calpurnia, in Act II, Caesar proceeds to the Capitol on the ides of March. Decius has told Caesar that the Senate will confer a crown upon him. The conspirators, led by Cassius and Brutus, accompany Caesar and his friend Mark Antony. As the events of Act III unfold, more warnings are ignored, and the common people again show how easily their loyalties can be swayed. This act is the turning point that sets irreversible wheels in motion.

## Act III

### Scene i. Rome. Before the Capitol.

[Flourish of trumpets. Enter CAESAR, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS, METELLUS CIMBER, TREBONIUS, CINNA, ANTONY, LEPIDUS, ARTEMIDORUS, PUBLIUS, POPILIUS, and the SOOTHSAYER.]

CAESAR. The ides of March are come.

SOOTHSAYER. Ay, Caesar, but not gone.

ARTEMIDORUS. Hail, Caesar! Read this schedule.<sup>1</sup>

DECIUS. Trebonius doth desire you to o'er-read,

5 At your best leisure, this his humble suit.

ARTEMIDORUS. O Caesar, read mine first; for mine's a suit  
That touches Caesar nearer. Read it, great Caesar.

CAESAR. What touches us ourself shall be last served.

ARTEMIDORUS. Delay not, Caesar; read it instantly.

CAESAR. What, is the fellow mad?

10 PUBLIUS. Sirrah, give place.<sup>2</sup>

CASSIUS. What, urge you your petitions in the street?  
Come to the Capitol.

[CAESAR goes to the Capitol, the rest following.]

POPILIUS. I wish your enterprise today may thrive.

CASSIUS. What enterprise, Popilius?

POPILIUS. Fare you well.

[Advances to CAESAR]

15 BRUTUS. What said Popilius Lena?

1. **schedule** (ske' jool)  
n. paper.

**suit** (soot) n. old word  
meaning "petition"

2. **give place** get out of  
the way.

### Reading Check

What does Artemidorus  
want Caesar to do?

CASSIUS. He wished today our enterprise might thrive.  
I fear our purpose is discoverèd.

BRUTUS. Look how he makes to<sup>3</sup> Caesar; mark him.

20 CASSIUS. Casca, be sudden,<sup>4</sup> for we fear prevention.  
Brutus, what shall be done? If this be known,  
Cassius or Caesar never shall turn back,<sup>5</sup>  
For I will slay myself.

BRUTUS. Cassius, be constant.<sup>6</sup>  
Popilius Lena speaks not of our purposes;  
For look, he smiles, and Caesar doth not change.<sup>7</sup>

25 CASSIUS. Trebonius knows his time; for look you, Brutus,  
He draws Mark Antony out of the way.

[Exit ANTONY and TREBONIUS.]

DECIUS. Where is Metellus Cimber? Let him go  
And presently prefer his suit<sup>8</sup> to Caesar.

BRUTUS. He is addressèd,<sup>9</sup> Press near and second<sup>10</sup> him.

30 CINNA. Casca, you are the first that rears your hand.

CAESAR. Are we all ready? What is now amiss  
That Caesar and his Senate must redress?<sup>11</sup>

METELLUS. Most high, most mighty, and most puissant<sup>12</sup> Caesar,  
Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat  
An humble heart. [Kneeling]

35 CAESAR. I must prevent thee, Cimber.  
These couchings and these lowly courtesies<sup>13</sup>  
Might fire the blood of ordinary men,  
And turn preordinance and first decree  
Into the law of children.<sup>14</sup> Be not fond<sup>15</sup>  
40 To think that Caesar bears such rebel blood  
That will be thawed from the true quality<sup>16</sup>  
With that which melteth fools—I mean sweet words,  
Low-crookèd curtsies, and base spaniel fawning.<sup>17</sup>  
Thy brother by decree is banishèd.  
45 If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him,  
I spurn thee like a cur out of my way.  
Know, Caesar doth not wrong, nor without cause  
Will he be satisfied.

50 METELLUS. Is there no voice more worthy than my own,  
To sound more sweetly in great Caesar's ear  
For the repealing of my banished brother?

BRUTUS. I kiss thy hand, but not in flattery, Caesar,  
Desiring thee that Publius Cimber may  
Have an immediate freedom of repeal.

3. makes to approach

4. be sudden be quick

5. Cassius . . . back  
either Cassius or Caesar  
will not return alive.

6. constant firm; calm

7. change change the  
expression on his face

8. presently prefer his  
suit immediately present  
his petition.

9. addressèd ready

10. second support

11. amiss . . . redress  
wrong that Caesar and  
his Senate must correct

12. puissant (pyoo' i saht)  
adj. powerful.

13. couchings . . . cour-  
sies low bowings and humble  
gestures of reverence.

14. And turn . . . law of  
children and change what  
already been decided as chil-  
dren might change their minds

15. fond adj. foolish.

### Reading Strategy

**Paraphrasing** Paraphrase  
Caesar's disdainful words  
to Metellus.

**spurn** (spurn) v. old word  
meaning "to kick disdain-  
fully"

16. rebel . . . quality  
unstable disposition that will  
be changed from firmness.

17. base spaniel fawning  
low doglike cringing.

CAESAR. What, Brutus?

55 CASSIUS. Pardon, Caesar; Caesar, pardon!  
As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall  
To beg enfranchisement<sup>18</sup> for Publius Cimber.

CAESAR. I could be well moved, if I were as you;  
If I could pray to move,<sup>19</sup> prayers would move me;  
60 But I am constant as the Northern Star,  
Of whose true-fixed and resting<sup>20</sup> quality  
There is no fellow<sup>21</sup> in the firmament.<sup>22</sup>  
The skies are painted with unnumb'ed sparks,  
They are all fire and every one doth shine;  
But there's but one in all doth hold his<sup>23</sup> place.  
65 So in the world; 'tis furnished well with men,  
And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive;<sup>24</sup>  
Yet in the number I do know but one  
That unassailable holds on his rank,<sup>25</sup>  
Unshaked of motion;<sup>26</sup> and that I am he,  
70 Let me a little show it, even in this—  
That I was constant. Cimber should be banished,  
And constant do remain to keep him so.

CINNA. O Caesar—

75 CAESAR. Hence! Wilt thou lift up Olympus?\*

DECIUS. Great Caesar—

CAESAR. Doth not Brutus bootless<sup>27</sup> kneel?

CASCA. Speak hands for me! [They stab CAESAR.]

CAESAR. *Et tu, Brutè?*<sup>28</sup> Then fall, Caesar. [Dies]

CINNA. Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!  
Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets.

