

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Essential Question:

What can modern day readers learn about the four Ps (Politics, Power, Persuasion, and Psychology) by studying Shakespeare's historically based, fictionalized tragedy?

DIRECTIONS: Respond to the following questions on your own paper, taking notes as you read and as the class discusses. Any notes that you take and any answers you write down for questions can be used on quizzes and writing assignments. *Participation promotes progress!*

Act II, Scene i: Brutus' and Portia's Home

1. Psychologically, what is Brutus' conflict at the beginning of the scene?
2. How does Brutus' rationalize (again psychologically) his choice to join the conspiracy?
3. How can readers tell how devoted to the conspiracy various characters are?
4. What suggestions are made in this scene and by whom? Why does Brutus disagree? What does this disagreement and Brutus' reasoning tell us about the psychological differences and political motives of various members of the conspiracy?
5. Persuasion takes place and is discussed in this scene. Who is persuasive? Who is or will be persuaded? How do the persuaders get their way or plan to get their way?
6. What textual evidence could be used as support?

Act II, Scene ii: Caesar's and Calphurnia's Home

1. In regards to the four Ps (politics, power, persuasion, and psychology), what inferences and conclusions can readers make and draw about Julius Caesar in this scene?
2. How do these inferences and conclusions further characterize Caesar?
3. What evidence can readers find to support these inferences and conclusions?

Act II, Overall:

1. What predictions can readers make about what will happen in Act Three?
2. What evidence can readers find so far in Acts One and Two to support these predictions?

By the end of Act II, readers should be able to respond to the following questions:

1. Who has **power**, and who wants it? How do readers know?
2. Who plays the **political** game well, and who does not? How do readers know?
3. Who is **persuasive**, and who is easily persuaded? How do readers know?
4. Who understands human **psychology**, and who does not? How do readers know?

Power Quotes: Select at least two powerful quotes from each scene, and explain why they are powerful to you as a reader.