

Julius Caesar Overview / Plot	Added Details	Quotes Use as Evidence	Literary Terms For Analysis	Notes Significance
<p>Point/Topic is the focus of the question.</p> <p>http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/shared/WebDisplay/0,,83574_1_10,00.html</p> <p>Act I, Scene i: (A street in Rome) Because Caesar has returned from his victory over Pompey's sons, the working people of Rome have a day off to celebrate.</p> <p>Flavius and Marullus, two Roman officers, are angered by the celebration because they see Caesar as a threat to Rome's Republican rule.</p> <p>Question: Why does Shakespeare introduce the idea of class division and government? Explain how the conflict in the introduction focuses the play on one of its main themes.</p> <p>Answer (this is your Topic or Point):</p>	<p>The Carpenter and Cobbler are two commoners who are celebrating. The cobbler makes several jokes called puns.</p> <p>It is also the Feast of Lupercal, celebrated on February 15th, a feast "to avert evil spirits and purify the city, releasing health and fertility" in honor of Romulus and Remus, the brother-founders of Rome. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lupercalia</p> <p>"In theory, the tribunes could check the power of the senators and protect the rights of ordinary citizens....Tribunes were also immune from arrest....Consequently, many tribunes were assassinated when they stood in the way of a senator's ambition" (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 7, Perfection edition).</p>	<p>Marullus: "But what trade art thou? Answer me directly" (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.11).</p> <p>Cobbler: "A trade, sir, that I hope I may use with a safe conscience,/ which is indeed, sir, a mender of bad soles" (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.13-14).</p> <p>Flavius: "Thou art a cobbler, art thou?" (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.20).</p> <p>Cobbler: "Truly, sir, all that I live by is with the awl" (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.21).</p> <p>Cobbler: "I am indeed, sir, a surgeon to old shoes. When they are in/great danger, I recover them" (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.23-4).</p>	<p>http://sparkcharts.sparknotes.com/lit/literaryterms/section2.php</p> <p>pun: A play on words that exploits the similarity in sound between two words with distinctly different meanings. sole / soul recover/recover (fix shoes and save or repair souls)</p> <p>Effect of the sole/soul and recover/recover puns: -Adds light humor -Adds dark humor -Provides foreshadowing -To think of the soul creates in the audience a reflection on their own fates, and it touches upon the "pity and fear" that are tragic elements.</p> <p>To allude to souls in great danger foreshadowing of the suffering that Brutus, his wife Portia, and other honorable people will feel. Later, they will be in great danger. See lines 13-14 and 23-24.</p> <p>pun-like joke: all / awl</p> <p>conflict some people-Caesar commoners and tribunes?</p>	<p>Major themes include power, fate, revenge, justice, fairness, death, life, truth, and honor.</p> <p>The struggle for power that is a major theme is shown even in the conflict between the commoners and the tribunes.</p> <p>The foreshadowing of the "bad soles/souls" points to the internal struggle and conflict that Brutus will have later in the play. He naively believes the others and trusts their judgment, not his own. Because he trusts others, he becomes a tragic hero as he falls from honor into disgrace, flees Rome, and finally kills himself because of his "bad" or misguided soul's actions.</p>

Julius Caesar Overview	Added Details	Quotes Use as Evidence	Literary Terms For Analysis	Notes Significance
<p>Point/Topic is the focus of the question</p> <p>Question: Why does Shakespeare introduce foreshadowing in the opening scene? How does that help develop the tragic elements of the play?</p> <p>Answer (this is your Topic or Point):</p>	<p>[Marullus]" reminds the commoners of the days when they used to gather to watch and cheer for Pompey's triumphant returns from battle. Now, however, due to a mere twist of fate, they rush out to celebrate his downfall" (http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/juliuscaesar/section1.rhtml).</p>	<p>Marullus: "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!/ O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome, Knew you not Pompey?" (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.34-6).</p> <p>Marullus: "Many a time and oft/You have climbed up to walls and battlements, /To towers and windows, yea, to chimney tops,/To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome " (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.36-41).</p>	<p>metaphor people=stones hearts=stones</p> <p>hyperbole is exaggeration for effect: "stones" and "worse than senseless things"</p> <p>foreshadowing That the crowd is fickle and are easily swayed and even controlled by others.</p> <p>anachronism: something not in the proper time period</p> <p>Chimney tops existed in Elizabethan England, but not in Rome.</p> <p>Effect of foreshadowing: -The audience sides with the upset of Marullus and understands that Caesar killed people and defeated those who were admired. As a result, the audience also resents Caesar and is more willing to see him assassinated. The crowd's fickleness is easily manipulated by those in power, and the audience awaits the actions and choices of the public as it becomes an angry mob.</p> <p>Effect of anachronism: This reminds the audience that it is a play, not a true history.</p> <p>Literary Terms</p>	<p>If the audience was thinking that the cobbler was funny, or enjoying the banter of the idea of the festival, those sentiments are quickly quenched by the harsh and scolding words (even though they are an exaggeration) of Marullus. The commoners fail to remember that the festival harkens back to the founders of the city; therefore, the principles of their government structure and the idea of who will lead them is at issue here. That theme of power and its limits is an important part of the play.</p> <p>To think of one's own improper sentiments creates in the audience a reflection on their own fates for having improper allegiance and it touches upon the "pity and fear" that are tragic elements. The full tragedy lies, or course in the major characters and, for example, in Brutus' trust in the wrong people. His tragic flaw is in fact this very trust.</p>