18. **enfranchisement** (en fran' chiz mēnt) *n.* freedom.

19. **pray to move** beg others to change their minds.

20. **resting** immovable.

21. **fellow** equal.

22. **firmament** (fur' mē mēnt) *n.* sky.

23. **his** its.

24. **apprehensive** (ap' rē hēn' sīv) *adj.* able to understand.

25. **unassailable . . . rank** unattackable, he maintains his position.

26. **Unshaked of motion** unmoved by his own or others' impulses.

27. **bootless** uselessly.

28. ***Et tu, Brutè?*** Latin for *And you, Brutus?*

### Reading Check

Why does Metellus Cimber petition Caesar?

## Literature in context

### Humanities Connection

#### ◆ Mount Olympus

Caesar makes a comparison between himself and Mount Olympus. Located in northeastern Greece, rising 9,570 feet, it is the highest mountain in the country. According to Greek mythology, Mount Olympus was also the home of the gods. In comparing himself to Olympus, then, Caesar is elevating himself to the status of a god.





30 CAESAR. Come to the common pulpits,<sup>29</sup> and cry out  
 "Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!"  
 BRUTUS. People, and senators, be not affrighted,  
 Fly not; stand still; ambition's debt is paid.<sup>30</sup>  
 CAESAR. Go to the pulpit, Brutus.  
 BRUTUS. And Cassius too.  
 35 BRUTUS. Where's Publius?  
 CYNNA. Here, quite confounded with this mutiny.  
 METELLUS. Stand fast together, lest some friend of Caesar's  
 Should chance—  
 BRUTUS. Talk not of standing, Publius, good cheer;  
 30 There is no harm intended to your person.  
 Nor to no Roman else. So tell them, Publius,  
 Cassius, And leave us, Publius, lest that the people  
 Rushing on us should do your age some mischief.  
 BRUTUS. Do so; and let no man abide<sup>31</sup> this deed  
 35 But we the doers.

29. pulpits (pul' pit) n. speakers' platforms.  
 30. ambition's . . . paid ambition received what it deserved.  
 31. let no man abide let no man take responsibility for.  
 confounded (ken foun'd) adj. confused  
 mutiny (myoo'ti an a) n. open rebellion against authority  
 ▲ **Critical Viewing** Explain how this picture captures the deception of the conspirators. [Analyze]

[Enter TREBONIUS.]

CASSIUS. Where is Antony?

TREBONIUS.

Men, wives, and children Fled to his house amazed.<sup>32</sup>  
As<sup>33</sup> it were doomsday, stare, cry out and run,

BRUTUS.

Fates, we will know your pleasures.  
That we shall die, we know; 'tis but the time,  
And drawing days out, that men stand upon.<sup>34</sup>

CASCA. Why, he that cuts off twenty years of life  
Cuts off so many years of fearing death.

BRUTUS. Grant that, and then is death a benefit.  
So are we Caesar's friends, that have abridged  
His time of fearing death. Stoop, Romans, stoop,  
And let us bathe our hands in Caesar's blood  
Up to the elbows, and besmear our swords.  
Then walk we forth, even to the market place,  
And waving our red weapons o'er our heads,  
Let's all cry "Peace, freedom, and liberty!"

CASSIUS. Stoop then, and wash. How many ages hence  
Shall this our lofty scene be acted over  
In states unborn and accents yet unknown!

BRUTUS. How many times shall Caesar bleed in sport,<sup>35</sup>  
That now on Pompey's basis lies along<sup>36</sup>  
No worthier than the dust!

CASSIUS.

So oft as that shall be,  
So often shall the knot<sup>37</sup> of us be called  
The men that gave their country liberty.

DECIUS. What, shall we forth?

CASSIUS.

Ay, every man away.  
Brutus shall lead, and we will grace his heels<sup>38</sup>  
With the most boldest and best hearts of Rome.

[Enter a SERVANT.]

BRUTUS. Soft, who comes here? A friend of Antony's.

SERVANT. Thus, Brutus, did my master bid me kneel;

Thus did Mark Antony bid me fall down;

And, being prostrate, thus he bade me say:

Brutus is noble, wise, valiant, and honest;

Caesar was mighty, bold, royal, and loving.

Say I love Brutus and I honor him;

Say I feared Caesar, honored him, and loved him.

If Brutus will vouchsafe that Antony

May safely come to him and be resolved<sup>39</sup>

32. **amazed** astounded.

33. **As** as if.

34. **drawing . . . upon**  
prolonging life that  
people care about.

### Reading Strategy

**Paraphrasing** Paraphrase Brutus' justifications for killing Caesar.

35. **in sport** in plays.

36. **on Pompey's basis lies along** by the pedestal of Pompey's statue lies stretched out.

37. **knot** group.

38. **grace his heels** honor him by following him.

39. **be resolved** have it explained.

### Reading Strategy

**Paraphrasing** The servant carries a message from Mark Antony to Brutus. Paraphrase the message only.

### Reading Check

What does Mark Antony do after Caesar is stabbed?

How Caesar hath deserved to lie in death,  
Mark Antony shall not love Caesar dead  
So well as Brutus living; but will follow  
135 The fortunes and affairs of noble Brutus  
Thorough the hazards of this untrod state<sup>40</sup>  
With all true faith. So says my master Antony.

**BRUTUS.** Thy master is a wise and valiant Roman;  
I never thought him worse.  
140 Tell him, so<sup>41</sup> please him come unto this place,  
He shall be satisfied and, by my honor,  
Depart untouched.

**SERVANT.** I'll fetch him presently.

[Exit SERVANT]

**BRUTUS.** I know that we shall have him well to friend.<sup>42</sup>

**CASSIUS.** I wish we may. But yet have I a mind  
145 That fears him much; and my misgiving still  
Falls shrewdly to the purpose.<sup>43</sup>

[Enter ANTONY.]

**BRUTUS.** But here comes Antony. Welcome, Mark Antony.

**ANTONY.** O mighty Caesar! Dost thou lie so low?  
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,  
150 Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well.  
I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,  
Who else must be let blood,<sup>44</sup> who else is rank.<sup>45</sup>  
If I myself, there is no hour so fit  
As Caesar's death's hour, nor no instrument  
155 Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich  
With the most noble blood of all this world.  
I do beseech ye, if you bear me hard,<sup>46</sup>  
Now, whilst your purpled hands<sup>47</sup> do reek and smoke,  
Fulfill your pleasure. Live<sup>48</sup> a thousand years,  
160 I shall not find myself so apt<sup>49</sup> to die;  
No place will please me so, no mean of death,<sup>50</sup>  
As here by Caesar, and by you cut off,  
The choice and master spirits of this age.

