

Shakespeare Unit

Julius Caesar

Checklist

- Famous People - William Shakespeare
- Roman Cities --- Youtube Video -PBS - Roman City - David Macaulay
- Themes of Julius Caesar
- Julius Caesar Comprehension Questions
- Three Paragraph Review

Famous People

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William Shakespeare



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Famous People

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William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare is known as the greatest English writer of all time.

Shakespeare was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. His father, John, was a glove maker and his mother, Mary, came from a farming family. He had two brothers and four sisters. William went to the village school.

In 1582, Shakespeare married a local woman named Anne Hathaway. Their daughter Susanna was born in 1583 and their twins, Hamnet and Judith, were born in 1585.

Nothing is known about Shakespeare's life from 1585 to about 1591. It is known that, by 1592, he was an actor living in London. He started writing poems about this time and later wrote more than 150 sonnets, which were published in 1609. He was also writing plays.

In 1594, Shakespeare and some other actors started a new theatre company. It was sponsored by a wealthy nobleman, the Lord Chamberlain. When James I became king, he sponsored their company and it became known as the "King's Men."

In 1599, the company built a new theatre, called the Globe. Shakespeare was one of its owners. For over 20 years, he wrote about two plays a year for the acting company to perform in the Globe theatre. Everyone, from royalty to peasants, came to see his plays.

Shakespeare became a wealthy man and bought a large house in Stratford. After about 1611, he spent most of his time there. He died on April 23, 1616, and was buried at Stratford. He was 52 years old.

Shakespeare's plays include comedies, tragedies, and histories. Scholars have studied his plays and poems for over 300 years. Some argue about whether he actually wrote some of the plays. Other scholars have tried to discover the identities of the man and woman he wrote about in his sonnets.

Today, all of his plays are still performed and enjoyed by people around the world.



Famous People

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William Shakespeare

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. William Shakespeare's father was a farmer. _____
2. Anne Hathaway came from the same village as Shakespeare. _____
3. A rich nobleman helped Shakespeare start a theater company. _____
4. Only rich people came to see Shakespeare's plays. _____
5. People have been reading Shakespeare's plays for over 300 years. _____

B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. Where was William Shakespeare from? _____
2. What did Shakespeare do when he went to London? _____
3. How was Shakespeare able to start a new theater company? _____
4. What was the name of his theater company? What was the name of his theater? _____
5. What kind of plays did Shakespeare write? _____
6. In addition to plays, what else did he write? _____
7. How long have scholars been studying Shakespeare's writings? _____
8. Which period in Shakespeare's life do scholars know little about? _____



Famous People

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William Shakespeare

VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Choose the word(s) with the closest meaning to the underlined words in the following sentences.

- Shakespeare married a local woman.
a) poor b) from the area c) rich
- Shakespeare wrote more than 150 sonnets.
a) a kind of poem b) a story c) a letter
- A wealthy nobleman sponsored Shakespeare's theater company.
a) English b) from the city c) rich
- A wealthy nobleman sponsored his theater company.
a) attended b) liked c) helped by giving money
- Everyone from royalty to peasants came to see his plays.
a) very poor farmers b) noblemen c) children
- Royalty came to see Shakespeare's plays.
a) teachers b) poor people c) people belonging to a king or queen's family
- Shakespeare was buried at Stratford.
a) born b) put in the ground c) died
- Shakespeare wrote many comedies.
a) funny stories b) sad stories c) long stories
- Shakespeare also wrote many tragedies.
a) poems b) funny stories c) stories with very sad endings
- Scholars have studied his plays for hundreds of years.
a) people who study all their lives b) large schools c) poets



