

The Tragedy of Julius Caesar

Act II

Vocabulary

- Rhetoric
- Logos
- Pathos
- Ethos
- Blank Verse

What is rhetoric?

- The art or study of **using language effectively** and **persuasively**. [*American Heritage College Dictionary*]
- “Rhetoric may be defined as the faculty of **observing** in any given case the **available means of persuasion**.” [Aristotle]

What are types of appeal?

- There are three types of appeals people use to communicate:
 - **Ethical (Ethos):** the speaker/writer uses language to gain the listener's/reader's trust
 - **Logical (Logos):** the speaker/writer uses facts, details, and information to create a rational argument.
 - **Emotional (Pathos):** the speaker/writer uses emotionally charged words and phrases to “move” the listener/reader.

Using Pathos, Ethos, and Logos in Life

Situation	Ethos	Pathos	Logos
Persuade the teacher to let you go the bathroom because you have to send a very important text message.			
Persuade a police officer to let you off without a ticket because you were trying to make it to the ice cream stand before it closed.			

What is blank verse?

- **Blank Verse:** unrhymed poetry written in Iambic Pentameter
 - **Iambic** – unaccented syllable followed by an accented syllable
 - **Pentameter** – five feet per line (a foot is one beat set in the pattern of accented/unaccented syllables)
 - **Example: By all/ the gods/ that Ro/mans bow/ before**
 - **I here/discard/my sick/ness! Soul/ of Rome**
 - Shakespeare uses blank verse to establish **character rank** in the play
 - Blank verse is generally used for the dialogue of aristocratic/high ranking characters

UNDERSTANDING CHARACTERIZATION IN *JULIUS CAESAR*

Focus on Brutus—

After each detail characterizing Brutus,
choose the letter of the best interpretation.

What is characterization?

- **Characterization** is the process by which a writer reveals the personality of a character.
- Some methods of characterization in Shakespearean plays are
 - letting the audience hear the character speak
 - revealing the character's private thoughts through speeches heard by the audience alone
 - showing how other characters react toward the character.

In a soliloquy—a speech to the audience that reveals a character's private thoughts—Brutus says,

"It must be by his death; and for my part, I know no personal cause to spurn at him,

- But for the general. He would be crowned. How that might change his nature, there's the question." (Scene 1, lines 10-13)
- a. *Brutus is eager to kill Caesar and take his place.*
- b. *Brutus has no strong personal dislike of Caesar.*

Arriving with other conspirators, Cassius tells Brutus,

" . . . no man here

But honors you; and every one doth wish
You had but that opinion of yourself
Which every noble Roman bears of you."

(Scene 1, lines 90-93)

a. Brutus is highly respected in Rome.

b. Brutus is held in low esteem in Rome.

Cassius proposes that the men swear an oath to kill Caesar, but Brutus says the word of a true Roman is enough (Scene 1, lines 114-140).

- a. Brutus is a man who believes in keeping his word.*
- b. Brutus is afraid to have the gods witness the agreement.*

Cassius argues that Mark Antony should also be killed, but Brutus argues against it (Scene 1, lines 162-183).

a. Brutus is timid and fearful.

b. Brutus will consider an execution but not a bloodbath

Review: Act 2.1

- Who said the following: “And therefore think him as a serpent’s egg—Which, hatched, would as his kind grow mischievous—And kill him in the shell”?
- Why is this line important? What does it tell us?



2.1: The Conspirators Show Up

BRUTUS

Let 'em enter

They are the faction. O conspiracy,
Shamest thou to show thy dangerous brow by night
When evils are most free? O, then by day
Where wilt thou find a cavern dark enough
To mask thy monstrous visage? Seek none, conspiracy.
Hide it in smiles and affability.



- What is Brutus saying?
- What should be hidden in “smiles and affability”?

The Conspirators “Pick Their Teams”

- Captain: Brutus
- Major Players: Cassius, Casca, Decius, Cinna, Metellus, Trebonius
- What about Cicero? Should he be on the team?