**BRUTUS.** O Antony, beg not your death of us!  
165 Though now we must appear bloody and cruel,  
As by our hands and this our present act  
You see we do, yet see you but our hands  
And this the bleeding business they have done.  
Our hearts you see not; they are pitiful;<sup>51</sup>  
170 And pity to the general wrong of Rome—  
As fire drives out fire, so pity pity<sup>52</sup>—  
Hath done this deed on Caesar. For your part,

40. Thorough . . . state  
through the dangers of  
this new state of affairs.

41. so if it should.

42. to friend as a friend.

43. my misgiving . . . to the  
purpose my doubts always  
turn out to be justified.

### Literary Analysis

Dramatic Speeches What  
is the purpose of the mono-  
logue that Antony delivers  
to the conspirators?

44. be let blood be killed.

45. rank too powerful; in  
need of bloodletting.

46. bear me hard have  
a grudge against me.

47. purpled hands bloody  
hands.

48. Live if I live.

49. apt ready.

50. mean of death way  
of dying.

51. pitiful full of pity.

52. pity pity pity for Rome  
drove out pity for Caesar.

To you our swords have leaden<sup>53</sup> points, Mark Antony:  
Our arms in strength of malice, and our hearts  
Of brothers' temper,<sup>54</sup> do receive you in  
With all kind love, good thoughts, and reverence.

**CASSIUS.** Your voice<sup>55</sup> shall be as strong as any man's  
In the disposing of new dignities.<sup>56</sup>

**BRUTUS.** Only be patient till we have appeased  
The multitude, beside themselves with fear,  
And then we will deliver<sup>57</sup> you the cause  
Why I, that did love Caesar when I struck him,  
Have thus proceeded.

**ANTONY.**

I doubt not of your wisdom.  
Let each man render me his bloody hand.  
First, Marcus Brutus, will I shake with you;  
Next, Caius Cassius, do I take your hand;  
Now, Decius Brutus, yours; now yours, Metellus;  
Yours, Cinna; and, my valiant Casca, yours;  
Though last, not least in love, yours, good Trebonius.

Gentlemen all—alas, what shall I say?  
My credit<sup>58</sup> now stands on such slippery ground  
That one of two bad ways you must conceit<sup>59</sup> me,  
Either a coward or a flatterer.

That I did love thee, Caesar, O, 'tis true!  
If then thy spirit look upon us now,  
Shall it not grieve thee dearer<sup>60</sup> 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?<sup>61</sup>  
Had I as many eyes as thou hast wounds,  
Weeping as fast as they stream forth thy blood,  
It would become me better than to close<sup>62</sup>

In terms of friendship with thine enemies.  
Pardon me, Julius! Here wast thou bayed,<sup>63</sup> brave hart;<sup>64</sup>  
Here didst thou fall, and here thy hunters stand,  
Signed in thy spoil<sup>65</sup> and crimsoned in thy Lethe.<sup>66</sup>  
O world, thou wast the forest to this hart;  
And this indeed, O world, the heart of thee.  
How like a deer, stroken<sup>67</sup> by many princes.

Dost thou here lie!

**CASSIUS.** Mark Antony—

**ANTONY.**

Pardon me, Caius Cassius.

The enemies of Caesar shall say this;  
Then, in a friend, it is cold modesty.<sup>68</sup>

**CASSIUS.** I blame you not for praising Caesar so;  
But what compact<sup>69</sup> mean you to have with us?

53. leaden dull; blunt.

malice (mal' is) *n.* desire to harm or see harm done to others

54. Of brothers' temper filled with brotherly feelings.

55. voice vote.

56. dignities offices.

57. deliver tell to.

58. credit reputation.

59. conceit (kən sēt') *v.* think of.

60. dearer more deeply.

61. corse corpse.

62. close (clōz) *v.* reach an agreement.

63. bayed cornered.

64. hart (hārt) *n.* deer.

65. Signed in thy spoil marked by signs of your decaying parts.

66. Lethe (lēth' ē) river in Hades, but in this case, a river of blood.

67. stroken struck down.

68. cold modesty calm, moderate speech.

69. compact (kām' pakt) *n.* agreement.

### Reading Check

When he arrives, what is Antony prepared to do?

Will you be pricked<sup>70</sup> in number of our friends,  
Or shall we on,<sup>71</sup> and not depend on you?

**ANTONY.** Therefore I took your hands, but was indeed  
Swayed from the point by looking down on Caesar.  
220 Friends am I with you all, and love you all,  
Upon this hope, that you shall give me reasons  
Why, and wherein, Caesar was dangerous.

**BRUTUS.** Or else were this a savage spectacle.  
Our reasons are so full of good regard<sup>72</sup>  
225 That were you, Antony, the son of Caesar,  
You should be satisfied.

**ANTONY.** That's all I seek;  
And am moreover suitor that I may  
Produce<sup>73</sup> his body to the market place,  
And in the pulpit, as becomes a friend,  
230 Speak in the order<sup>74</sup> of his funeral.

**BRUTUS.** You shall, Mark Antony.

**CASSIUS.** Brutus, a word with you.  
[*Aside to BRUTUS*] You know not what you do; do not consent  
That Antony speak in his funeral.  
Know you how much the people may be moved  
By that which he will utter?

235 **BRUTUS.** By your pardon:  
I will myself into the pulpit first,  
And show the reason of our Caesar's death.  
What Antony shall speak, I will protest<sup>75</sup>  
He speaks by leave and by permission,  
240 And that we are contented Caesar shall  
Have all true rites and lawful ceremonies.  
It shall advantage more than do us wrong.<sup>76</sup>

**CASSIUS.** I know not what may fall;<sup>77</sup> I like it not.

**BRUTUS.** Mark Antony, here, take you Caesar's body.  
245 You shall not in your funeral speech blame us,  
But speak all good you can devise of Caesar,  
And say you do't by our permission;  
Else shall you not have any hand at all  
About his funeral. And you shall speak  
250 In the same pulpit whereto I am going,  
After my speech is ended.

**ANTONY.** Be it so;  
I do desire no more.

**BRUTUS.** Prepare the body then, and follow us.

[*Exit all but ANTONY.*]

70. pricked marked.  
71. on proceed.

72. so full of good  
regard so carefully  
considered.

73. Produce bring forth.

74. order course of the  
ceremonies.

**Literary Analysis**  
**Dramatic Speeches** Why  
does Cassius want to  
prevent other characters  
from hearing what he says  
to Brutus in this aside?