Themes of Julius Caesar

Define OR provide an example

Themes	Examples
Power	
Friendship	
Betrayal	
Revenge	
Leader	
Superstition	
Omen	

Roman Cities

1. Who founded Rome?

2. By the time of Jesus, what area did Rome control?

3. When did the Roman Empire collapse?

4. When was the height of the Roman Empire?

5. What are some similarities between Rome and present day cities?

6. What was the population of Rome?

7. Where were Roman structures built?

8. They built buildings to do what?

9. To the Romans a well planned city began with what?

10. Where were the major public buildings located?

11. What are some things a city needs?

12. What are two things walls did for a city?

13. The gates in the wall led to what?

14. The forum was the focal point for what?

15. What dominated the entire space of the forum?

16. What did the Romans call France?

17. Who was the most famous Roman?

18. Who succeeded the famous Roman?

19. What is a critical priority for any city?

20. What is the key to Aqueduct design?

21. What was important part of Aqueduct design?

22. Where did the water go when it first entered the city?

23. If there was a water shortage, what was the last place that would receive water and why?

24. What were some things the Romans did in the baths?

25. Who used the baths?

26. What did every Roman house have?

27. How could you use your house as a second source of income?

28. What allowed for the wealthy domestic lifestyle so successful?

29. What happened to a chosen few slaves?

30. What have archaeologists not been able to tell apart in Roman cities?

31. What can you see in the mosaics that cover the streets?

32. What are some reasons for establishing a city?

33. What was one of the most popular spots in town?

34. What is the most famous stadium in history?

35. What did the Romans pray to the Gods for?

36. Why were the sidewalks elevated?

37. What was the stated desire for Roman cities?

38. What happened to Roman cities when the empire began to decline?

wers:

Shakespeare wrote these insults as:

taffeta punk

curvy lord

red-tailed bumble-bee

breadbare juggler

mad-headed ape

fat chuff

fat caterpillars

bloodsucker of sleeping men

colding crookback

deformed lump



Story 4: Julius Caesar

At number 4 is one of Shakespeare's *history* plays – *Julius Caesar*.

The Elizabethan playwright Ben Jonson said that Shakespeare knew little Latin and less Greek. In other words he wasn't very well educated in Stratford.

So how could Shakespeare write plays about great Romans like Julius Caesar if he couldn't read the Latin histories? The answer is that he read translations from the Latin into English. Then he changed the history to suit his plays!

For example, Julius Caesar was murdered on March 15th, buried on the 17th and his nephew, Octavius, arrived in Rome two months later. In Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar* these things *all* happen on March 15th. The play is more exciting because things seem to happen more quickly. Great theater, terrible history!

The real "hero" of Julius Caesar is in fact Brutus. As in most tragedies most of the leading characters die. If Brutus had left a suicide note then it might have revealed this story to us . . .

The revenge of Caesar's spirit

These are the final words of my life, I, Brutus, plan to kill myself. My most loyal slave will hold my sword and I shall fall upon it.

My enemies say I have no guts. I'll show them guts. All over the floor.

If I live, then my enemies will only capture me and claim the glory. They will also make sure I die very slowly and very painfully. I'm no coward. I'm not afraid to die. I just can't bear the thought of those men enjoying themselves while I do it. I can just see them now..... eating grapes and drinking wine while I roast over a grill.

Or get smothered in honey and eaten to death by ants. I can't stand ants.

But, as I was saying, my enemies don't deserve the glory of capturing me and killing me. They haven't defeated me. I have been defeated by a dead man. I am haunted by the spirit of Julius Caesar and the only escape is to kill myself.

Julius Caesar was a great man. Make no mistake. Baid, ugly and very big-headed I am also much more modest about my abilities. I am just as good in battle and have more hair still.

I have to admit, he won great victories for the Roman people: he brought us wealth and power across the world. But Rome is ruled by the

JULIUS CAESAR



people. They elect their leaders. Caesar was planning to make himself Emperor of Rome. He was planning to take all that power for himself. He had to die so the people could be free.

He also had to die so I could become the leader, of course. That's why I agreed to take part in the bold plot to murder him. Someone had to be ready to take his place when he died and it might as well be someone noble, brave, modest and hairy like me. I'll never forget that night when Cassius, that thin and cold man visited me as the sky was being torn apart by a storm. I am not afraid of thunder, you understand. I was simply looking for a missing nut that rolled under the couch.