To Kill Antony or Not to Kill Antony?

DECIUS Shall no man else be touched but only Caesar?

CASSIUS Decius, well urged. I think it is not meet Mark Antony, so well beloved of Caesar, Should outlive Caesar. We shall find of him A shrewd contriver. And, you know, his means, If he improve them, may well stretch so far As to annoy us all; which to prevent, Let Antony and Caesar fall together.

DECIUS But should we only go after Caesar? No one else?

CASSIUS Good point, Decius. I don't think it would be wise to let Mark Antony, whom Caesar is so fond of, outlive Caesar. We'd find that he was a dangerous plotter. And as you know, his connections, if he put them to good use, might be enough to hurt us all. To prevent this, Mark Antony should die along with Caesar

But What does Brutus Say?

Your Turn: Summarize 2.2

- ① 1. Chain of Being: When the natural world is out of order because the God's are unhappy or are planning unfortunate events
 - Find quote that shows Calpurnia believes in chain of being.

- ② 2. Does Caesar accept his death as inevitable?
 - “Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste of death but once...Seeing that death, a necessary end, Will come when it will come.”
Pg. 73

- 3. Is Caesar going to go to the Capitol? Why or Why not?

Act 2:1-2:2 Discussion Qs: Groups

1. Create a list of all of the warning signs that Caesar ignores. What does this suggest about his character?
2. Describe Calpurnia's dream and Decius's reinterpretation of the dream.
3. How does Decius get Caesar to change his mind? What mode of rhetoric? Thus, what might be considered Caesar's tragic flaw?
4. What type of irony unfolds? How does this affect the audience?
5. Compare and contrast Calpurnia and Portia.

2.3 Group Question

- Artemidorus tries to warn Caesar with a letter, “If thou beest not immortal, look about you” (3.1.6)
- Do you think Caesar will listen?

2.4 Group Question

- Builds suspense
- Portia waits around nervously outside the Capitol
- Why do we hardly see any women in the play?

Finish your notes:

Write a summary of Act 2 of four sentences, one for each scene.

Act III

Scene 1

Instructions: Write down the questions. Answer them in your notebook (finish for homework) and study them for the quiz on this Act.

CASSIUS

Why, he that cuts off
twenty years of life

Cuts off so many
years of fearing
death

CASSIUS

Why, the man who
shortens his life by
twenty years cuts
off twenty years of
worrying about
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 marketplace,

And waving our red weapons o'er our heads

Let's all cry, "Peace, freedom, and liberty!"

(3.1.180)

1. What are the men doing?

Antony Finds Caesar



ANTONY

**O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs,
spoils,
Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee
well.**

**I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,
master spirits of this age.**

2. What is Antony's Reaction?

BRUTUS

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...To you our swords have leaden points, Mark Antony.”

3. What is Brutus trying to tell Antony?

4. Why does Antony shake hands with all the men?



ANTONY

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.



ANTONY

That's all I seek: And am moreover
suitor that I may Produce his body to the
market-place; And in the pulpit, as
becomes a friend, Speak in the order of
his funeral.

BRUTUS

Or else were this a savage spectacle:
Our reasons are so full of good regard
That were you, Antony, the son of Caesar,
You should be satisfied.



CASSIUS

(whispers 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?

5. WHY DOESN'T CASSIUS THINK ANTONY SHOULD SPEAK AT THE FUNERAL?

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

CASSIUS

I know not what may fall; I like it not.

BRUTUS

Mark Antony, here, take you Caesar's
body. 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
In the same pulpit whereto I am going,
After my speech is ended.

Brutus

Don't worry about it. I'm going to speak
first and explain why I had to kill
Caesar. I won't let Antony say
anything bad about us.

