

LITERARY ANALYSIS WORKSHOP

PART 1:

Common Elizabethan Words

Elizabethan Words

An: if

Aught: anything

Beseech: beg

But: only

Durst: dared

Ere: before

Hie: hurry

Hither: here

Mark: notice

Marry: a short form of "by the Virgin Mary," like "Oh my god!"

Prithee: pray thee, or please

Save: except

Soft: wait a minute

Thither: there

Wherefore: why

Whither: when

Withal: also

Try to write at least 5 sentences in Elizabethan English. Try to use as few "modern" words and as many Elizabethan words as possible.

Ex. "Please wait a minute!" → "Prithee, soft!"

"If they want anything, they need only ask." → "An they want aught, they need but ask."

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Part 4:

The following speech is given by Marullus, a Roman official loyal to Caesar's rival, Pompey. As the play opens, Romans take to the streets to celebrate Caesar's victory over Pompey, an occasion that spurs the official's anger. What rhetorical devices does Marullus use in his address to the crowd?

Act 1, scene 1, Lines 36-42 and 48-51

Marullus . . . O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome!

Knew you not Pompey?* Many a time and oft Have you climbed up to walls and battlement, To tow'rs and windows, yea, to chimney tops,

40 Your infants in your arms, and there have set
The livelong day, with patient expectation,
To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome

And do you now put on your best attire?
And do you now cull out* a holiday?
50 And do you now strew flowers in his way
That comes in triumph over Pompey's blood?

***37 Pompey:** a former Roman ruler defeated by Caesar in 48 B.C. Pompey was murdered a year after his defeat.

***49 cull out:** select

1. Consider the use of parallelism in the boxed lines. What words or phrases are parallel?

2. Notice the rhetorical questions that Marullus asks in line 37 and in lines 48-51. Through this rhetorical device, what is he trying to emphasize?

Part 5:

This scene takes place on the streets as Caesar returns from a public festival. Many characters are on stage at the same time, but Brutus and Cassius speak privately in asides, as do Caesar and Antony. Use the stage directions and side notes to help you understand the scene.

Act 1, scene 2, lines 178-201

(Voices and music are heard approaching.)

Brutus. The games are done, and Caesar is returning.

So soon as that spare Cassius. .

..

Cassius. As they pass by, pluck Casca by the sleeves,
180 And he will (after his sour fashion) tell you
What hath proceeded worthy note today.*

(Re-enter Caesar and his train of followers.)

Brutus. I will do so. But look you, Cassius!
The angry spot doth glow on Caesar's brow,
And all the rest look like a chidden train.*
185 Calphurnia's cheek is pale, and Cicero*
Looks with such ferret and such fiery eyes
As we have seen him in the Capitol,
Being crossed in conference by some senators.

181 worthy note: worthy of notice

184 chidden train: a group of followers who have been scolded.

Cassius. Casca will tell us what the matter is.

(Caesar looks at Cassius and turns to Antony.)

190 **Caesar.** Antonius.*

Antony. Caesar?

185-188 Cicero was a highly respected senator. Brutus says he has the angry look of a **ferret** (a fierce little animal), the looks he gets when other senators disagree with him.

Caesar. Let me have men about me that are fat,
Sleek-headed men, and such as sleep o' nights.
Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
195 He thinks too much, such men are dangerous.

190-214 Brutus and Cassius take Casca aside. The conversation Caesar has with Antony is not heard by any of the other characters around them.

Antony. Fear him not, Caesar he's not dangerous.
He is a noble Roman, and well given.*

Caesar. Would he were fatter! But I fear him not. Yet if my
name were liable to fear,
200 I do not know the man I should avoid

197 Antony says that Cassius, despite his appearance, is a supporter of Caesar.

1. Paraphrase what Cassius is saying to Brutus in lines 179-181.
2. Reread the boxed lines and visualize the action unfolding in your mind. Cite details from the stage directions and Brutus' dialogue that helped you form a mental image of the characters' movements.
3. Consider what Caesar says about Cassius in lines 192-195. What do his words reveal about the character traits of Cassius and of Caesar himself?
4. How do you think Caesar will act towards Cassius in the future? Give reasons to support your prediction.