Julius Caesar Overview	Added Details	Quotes Use as Evidence	For Analysis	Notes Significance
<p>Point/Topic is the focus of the question</p> <p>They disperse the crowd and remove banners and signs honoring Caesar.</p> <p>Question: Why do the characters talk of limiting the power of Caesar? How does that foreshadow the action in the play? Explain how the mentioning of this in the introduction focuses the reader on one of its main themes.</p> <p>Answer (this is your Topic or Point):</p>	<p>Flavius and Marullus want to limit the power of Caesar.</p>	<p>Flavius:</p> <p>“...let no images/Be hung with Caesar’s trophies. I’ll about/And drive away the vulgar from the streets./ So do you too, where you perceive them thick./ These growing feathers plucked from Caesar’s wing/ Will make him fly an ordinary pitch,/ Who else would soar above the view of men/ And keep us all in servile fearfulness” (<u>Julius Caesar</u> 1.1.67-74).</p>	<p>metaphor crowd=feathers</p> <p>The thick crowd are “growing feathers” or adding to the wings of Caesar and the height to which Caesar can soar.</p> <p>metaphor Caesar=bird / wing=army</p> <p>Caesar is compared to a bird. Consider him like an eagle or a falcon that flies high and hunts other prey below.</p> <p>He makes others below afraid, like a falcon hunting pigeons or other birds.</p> <p>Foreshadowing Caesar-limiting his power</p> <p>Effect of foreshadowing and metaphor: The effect of these lines and these literary elements is to make eager the audience’s appetite for the assassination of Caesar, and to create in the audience an anticipation of the violence.</p>	<p>The reader knows-- since history is clear on the fact-- that Caesar is assassinated. Shakespeare makes use of this foreknowledge of the audience to promote a sense of urgency and fate that Caesar will be slain. Rather than being a hunting bird, or perhaps even a god, he will be reduced to a more normal state--that of an average bird, or of a mortal man--one who can, and must, die. His death will be the freedom from fear and from being only servants. The theme of power and its limits is expressed in these actions, and Shakespeare expresses well that power must have limits, though seeking to control that power does have its consequences.</p>

Study Questions To Accompany the *Julius Caesar* Study Sheet, Act I, Scene I Name _____ Date _____ # _____

(All questions are one point each for your homework grade.)

1. What are Flavius and Marullus so upset at the commoners for?
2. Write down a few puns from the exchange between the cobbler, Flavius, and Marullus. What is the scene about? See line 14.
3. Look at Marullus' speech. Summarize the main points here.
4. Why is Marullus against Julius Caesar?
5. What does Flavius say at the end of the scene?
6. How does Shakespeare make the common people appear less than noble?
7. What action do Flavius and Marullus take to correct the behaviors of the commoners, and what is their overall goal regarding Caesar?
8. How does this scene set up the major conflict of the play?

This is a sample PEAS paragraph using material from this packet.

PLEASE NOTICE that the format of PE,EA,S is used so that the reader can more easily relate the evidence to the analysis. With more material, you may need to or may want to create variations of structure like this.

Question: Why do the characters talk of limiting the power of Caesar? How does that foreshadow the action in the play? Explain how the mentioning of this in the introduction focuses the reader on one of its main themes. Response is below.