75. protest declare.

76. advantage . . . wrong  
benefit us more than hurt us.

77. what may fall what  
may happen.

255 **ANTONY.** 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 livèd in the tide of times.<sup>78</sup>  
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!  
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy  
(Which like dumb mouths do ope their ruby lips  
260 To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue),  
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;  
Domestic fury and fierce civil strife  
Shall cumber<sup>79</sup> all the parts of Italy;  
Blood and destruction shall be so in use,<sup>80</sup>  
265 And dreadful objects so familiar,  
That mothers shall but smile when they behold  
Their infants quartered with the hands of war,  
All pity choked with custom of fell deeds;<sup>81</sup>  
And Caesar's spirit, ranging<sup>82</sup> for revenge,  
270 With Ate<sup>83</sup> by his side come hot from hell,  
Shall in these confines<sup>84</sup> with a monarch's voice  
Cry "Havoc,"<sup>85</sup> and let slip<sup>86</sup> the dogs of war,  
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth  
275 With carrion<sup>87</sup> men, groaning for burial.

[Enter OCTAVIUS' SERVANT.]

You serve Octavius Caesar, do you not?

**SERVANT.** I do, Mark Antony.

**ANTONY.** Caesar did write for him to come to Rome.

**SERVANT.** He did receive his letters and is coming,  
280 And bid me say to you by word of mouth—  
O Caesar!

[Seeing the body]

**ANTONY.** Thy heart is big;<sup>88</sup> get thee apart and weep.  
Passion, I see, is catching, for mine eyes,  
Seeing those beads of sorrow stand in thine,  
285 Began to water. Is thy master coming?

**SERVANT.** He lies tonight within seven leagues<sup>♦</sup> of Rome.

**78. tide of times**  
course of all history.

**79. cumber** (kum' bər) *v.*  
distress; burden.

**80. in use** customary.

**81. fell deeds** cruel acts.

**82. ranging** roaming like a  
wild beast in search of prey.

**83. Ate** (ā' tē) Greek  
goddess personifying  
reckless ambition in man.

**84. confines** (kän' fīnz) *n.*  
boundaries.

**85. Havoc** Latin for "no quar-  
ter," a signal for general  
slaughter.

**86. slip** loose.

**87. carrion** (kar' ē ən) *adj.*  
dead and rotting.

### Literary Analysis Dramatic Speeches

What does Antony's  
soliloquy reveal to the  
audience that other  
characters do not know?

**88. big** swollen with grief.

### Reading Check

What rules must Antony  
follow in delivering a  
funeral speech for Caesar?

## Literature

### in context Vocabulary Connection

#### ♦ Terms of Measurement: League

The servant reports that Octavius is camped 7 leagues from Rome. A *league* is an ancient unit of measure that has not always been the same distance. Today, a league is usually understood to equal 3 miles (4.8 km). In Roman times, however, the *league* equaled 1,500 paces, or steps. A pace was 5 feet (1.5 m), making a Roman league approximately 7,500 feet—not quite a mile and a half. So 7 leagues equaled about 10 miles.

ANTONY. Post<sup>89</sup> back with speed, and tell him what hath chanced.<sup>90</sup>

Here is a mourning Rome, a dangerous Rome,

No Rome of safety for Octavius yet.

290 Hie hence and tell him so. Yet stay awhile;

Thou shalt not back till I have borne this corse

Into the market place; there shall I try<sup>91</sup>

In my oration how the people take

The cruel issue<sup>92</sup> of these bloody men;

295 According to the which, thou shalt discourse

To young Octavius of the state of things.

Lend me your hand.

[Exit]

## Scene ii. The Forum

[Enter BRUTUS and goes into the pulpit, and CASSIUS, with the PLEBEIANS.<sup>1</sup>]

PLEBEIANS. We will be satisfied!<sup>2</sup> Let us be satisfied!

BRUTUS. Then follow me, and give me audience, friends.

Cassius, go you into the other street

And part the numbers.<sup>3</sup>

5 Those that will hear me speak, let 'em stay here;

Those that will follow Cassius, go with him;

And public reasons shall be rendered

Of Caesar's death.

FIRST PLEBEIAN. I will hear Brutus speak.

SECOND PLEBEIAN. I will hear Cassius, and compare their reasons,

10 When severally<sup>4</sup> we hear them rendered.

[Exit CASSIUS, with some of the PLEBEIANS.]

THIRD PLEBEIAN. The noble Brutus is ascended. Silence!

BRUTUS. Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers,<sup>5</sup> hear me for my

cause, and be silent, that you may hear. Believe me

15 for mine honor, and have respect to mine honor, that

you may believe. Censure<sup>6</sup> me in your wisdom, and

awake your senses,<sup>7</sup> that you may the better judge. If

there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of

Caesar's, to him I say that Brutus' love to Caesar was

20 no less than his. If then that friend demand why

Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: Not

that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.

Had you rather Caesar were living, and die all slaves,

than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men? As

25 Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate,

I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honor him; but, as

he was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears, for his

love; joy, for his fortune; honor, for his valor; and

89. Post hasten.

90. hath chanced has happened.

91. try test.

92. cruel issue outcome the cruelty.

oration (ô rā' shen) n. formal speech

discourse (dis' kôrs') v. speak formally and at length

1. Plebeians (ple bē' anz) n. commoners; members of the lower class.

2. be satisfied get an explanation.