ME



I was scared of the storm? Cassius asked as he marked into my room without knocking. I wriggled out from under the couch. "Just looking for a nut," I explained.

"Finding you should mention that," he laughed. I know where there are twenty of them! Twenty nuts, all crazy to stick a knife in Julius Caesar!"



"Must be a big knife," I gasped. "Twenty knives, one each."

"No," Cassius said with a patient sigh. "Twenty knives. One each."

"Twenty knives!" I cried. "You could kill him! Cassius nodded his thin head. That is the general idea, Brutus," he murmured.

"Kill my friend, Julius Caesar? The noblest Roman of them all? The great and undefeated general? The hero of the Roman people? How could you even think of doing such a thing!" I cried.

Cassius shrugged "We thought we might give his job to you."

"When do we kill him?" I smiled.

"Tomorrow. We stab him in the forum."

"I'd rather stab him in the back," I said. And so it was agreed. They would stab him — and I'd stick the odd knife into him when I was sure he was too dead to fight back. After all, it wouldn't do to risk the life of Brutus, the new leader, would it?

Caesar was my friend. I loved him, but I love the Roman people more. I agreed to the murder, so long as Caesar's greatest supporter, Mark Antony, would not die at the same time. After all, I argued, Caesar was the evil that we needed to cut out.

Later that night I met my fellow conspirators who were unhappy with letting Mark Antony live. I forced them to agree with me. That was my first mistake. I see now that Mark Antony should have died at the same time. Cassius was right.

You will know about the assassination, of course. Caesar made his way to a meeting with us, and was warned by his wife that he was in danger. A fortune teller in the street even warned him, but he ignored them all.



MARK ANTONY



MRS. CAESAR



SOOTH-SAYER

"Beware the Ides of March!" the sooth-sayer sooth-said as sooth sayers often do.

"That's tomorrow," Caesar nodded. "Thanks for the warning, pal," Caesar said.

"Nah! It's today mate!" the sooth-sayer sooth-said.

"Look, buddy you just happen to be talking to the man who invented the Roman calendar. I'm Julius Caesar. They named July after me."

"Is that your name then?" the sooth-sayer sooth-asked. "Julia?"

"Look dope. It's the 14th March today."

"It's the 15th!" the sooth-sayer sooth-argued. "But if you think it's the 14th, then fine. In that case beware the day-before-the-Ides-of-March!" the sooth-sayer sooth-cried.

When Caesar arrived we drew our daggers and each tried to plunge them into him.



As he was dying, Caesar looked at me and his face was twisted with pain. Not the pain from a score of stab wounds. But the pain of knowing that his "honest" friend was also going to betray him. "You too, Brutus?" he asked, and covered his face with his arm so he could not see me strike the final blow.

We allowed Mark Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral. Letting him live was our first mistake. This was our second mistake. The Roman people were whipped into a fury by his speech. We had killed Caesar for love of those people, but they didn't seem to understand! They turned on us and would have murdered us too! I fled with Cassius while Mark Antony formed an army to catch and punish the assassins. He

was joined by Caesar's nephew, Octavius.

One by one the assassins were caught and killed. We were hunted like foxes and haunted by the dreadful deed we'd done.

We gathered an army among Caesar's enemies and tried to defend ourselves. But we were not united. The way Mark Antony and Octavius were united, their hatred for Caesar's killers drove them on.

"Cassius quarrelled with me. It was a silly quarrel. He was upset because I was right and he was wrong. Old Cassius even offered me his dagger so I could kill him as I had killed Caesar."

"Go on. Stick it in. Twist it around a bit. You'll enjoy that, won't you?" I could not kill another man in cold blood.

Anyway, I wanted to stop running, to turn and fight at Philippi. Cassius warned me that our forces were too weak but I wouldn't listen.

I didn't even listen when Julius Caesar himself warned me. For it was his ghost that visited me the night before the battle. "I will see you at Philippi, Brutus," he warned.

"You're planning to be there then?" I asked.

"I'll be there, sunshine, to watch you

suffer defeat."

