

Julius Caesar

SAQ

22 Why does Calpurnia say that Caesar's wisdom is consumed in confidence? What does she mean?

Ans: Caesar ignores bad omens and warnings & decides to go forth to the Senate. So Calpurnia is forced to comment that his wisdom is consumed in confidence.

23 How did Caesar try to dispel Calpurnia's fears?

Ans: Caesar appeared to have taken no serious care of Calpurnia's fears & doubts. He said that her dream had no direct indication to his death. Moreover, he claimed that he was more dangerous than danger itself & he doesn't fear death, as it is inevitable.

32 What does Calpurnia dream about Caesar? How does Decius Brutus interpret the dream?

Ans: Calpurnia had seen Caesar's statue in her dream, which like a fountain, had almost hundreds openings & pure blood ran out of them. Strong men came smiling and washed their hands in that blood. She strongly felt it was a warning enough & implored her husband to stay at home.

Decius, on hearing of the dream reinterpreted it saying it was a

fortunate vision. Romans will derive new inspirations from Caesar. Rome will be rejuvenated. The stains of his blood would be preserved for posterity as a relic. It was a tribute to his gallantry.

42 Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar?

Ans Decius was one of the conspirators. As part of the conspiracy, he had been sent to bring Caesar to the senate. So, he uses every possible ploy to convince Caesar to venture forth. He flatters him by ~~or~~ misinterpreting Calpurnia's dream, if he yielded to his wife's baseless fears, he might become the laughing stock. Then throws the final bait, the crown which would be his, if he went, otherwise he might miss it. He overlooks & ignores Calpurnia's beseeching & goes with Decius.

Q Who says "Et tu Brute"? When are these words spoken? Why?

Ans All the conspirators stood around Caesar, take out their daggers & stab him. First Casca, then others & last of all Brutus, whom Caesar loved dearly. When Caesar saw Brutus stabbing him he was shocked beyond words. At his treachery, the mighty Caesar fell & died. His last words 'you too Brutus!' were uttered.

in total bewilderment. It was this treason that brought his end.

What was Metellus Cimber's plea?

Cimber wanted a repeal of his brother's banishment from Rome. He wanted his brother to be forgiven & once again allowed to come back as a rightful citizen of Rome.

How did Antony prove Brutus wrong?

Antony, true to his words, does not blame Brutus or the conspirators directly. But he uses all possible rhetoric devices & gradually unfolds the truth in front of the people & exposes the murderers very cleverly.

Why did Brutus kill Caesar?

He loved Caesar but he loved Rome more. If Caesar lived, the Roman would have become slaves. Caesar was ambitious so he had to be killed. In the interest of the Romans, Caesar had to be assassinated.

What was Antony's purpose behind the funeral speech?

Purpose to rouse the sentiments of the fickle-minded people to take revenge by fighting the conspirators. He gets success as the crowd gets ready for mutiny & rises in revolt to burn the traitor's houses.

Q10: How was Caesar's murder avenged?

Ans: The incited mob becomes mad & they rush to seek the conspirators. There is civil strife. Later, in a battle Brutus & Cassius are defeated by Antony & Octavius. Left with no choice, they commit suicide. This way Caesar's murder was avenged.

LAR

Q11: Shakespeare used supernatural elements at many occasions in the play. What are these elements & what do they contribute to the play?

Ans: Shakespeare used supernatural elements in the play to create an atmosphere of horror or to predict something bad would happen. In Julius Caesar, these elements are portents of evil predicting Caesar's death. A few supernatural elements that came in the play are:

- * Turmoil in nature: A night before Caesar's death murder, there is thunder & lightning proclaiming of impending doom.
- * Calpurnia's ~~dream~~ nightmare: A bad dream seen by Caesar's wife about his murder.
- * Watchmen's dream: Blood rain in Capital, lions giving birth to her cubs in the street of Rome, cries of dead & groaning of ghosts etc. were

considered as bad men in the play.

Q12: What does Antony say in his speech? Why is it more effective than that of Brutus?

A: After making peace with the conspirators & getting their permission, Antony speaks directly to the Roman mob. He pretends that he has not come to praise Caesar & speak against Brutus & the others. However, he just does the opposite. He starts narrating the conquests, glories & trophies that Caesar brought to Rome. He brought many captives, received ransoms & tributes. He wept for the poor & for their cause. In his will, he left his private garden & parks for their use. They were his heroes. Caesar was not all ambitious as he turned down the crown offered to him twice at the ceremony of Lupercal. He conclusively proved that Brutus & other conspirators were liars & murderers. He succeeded in arousing the mob's sympathy for Caesar & directing their anger against the conspirators.

Q13: Explain the following:

Q13: "Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once."

A: One day when Julius Caesar was to go to the Senate House to be crowned as the Emperor of Rome, Calpurnia stopped him from going out of home as she dreamt about the murder of Caesar. Then

Caesar says to Calpurnia that due to the fear of death the cowards experience death every moment during their lifetime while the really brave people die only once.

148: "That every like is not the same, O Caesar, the heart of Brutus yearns to think upon."

Ans: Brutus & Caesar were great friends & Caesar was not aware of the fact that his friend had turned against him & joined the conspirators to kill him. Brutus wanted Caesar to understand that one cannot judge a person's mind so from his appearance.

150: "From you great Rome shall suck
reviving blood & that great men shall
press for tinctures, stains, relics &
cognizance."

Ans: Decius Brutus misinterpreted Calpurnia's dream in such a way that the fearful men removed all fears in Caesar. He said that the blood that came from Caesar signified the new spirit & life that Rome would get if Caesar became the new emperor. He also said that Caesar's fame would reach the whole world & great men of the world would love to keep objects used by Caesar to keep his near memory.

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16Q: But I am Content ----- firmament.

Q: Who is the speaker of these lines?

A: Julius Caesar is the speaker of these lines.

Q: What is another name given to the 'northern star'?

A: Another name given to the 'northern star' is the Pole Star.

Q: Identify the literary device used in the third line.

A: Alliteration — fellow in the firmament

17Q: Now let it work - - - will.

Q: Identify the speaker.

A: Mark Antony is the speaker.

Q: What do you mean by 'Mischief is afoot'?

A: It means the citizens have been incited to rebel.

Q: What is 'the final course of mischief'?

A: The final course taken by mischief is that mutiny has broken out in Rome & Antony has avenged Caesar's death.

18Q: O, pardon me - - - butchers!

Q: What is the 'bleeding piece of earth' referred to here?

A: The place where Caesar's body is kept.

Q: Why was Antony 'meek & gentle'?

A: Antony was 'meek & gentle' as he wished to extract the conspiracy behind Caesar's assassination.

Q2: He was my friend --- man.

Q2: who is the speaker & who is he referring to as his friend?

A: Antony is the speaker. He is referring to Julius Caesar as his friend.

2q: what impact do these lines have on the listeners?

A: The listeners start doubting Brutus' words.

3q: what is the significance of the word 'but' in the context?

A: The word 'but' reflects contradiction in both the speeches.

202: How foolish do --- go.

Q: why was Calpurnia afraid?

A: Calpurnia was afraid because she had a nightmare where Caesar is killed.

2q: Where did Caesar decide to go?

A: Caesar decided to go to the senate.

3q: what does the word 'yield' mean?

A: to give in.