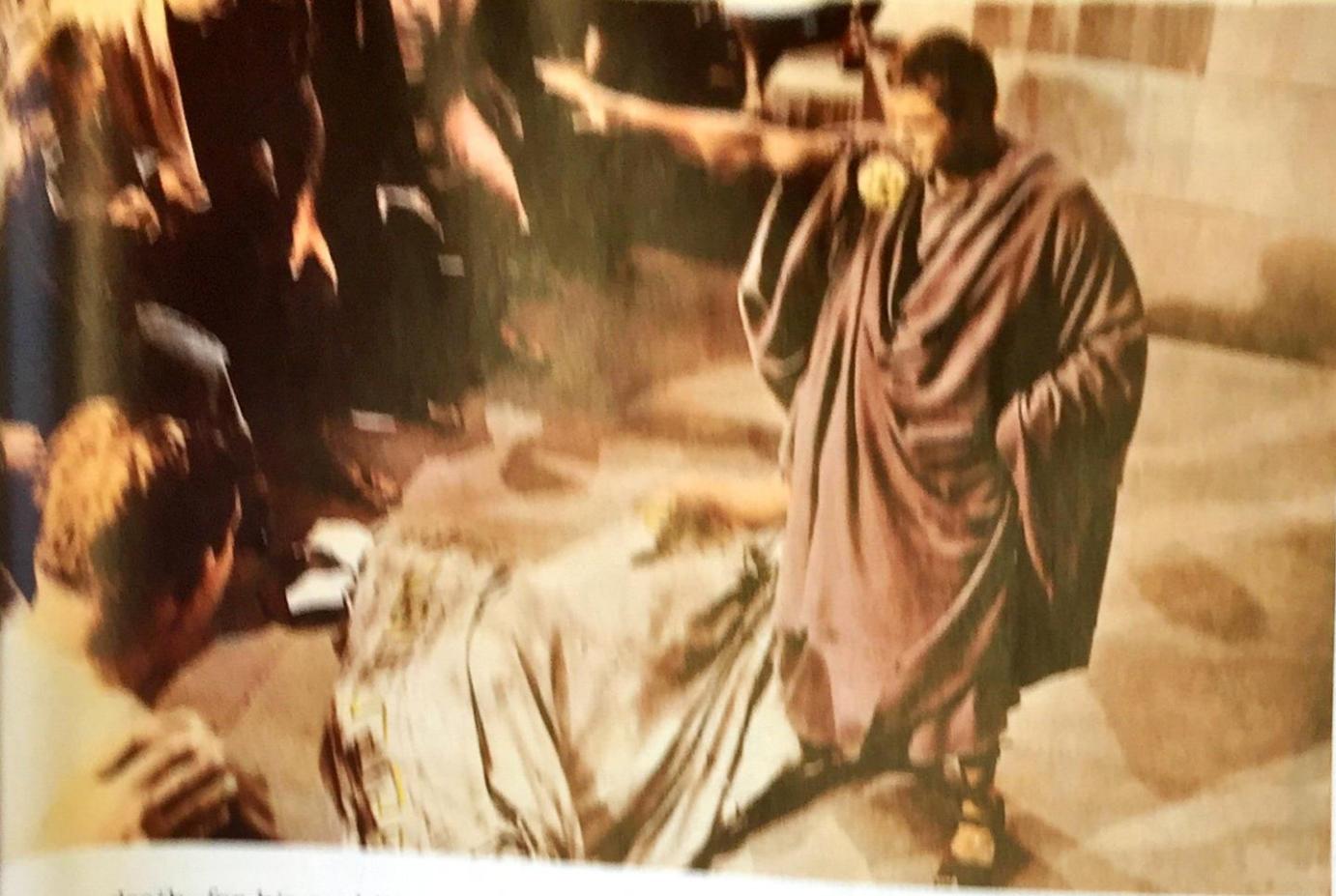
3. part the numbers divide the crowd.

4. severally (sev' er al ē) adv. separately.

5. lovers dear friends.

6. Censure (sen' shēr) v. condemn as wrong; criticize.

7. senses powers of reason.



30 death, for his ambition. Who is here so base,<sup>8</sup> that  
 would be a bondman?<sup>9</sup> If any, speak; for him have I  
 offended. Who is here so rude,<sup>10</sup> that would not be a  
 Roman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is  
 here so vile, that will not love his country? If any,  
 speak; for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

35 ALL: None, Brutus, none!

BRUTUS: Then none have I offended. I have done no  
 more to Caesar than you shall do to Brutus. The  
 question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol;<sup>11</sup> his  
 glory not extenuated,<sup>12</sup> wherein he was worthy, nor  
 40 his offenses enforced,<sup>13</sup> for which he suffered death.

[ENTER MARK ANTONY, WITH CAESAR'S BODY.]

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony,  
 who, though he had no hand in his death, shall receive  
 the benefit of his dying, a place in the common-  
 45 wealth, as which of you shall not? With this I depart,  
 that, as I slew my best lover for the good of Rome,  
 I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall  
 please my country to need my death.

ALL: Live, Brutus! Live, live!

FIRST PLEBEIAN: Bring him with triumph home unto his house.

### ▲ Critical Viewing

Based on his stance and his gestures, what do you think Antony is trying to convey? Explain. [Connect]

8. **base** low.

9. **bondman** slave.

10. **rude** ignorant.

**vile** (vil) *adj.* depraved

11. **The question . . . in the Capitol** the whole matter of his death is on record in the Capitol.

12. **extenuated** (ik sten' yoo wät id) *v.* underrated.

13. **enforced** (en fôrsd') *v.* given force to.

### ✓ Reading Check

Why does Brutus say that he killed Caesar?

50 **SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Give him a statue with his ancestors.

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Let him be Caesar.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** Caesar's better parts<sup>14</sup>  
Shall be crowned in Brutus.

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** We'll bring him to his house with shouts and  
clamors.

**BRUTUS.** My countrymen—

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Peace! Silence! Brutus speaks.

55 **FIRST PLEBEIAN.** Peace, ho!

**BRUTUS.** Good countrymen, let me depart alone,  
And, for my sake, stay here with Antony.  
Do grace to Caesar's corpse, and grace his speech  
Tending to Caesar's glories,<sup>15</sup> which Mark Antony  
60 By our permission, is allowed to make.  
I do entreat you, not a man depart,  
Save I alone, till Antony have spoke. [Exit]

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** Stay, ho! And let us hear Mark Antony.

65 **THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Let him go up into the public chair;  
We'll hear him. Noble Antony, go up.

**ANTONY.** For Brutus' sake, I am beholding<sup>16</sup> to you.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** What does he say of Brutus?

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** He says, for Brutus' sake,  
He finds himself beholding to us all.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** 'Twere best he speak no harm of  
Brutus here!

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** This Caesar was a tyrant.

70 **THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Nay, that's certain.  
We are blest that Rome is rid of him.

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Peace! Let us hear what Antony can say.

**ANTONY.** You gentle Romans—

**ALL.** Peace, ho! Let us hear him.

75 **ANTONY.** 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 interrèd with their bones;  
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus  
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious.  
80 If it were so, it was a grievous fault,  
And grievously hath Caesar answered<sup>17</sup> it.

14. parts qualities

**Reading Strategy**  
**Paraphrasing** What does Brutus ask of his countrymen in this speech?

15. Do grace . . . glories honor Caesar's body and the speech telling of Caesar's achievements.

16. beholding indebted.

**Literary Analysis**

**Dramatic Speeches**  
Notice how Antony's speech reflects the style and structure of Brutus' monologue. What is the effect of this similarity?

17. answered paid the penalty for.

Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest  
(For Brutus is an honorable man,  
So are they all, all honorable men),  
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.  
He was my friend, faithful and just to me;  
But Brutus says he was ambitious,  
And Brutus is an honorable man.  
He hath brought many captives home to Rome,  
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill;  
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?  
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 honorable man.  
You all did see that on the Lupercal  
I thrice presented him a kingly crown,  
Which he did thrice refuse. Was this ambition?  
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;  
And sure he is an honorable man.  
I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,  
But here I am to speak what I do know.  
You all did love him once, not without cause;  
What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?  
O judgment, thou art fled 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.

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** Methinks there is much reason in his sayings.

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** If thou consider rightly of the matter,  
Caesar has had great wrong.

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Has he, masters?  
I fear there will a worse come in his place.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** Marked ye his words? He would not take the  
crown,  
Therefore 'tis certain he was not ambitious.

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** If it be found so, some will dear abide it.<sup>18</sup>

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Poor soul, his eyes are red as fire  
with weeping.

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** There's not a nobler man in Rome  
than Antony.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** Now mark him, he begins again to  
speak.

**ANTONY.** But yesterday the word of Caesar might  
Have stood against the world; now lies he there,

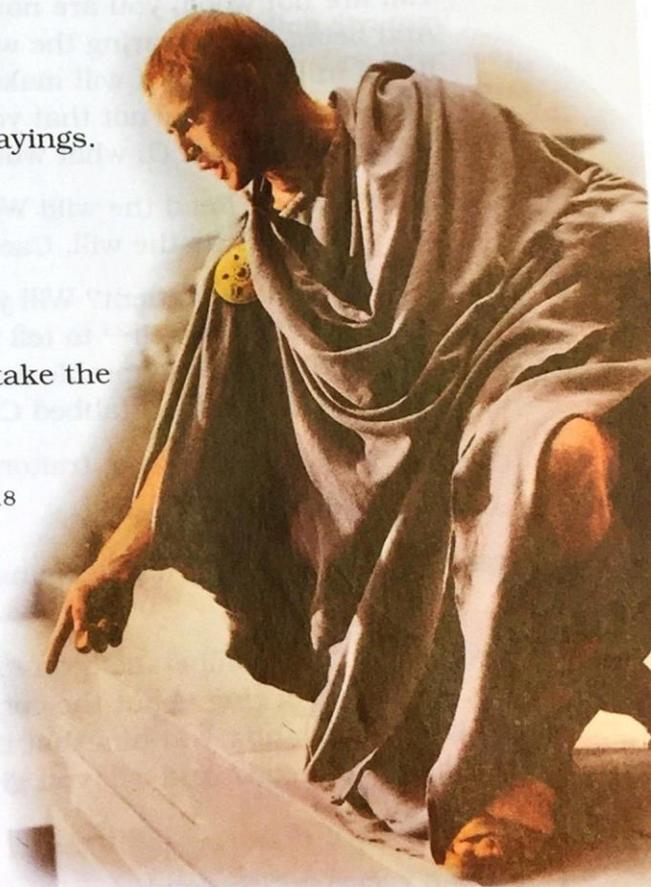
18. dear abide it pay  
dearly for it.

 **Reading Check**

What does Brutus ask the  
Plebeians to do?

 **Critical Viewing**

How does this actor  
portray Antony's passion  
in delivering Caesar's  
eulogy? [**Connect**]



And none so poor to<sup>19</sup> do him reverence.  
O masters! If I were disposed to stir  
Your hearts and minds to mutiny and rage,  
I should do Brutus wrong and Cassius wrong,  
125 Who, you all know, are honorable men.  
I will not do them wrong; I rather choose  
To wrong the dead, to wrong myself and you,  
Than I will wrong such honorable men.  
But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar;  
130 I found it in his closet; 'tis his will.  
Let but the commons<sup>20</sup> hear this testament,  
Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read,  
And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds,  
And dip their napkins<sup>21</sup> in his sacred blood;  
135 Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,  
And dying, mention it within their wills,  
Bequeathing it as a rich legacy  
Unto their issue.<sup>22</sup>

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** We'll hear the will; read it, Mark Antony.

140 **ALL.** The will, the will! We will hear Caesar's will!

**ANTONY.** Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it.

It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you.  
You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;  
And being men, hearing the will of Caesar,  
145 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?

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** Read the will! We'll hear it, Antony!  
You shall read us the will, Caesar's will!

150 **ANTONY.** Will you be patient? Will you stay awhile?  
I have o'ershot myself<sup>23</sup> to tell you of it.  
I fear I wrong the honorable men  
Whose daggers have stabbed Caesar; I do fear it.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** They were traitors. Honorable men!

155 **ALL.** The will! The testament!

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** They were villains, murderers! The will! Read  
the will!

**ANTONY.** You will compel me then to read the will?  
Then make a ring about the corpse of Caesar,  
160 And let me show you him that made the will.  
Shall I descend? And will you give me leave?

**ALL.** Come down.

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Descend.

[ANTONY comes down.]

19. to as to.

**Reading Strategy**  
Paraphrasing Paraphrase  
Antony's words to the  
crowd.

20. commons plebeians;  
commoners.

21. napkins handker-  
chiefs.

22. issue heirs.

**Literary Analysis**  
Dramatic Speeches  
What is Antony's purpose  
in making this speech  
about the will?

23. o'ershot myself  
gone too far.

THIRD PLEBEIAN. You shall have leave.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN. A ring! Stand round.

FIRST PLEBEIAN. Stand from the hearse,<sup>24</sup> stand from the body!

SECOND PLEBEIAN. Room for Antony, most noble Antony!

ANTONY. Nay, press not so upon me; stand far off.

ALL. Stand back! Room! Bear back.

ANTONY. If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.

You all do know this mantle;<sup>25</sup> I remember

The first time ever Caesar put it on:

'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent,

That day he overcame the Nervii.

Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through;

See what a rent<sup>26</sup> the envious<sup>27</sup> Casca made;

Through this the well-belovèd Brutus stabbed,

And as he plucked his cursèd steel away,

Mark how the blood of Caesar followed it,

As<sup>28</sup> rushing out of doors, to be resolved<sup>29</sup>

If Brutus so unkindly knocked, or no;

For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel.

Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him!

This was the most unkindest cut of all;

For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,

Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms,

Quite vanquished him. Then burst his mighty heart;

And, in his mantle muffling up his face,

Even at the base of Pompey's statue

(Which all the while ran blood) great Caesar fell.

O, what a fall was there, my countrymen!

Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,

Whilst bloody treason flourished<sup>30</sup> over us.

