

Julius Caesar

by William Shakespeare (Published in 1623)

Approved for use in Grades 10-12

Summary:

William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is a tragedy that explores themes of power, betrayal, and political ethics. The play is set in ancient Rome and centers on the conspiracy to assassinate Julius Caesar, a powerful leader who is perceived by some as a threat to the republic. Key figures include Brutus, a senator who joins the conspiracy out of a sense of duty to Rome, and Mark Antony, Caesar's loyal friend. The assassination leads to political chaos and civil war, culminating in a dramatic and tragic downfall for those involved. The play examines the consequences of political ambition and the complexities of honor and loyalty.

Rationale:

Teaching *Julius Caesar* provides students with a rich exploration of themes such as power, betrayal, and moral ambiguity. The play's examination of political intrigue and the consequences of ambition encourages critical thinking about leadership and ethical decision-making. Additionally, Shakespeare's use of language and dramatic structure offers valuable insights into literary analysis and the historical context of Roman politics. By studying *Julius Caesar*, students can engage with timeless questions about human nature and governance, while also enhancing their appreciation for classical literature and dramatic arts.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

- Resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any Teacher-Librarian to view the scholarly sources.
- Scholarly reviews are also available online. Contact the Teacher-Librarian for guidance.

CREWE, J. V. "SHAKESPEARE'S 'JULIUS CAESAR.'" *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*, no. 37, 1971, pp. 31–44. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41801877>.

Helen Louise Tolman. "Julius Caesar Up to Date." *The English Journal*, vol. 29, no. 10, 1940, pp. 830–32. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/805490>.

Noted Distinction:

Readability

- Lexile Score: 860
- Readability Level: 5

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The film meets the [Learning Resources Guidelines](#) and [Board Policy](#).

Approval:

Submitted to Committee: [September 2024]

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

-This tragedy covers the assassination of Julius Caesar and the suicide completion of Brutus. However, this play has no notable challenges and continues to be considered as a notable work in the canon of high school literature.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Standard Alignment: (Type which standard number then link to specific standard document on OPI website.)

[RL.11-12.2](#)

[RL.11-12.3](#)

[RL.11-12.4](#)

[RL.11-12.10](#)

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

This play may also hold educational value in government classes, AP literature, and social sciences.