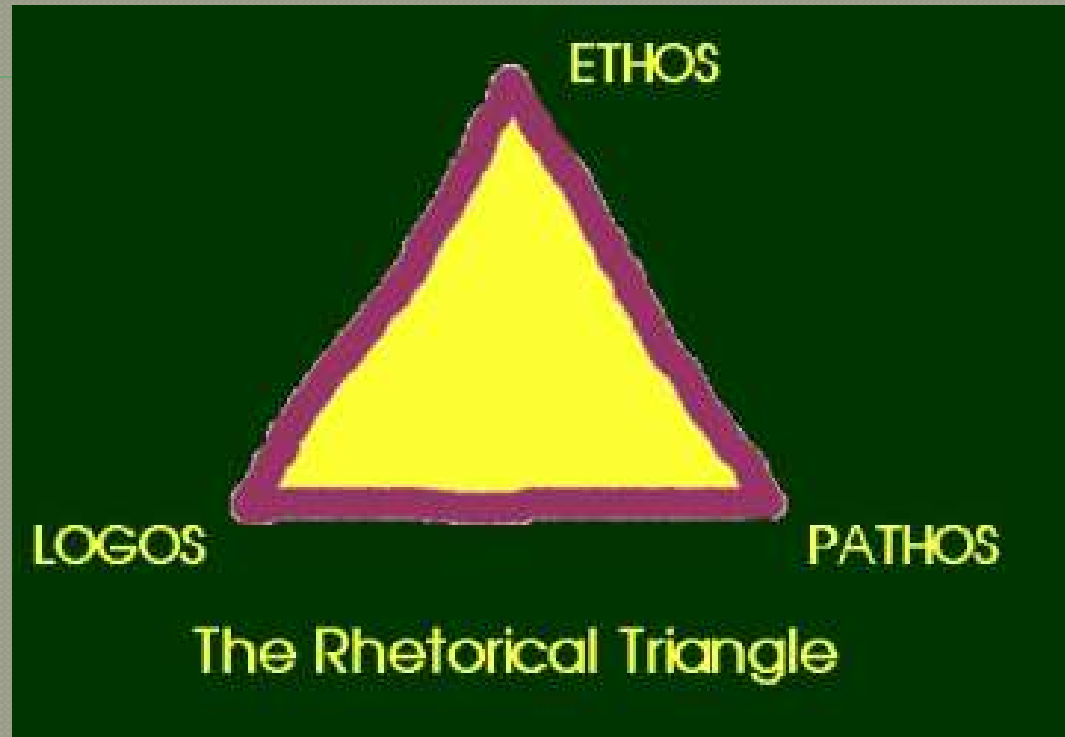
CASSIUS

I don't know what's going to
happen...I don't like it though

BRUTUS

Mark Antony, take Caesar's body.
You will not blame us in your funeral
speech, but will say all the good you
want to about Caesar and that you
do it by our permission. Otherwise,
you'll have no role at all in his
funeral. And by the way, you'll speak
on the same stage as I do, after I'm
done.

6. Predict: What is Antony Going to Say?



Compare and Contrast Sc. II

(CORNELL)

● **7. What did Brutus say to the people at the funeral? Identify at least two examples of ethos, pathos, or logos in his speech.**

● (Answer in your notes)

Scene II continued.

(CORNELL)

- **8. What did Antony say to the people at the funeral in his now famous "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears" speech? Identify at least two examples of ethos, pathos, or logos in his speech.**
- (answer in your notes)

Questions – Act II (remaining)

(CORNELL)

- **9. Why did Brutus and Cassius flee Rome?**
- **10. What is the point of Act III Scene III?**

● (answer here)

Review Questions- Act II

(CORNELL) - OPTIONAL

- Who approaches Caesar with his letter indicating all the conspirators and how they plan to kill Caesar?
- Who draws Antony away so that he will not be able to defend Caesar when they decide to kill him?
- In the moments following Caesar's death, what do the conspirators proclaim to justify their deed?
- Antony's servant brings a message to Brutus. What does he say?
- Under what conditions will Antony speak at the funeral?
- After the conspirators talk with Antony he remains alone and asks Caesar to pardon him for what?

● (answer)