O, now you weep, and I perceive you feel

The dint<sup>31</sup> of pity; these are gracious drops.

Kind souls, what<sup>32</sup> weep you when you but behold

Our Caesar's vesture<sup>33</sup> wounded? Look you here,

Here is himself, marred as you see with<sup>34</sup> traitors.

FIRST PLEBEIAN. O piteous spectacle!

SECOND PLEBEIAN. O noble Caesar!

THIRD PLEBEIAN. O woeful day!

FOURTH PLEBEIAN. O traitors, villains!

FIRST PLEBEIAN. O most bloody sight!

SECOND PLEBEIAN. We will be revenged.

ALL. Revenge! About!<sup>35</sup> Seek! Burn! Fire! Kill! Slay!

24. **hearse** (*hurs*) *n.* coffin.

25. **mantle** (*man' tel*) *n.*  
cloak; toga.

26. **rent** (*rent*) *n.* torn place.

27. **envious** (*en' vè əs*) *adj.*  
spiteful.

28. **As** *as if*.

29. **to be resolved** *to learn*  
*for certain.*

### Reading Strategy

**Paraphrasing** What does Antony say about Caesar's mantle?

30. **flourished** (*flur' isht*) *v.*  
*grew; triumphed.*

31. **dint** *n.* force.

32. **what** *why.*

33. **vesture** (*ves' cher*) *n.*  
*clothing.*

34. **with** *by.*

35. **About** *let us go.*

### Reading Check

What reason does Antony give for not reading the people Caesar's will?

Let not a traitor live!

**ANTONY.** Stay, countrymen.

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** Peace there! Hear the noble Antony.

210 **SECOND PLEBEIAN.** We'll hear him, we'll follow him, we'll die with him!

**ANTONY.** Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up

To such a sudden flood of mutiny.

They that have done this deed are honorable.

What private griefs<sup>36</sup> they have, alas, I know not,

215 That made them do it. They are wise and honorable,

And will, no doubt, with reasons answer you.

I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts;

I am no orator, as Brutus is;

But (as you know me all) a plain blunt man

220 That love my friend, and that they know full well

That gave me public leave<sup>37</sup> to speak of him.

For I have neither writ, nor words, nor worth,

Action, or utterance,<sup>38</sup> nor the power of speech

To stir men's blood; I only speak right on.<sup>39</sup>

225 I tell you that which you yourselves do know,

Show you sweet Caesar's wounds, poor poor dumb mouths,

And bid them speak for me. But were I Brutus,

And Brutus Antony, there were an Antony

Would ruffle up your spirits, and put a tongue

230 In every wound of Caesar's that should move

The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny.

**ALL.** We'll mutiny.

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** We'll burn the house of Brutus.

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Away, then! Come, seek the conspirators.

**ANTONY.** Yet hear me, countrymen. Yet hear me speak.

235 **ALL.** Peace, ho! Hear Antony, most noble Antony!

**ANTONY.** Why, friends, you go to do you know not what:

Wherein hath Caesar thus deserved your loves?

Alas, you know not; I must tell you then:

You have forgot the will I told you of.

240 **ALL.** Most true, the will! Let's stay and hear the will.

**ANTONY.** Here is the will, and under Caesar's seal.

To every Roman citizen he gives,

To every several man, seventy-five drachmas.

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Most noble Caesar! We'll revenge his death!

245 **THIRD PLEBEIAN.** O royal Caesar!

**ANTONY.** Hear me with patience.

36. **griefs** (gréfs) n. grievances.

37. **leave** permission.

38. **neither writ . . . utterance** (ut' or ens) neither written speech, nor fluency, nor reputation, nor gestures, nor style of speaking.

39. **right on** directly.

**Reading Strategy**  
**Paraphrasing** Restate lines 236–240 in your own words.

ALL. Peace, ho!

ANTONY. Moreover, he hath left you all his walks,  
His private arbors, and new-planted orchards,<sup>40</sup>  
On this side Tiber; he hath left them you,  
And to your heirs forever: common pleasures,<sup>41</sup>  
To walk abroad and recreate yourselves.  
Here was a Caesar! When comes such another?

FIRST PLEBEIAN. Never, never! Come, away, away!  
We'll burn his body in the holy place,  
And with the brands<sup>42</sup> fire the traitors' houses.  
Take up the body.

SECOND PLEBEIAN. Go fetch fire.

THIRD PLEBEIAN. Pluck down benches.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN. Pluck down forms, windows, anything!  
[Exit PLEBEIANS with the body.]

ANTONY. Now let it work: Mischief, thou art afoot,  
Take thou what course thou wilt.

[Enter SERVANT.]

How now, fellow?

SERVANT. Sir, Octavius is already come to Rome.

ANTONY. Where is he?

SERVANT. He and Lepidus are at Caesar's  
house.

40. walks . . . orchards  
parks, his private trees, and  
newly planted gardens.

41. common pleasures  
public places of recreation.