"Well, if you know the result, there's not a lot of point in me turning up for the battle, is there?" I asked.

"It's your fate," he said.

Now for a moment, I thought he said, "It's your feet." I looked down and saw I'd forgotten to put my slippers on. When I looked up he was gone. Ghosts are like that.

And, sure enough, we lost. Personally I wouldn't have bothered turning up knowing the result in advance as I did, but Cassius was eager to see me there. A bit of moral support, I suppose.

When Cassius heard the battle was lost he threw himself on his

sword. But here's a funny thing. "Hilarious, in fact. The report that we had lost the battle was wrong!

Cassius died because a messenger made a mistake! But without Cassius to lead his forces the battle has finally turned against us.

Antony's army is growing near and so is the time of my death.

Caesar, you were truly a great man. But no man is greater than the Roman people. You had to die. You had to. Now I am coming to join you, Caesar.

"The sword is ready. The spirit of dead Caesar is waiting.

Yours truly,

Brutus



P.S. Just sent the slave to check the blade was sharp. Don't want to have any accidents do we?

P.P.S. Just sent the slave for some wine. My mouth is dry and I can't speak my famous last words.

P.P.P.S. Just sent the slave for some roasted dormice on toast. I don't want to die on an empty stomach. Very unhealthy.

P.P.P.P.S. Slave here. Got fed up with the boss putting off and putting off. I said, "Look at that crow! When he looked up I stabbed him. Got it over with. His famous last words?" "Infamy! Infamy! You all have it in-for-me!"

Did you know . . .

Shakespeare didn't just change historical events to suit the action. He also made careless mistakes about Roman life and didn't seem to care.

In Julius Caesar:

- Shakespeare's characters wore hats, cloaks and doublets just as the Elizabethan audience did, BUT . . . the Romans would have worn togas!
- Shakespeare's Brutus finds the page of a book that he has marked, BUT . . . the real Brutus would have read from a parchment scroll.
- Shakespeare's Brutus listens to the clock chiming the hours, BUT . . . chiming clocks would not be invented for another 1,500 years!

Top Facts 4: Who wrote Shakespeare?

Shakespeare wrote about great Roman characters like Julius Caesar, Mark Antony and Coriolanus. He also wrote wonderful poetry. Over the years since Shakespeare's death, some academics and professors believed that a glover's son from Stratford could not have had the brains or the education to write these plays.

Someone else wrote them, they claim, and then stuck the name of a simple actor on the play. The actor was William Shakespeare, but the real writer of the plays was someone else. Who?

A priest called the Reverend James Wilmot started the trouble about a hundred years after the death of Shakespeare. The Rev. went to Stratford to investigate old records. He couldn't find any letters by Shakespeare, any books owned by him, or any mentions of "Shakespeare the play writer" by other Stratford people of the time. Wilmot also couldn't believe that a glover's son like Shakespeare could go on to become a favorite of a queen and a king. He started the suspicion that Shakespeare's plays weren't written by William Shakespeare.