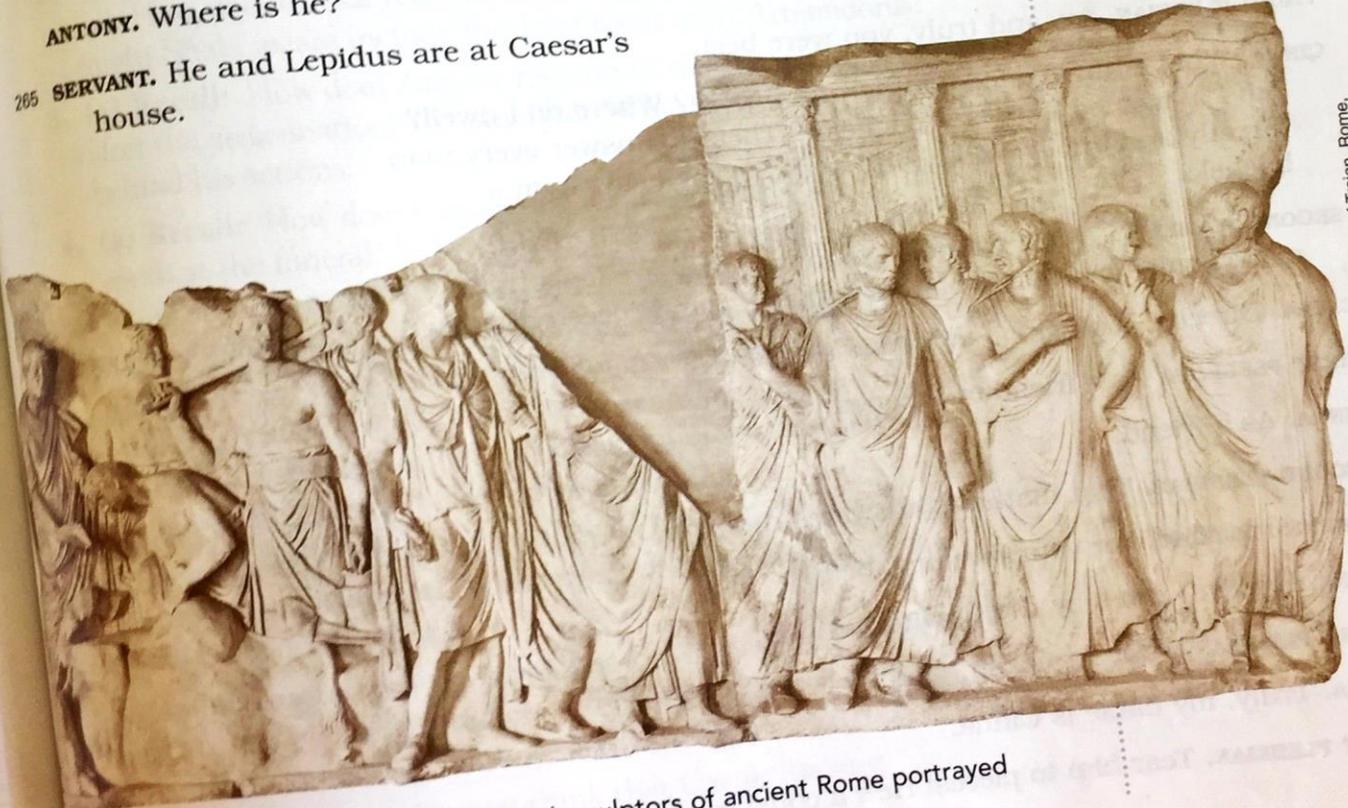
42. brands torches.

**Literary Analysis**

**Dramatic Speeches** How does this aside indicate the true intentions behind Antony's monologue?

**✓ Reading Check**

What has Caesar left the citizens of Rome in his will?



Extispicium relief (inspection of entrails) from the Forum of Trajan, Rome, Louvre, Paris, France

▲ **Critical Viewing** Why do you think sculptors of ancient Rome portrayed political scenes such as this one? [Speculate]

**ANTONY.** And thither<sup>43</sup> will I straight to visit him;  
He comes upon a wish. Fortune is merry,  
And in this mood will give us anything.

**SERVANT.** I heard him say, Brutus and Cassius  
270 Are rid<sup>44</sup> like madmen through the gates of Rome.

**ANTONY.** Belike<sup>45</sup> they had some notice of the people,<sup>46</sup>  
How I had moved them. Bring me to Octavius.

[Exit]

### Scene iii. A street.

[Enter CINNA THE POET, and after him the PLEBEIANS.]

**CINNA.** I dreamt tonight that I did feast with Caesar,  
And things unluckily charge my fantasy.<sup>1</sup>  
I have no will to wander forth of doors,<sup>2</sup>  
Yet something leads me forth?

5 **FIRST PLEBEIAN.** What is your name?

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Whither are you going?

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Where do you dwell?

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** Are you a married man or a bachelor?

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** Answer every man directly.

10 **FIRST PLEBEIAN.** Ay, and briefly.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** Ay, and wisely.

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Ay, and truly, you were best.

**CINNA.** What is my name? Whither am I going? Where do I dwell?  
Am I a married man or a bachelor? Then, to answer every man  
15 directly and briefly, wisely and truly: wisely I say, I am a  
bachelor.

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** That's as much as to say, they are fools that  
marry; you'll bear me a bang<sup>3</sup> for that, I fear. Proceed directly.

20 **CINNA.** Directly, I am going to Caesar's funeral.

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** As a friend or an enemy?

**CINNA.** As a friend.

**SECOND PLEBEIAN.** That matter is answered directly.

**FOURTH PLEBEIAN.** For your dwelling, briefly.

25 **CINNA.** Briefly, I dwell by the Capitol.

**THIRD PLEBEIAN.** Your name, sir, truly.

**CINNA.** Truly, my name is Cinna.

**FIRST PLEBEIAN.** Tear him to pieces! He's a conspirator.

43. thither there.

44. Are rid have ridden.

45. Belike probably.

46. notice of the people  
word about the mood of  
the people.

1. things . . . fantasy  
The events that have  
happened weigh heavily  
on my imagination.

2. of doors outdoors.

3. bear me a bang get  
a blow from me.

CINNA. I am Cinna the poet! I am Cinna the poet!

FOURTH PLEBEIAN. Tear him for his bad verses! Tear him for his bad verses!

CINNA. I am not Cinna the conspirator.

FOURTH PLEBEIAN. It is no matter, his name's Cinna; pluck but his name out of his heart, and turn him going.<sup>4</sup>

THIRD PLEBEIAN. Tear him, tear him! [*They attack him.*]  
Come, brands, ho! Firebrands!<sup>5</sup> To Brutus', to Cassius'  
Burn all! Some to Decius' house, and some to  
Casca's; some to Ligarius! Away, go!

[*Exit all the PLEBEIANS with CINNA.*]

4. turn him going send him on his way.

5. Firebrands people who stir up others to revolt.

## Review and Assess

### Thinking About Act III

1. **Respond:** If you had been in the crowd at Caesar's funeral in Scene ii, how would you have responded to Antony's speech?
2. (a) **Recall:** Artemidorus implores Caesar to read a paper he has. How does Caesar react to this plea? (b) **Speculate:** Why might Shakespeare include this brief scene with Artemidorus?
3. (a) **Recall:** How does Antony respond to the conspirators after the assassination? (b) **Analyze:** What are the motives behind his actions?
4. (a) **Recall:** How does Cassius feel about allowing Antony to speak at the funeral? Why? (b) **Analyze:** Why does Brutus allow Antony to speak?
5. (a) **Compare and Contrast:** How do the funeral monologues delivered by Brutus and Antony compare in style and purpose? (b) **Analyze:** How does each speaker attempt to sway the people? (c) **Evaluate:** Which speaker more successfully achieves his purpose? How do you know?
6. (a) **Interpret:** Why does Antony read Caesar's will to the people? (b) **Interpret:** What effect does the reading of the will have on the people?
7. (a) **Interpret:** How does Shakespeare build emotion into this act of the play? (b) **Predict:** What effect do you think the buildup of emotion will have on what happens next?
8. **Take a Position:** Do you think that Caesar has any responsibility for his own death? Why or why not?