Julius Caesar Comprehension Questions

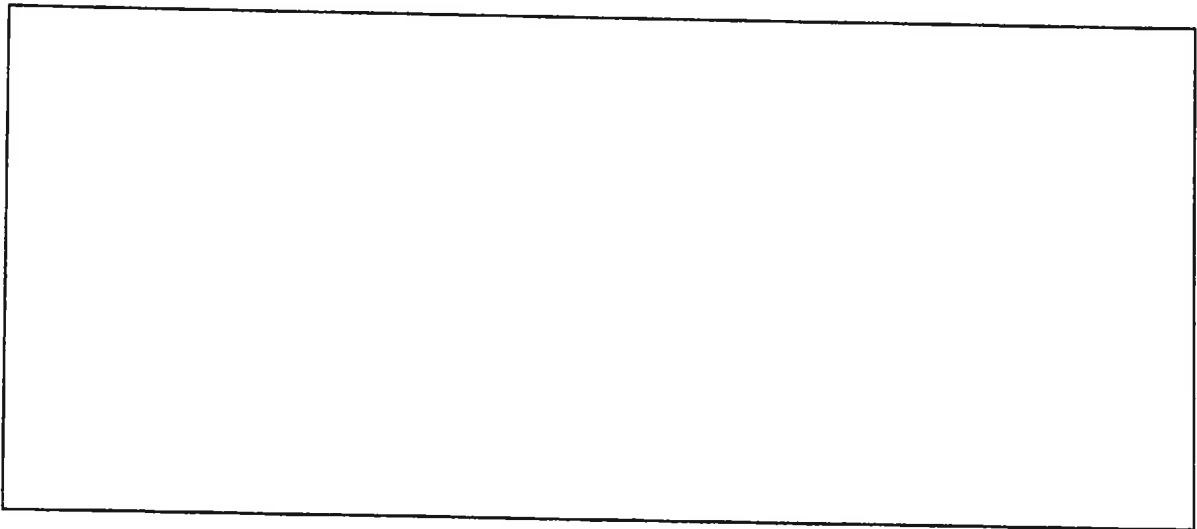
Name _____

1. Identify all the Main Characters

--

2. Who is Brutus haunted by?
3. What is Brutus's opinion of Julius Caesar?
4. Why does Julius Caesar have to die?
5. What was the weather like the night Cassius came to visit Brutus?
6. How many nuts does Cassius say will want to stab Caesar?
7. Where does Brutus want to stab Caesar? Why does Brutus agree to this?
8. Who does Brutus love more Caesar or the Roman people?
9. Who does Brutus not want killed along with Caesar?
10. Who tried to warn Caesar that he was in danger? What was his response to these warnings?
11. What was Caesar's greatest pain when he was stabbed?
12. Who did they allow to speak at Julius Caesar's funeral? Why was this a mistake?

13. Who visited Brutus the night before the battle at Philippi?
14. What did Cassius do when he found out that his troops had lost the battle?
15. Why was killing himself a mistake?
16. In the end what did Brutus do to himself? Why?
17. Identify the bad omens that were presented in the play.
18. Draw picture of the one of the scenes that were described in the short play Julius Caesar by Brutus. (The night of the storm, The battle, The Ghost of Caesar visiting)



19. Who founded Rome?
20. What was the population of Rome?
21. Where were the major public buildings located in Roman cities?
22. What are two things walls did for a Roman city?

Three Paragraph Review --- Example

The author of the story is John Stienbeck. This novel was a good piece of writing because the main characters always got into fights. The best part of the novel was when Lennie crushed Curly's hand. Curly had it coming to him because he was always picking on Lennie. Lennie was the most interesting character because he always nice to everybody and liked to have pets. The dialogue fit the characters because they swore at each other which made their arguments seem real.

The most important character is Lennie because, he was always getting into trouble. This caused George a lot of headaches, because he was always getting him out of trouble. The best scene of the novel was in the barn where Lennie and Curl's wife were talking. Yes the story is easy to follow because it is short and there are only a couple of characters that you have to remember. I was surprised at what happened at the end of the novel, I didn't see that coming.

I would recommend *Of Mice and Men* to everybody. Others should read it because characters get into fights and the language that is used is real, not some fairy tale Disney version of how people fight. I wouldn't change anything, except maybe the ending, although the ending doesn't leave you wondering what happens to Lennie.

Three Paragraph Review

Follow this outline:

Paragraph One - Give the name of the author of the story. Say whether you think it is or isn't a good piece of writing. What is the best part? Why? What makes each important character interesting? Does the dialogue fit the characters?

3-5 sentences

Paragraph Two - Who is the most important character? Why? What is the best scene? Is the story easy to follow? Is the ending satisfying? Where in the story is the best action, description, or dialogue? Support your opinion with a few examples from the story.

3-5 sentences

Paragraph Three - Conclude with your recommendation. Explain why you think it is or isn't something others should read. If you were to suggest one change that the author should make, what would it be? What would you rate this novel? Why?

2-3 sentences

Remember to write in complete sentences.