[Topic Sentence / Point] In the opening scene of William Shakespeare's The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, the characters Flavius and Marullus talk of limiting the power of Julius Caesar because they are tribunes, whose role in the Roman government is to "protect the rights of ordinary citizens" and because they feel that Caesar has grown too powerful and is acting like a dictator (Julius Caesar 7, Perfection edition). The need to limit power is one of the themes of this play. **[Evidence]** The displeasure of Flavius and Marullus are not at first clearly focused against Caesar. The reader notices only that these tribunes are annoyed by the festive spirit of the commoners and the decorations on the statues. The Cobbler's pun about being a "mender of bad soles" (Julius Caesar 1.1.13-14) seems funny at the time we hear it, but it foreshadows the violence and soul-wrenching that many characters like Brutus and Portia will feel later. The characters Flavius and Marullus make it clearer why they are angry when Marullus mentions that Pompey was a general that the commoners once cheered for—a good man whose army has been defeated by the power-hungry Caesar. Marullus says, "You blocks, you stones, you worse than senseless things!/ O you hard hearts, you cruel men of Rome, Knew you not Pompey?" (Julius Caesar 1.1.34-6). And he continues, "Many a time and oft/You have climbed up to walls and battlements,/To towers and windows, yea, to chimney tops,/....To see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome" (Julius Caesar 1.1.36-41). **[Analysis]** Shakespeare uses the metaphors of people and their hearts and minds being like stones "You blocks, you stones" (Julius Caesar 1.1.34) to show how hard-hearted the commoners are. Although this is hyperbole, an exaggeration for effect, it does make the audience realize that the cobbler and the carpenter are not necessarily right in celebrating. The cobbler and carpenter are "block-heads" or stupid for being excited. While it is true that it is also the Feast of Lupercal, their cheer for Caesar may be misplaced. The Feast of Lupercal, celebrated on February 15th, is a feast "to avert evil spirits and purify the city, releasing health and fertility" in honor of Romulus and Remus, the brother-founders of Rome (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lupercalia>). In the minds of the ignorant and forgetful commoners, this festival is just a fun time, yet they have failed to remember the traditions of Rome and the principles upon which it was founded and by which it should continue, as Flavius and Marullus believe. The greater power of Caesar will result in less power for the commoners and the tribunes. The excitement of the carpenter and cobbler also foreshadows, unfortunately, that the crowd of commoners will later be fickle and that they will act unpredictably later in the play. The effect is to make the audience anxious about any positive outcome. **[Evidence]** The clearest and most direct evidence of the need and desire to limit the power of Caesar is spoken by Flavius. He says, "let no images/Be hung with Caesar's trophies. I'll about/And drive away the vulgar from the streets./ So do you too, where you perceive them thick./ These growing feathers plucked from Caesar's wing/ Will make him fly an ordinary pitch,/ Who else would soar above the view of men/ And keep us all in servile fearfulness" (Julius Caesar 1.1.67-74). **[Analysis]** His use of the metaphor of the crowd like the feathers on the wing and of Caesar like a superior bird above them has the effect of reminding the reader that Caesar's power is only in the people who support him. Also, a wing can refer to part of an army; therefore, any reduction in the number of troops (or supporters) would also limit his power. These lines all foreshadow the inevitable demise of Caesar, and the effect is both to excite and to upset the audience for the violence that will follow. **[Significance]** If, at the opening of the play, the audience is thinking that the cobbler is funny or is enjoying the banter of the idea of the festival, those sentiments are quickly quenched by the harsh and scolding words (even though they are an exaggeration) of Marullus. For the audience to reflect on their own improper sentiments creates in the audience a reflection on their own fates for having improper allegiance and it touches upon the "pity and fear" that are tragic elements. Overall, the audience sides with the upset of Marullus and understands that Caesar killed people and defeated those who were admired. As a result, the audience also resents Caesar and is more willing to see him assassinated. The crowd's fickleness is easily manipulated by those in power, and the audience awaits the actions and choices of the public as it becomes an angry mob. The reader knows—since history is clear on the fact— that Caesar is assassinated. Shakespeare makes use of this foreknowledge of the audience to promote a sense of urgency and fate that Caesar will be slain. Rather than being a hunting bird like an eagle or a falcon, or perhaps even a god, he will be reduced to a more normal state—that of an average bird, or of a mortal man—one who can, and must, die. His death will be the freedom from fear and from being only servants. With the final lines from Flavius, the theme that power must be limited is brought into full focus for the audience. If unlimited authority is not checked, the republican form of government is in jeopardy, and the people risk being slaves to the power of one man.

Original Sample PEAS paragraph

Question: How are puns used by Shakespeare to add humor and to touch upon other elements of the play?

(A +) Version

(POINT – TOPIC SENTENCE) In William Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, the author uses puns to add humor, but more importantly, he wants to foreshadow what will happen later in the play and to deepen the tragedy felt by the audience.

EVIDENCE Early in the play, Flavius asks the cobbler his profession, and he replies that he, is “a mender of bad soles,” (Julius Caesar 1.1.13). The cobbler adds, “when they are in great danger, I re-cover them” (Julius Caesar 1.1.23-4).

ANALYSIS The audience knows that it is a pun and that the cobbler is also talking about mending the souls of people. He also covers over or “re-covers” the shoe bottom, but he also takes people who are in “great danger” and recovers their souls. This is darkly humorous to the audience, but the most important effect is not to provoke laughter as much as it is to make the audience anticipate and to dread the assassination of Julius Caesar and the heart-wrenching pain that Brutus and others feel later.

SIGNIFICANCE The soul-mending that Brutus wants cannot be achieved, of course, and so he runs on his sword to end his misery. The pain that Portia, his wife, will later endure as she swallows coals is also an expression of her spiritual suffering. Their souls--though once as pure as fresh soles nailed on a pair of shoes by the cobbler --cannot be repaired. Shakespeare knows that by introducing the pun and the idea of the troubled souls that he can deepen the emotional chasm, and through humor, anticipation, and dread make more profound the tragedy in this play.

(A) Version

Jordan Sunny

(POINT – TOPIC SENTENCE) In William Shakespeare’s The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, the author uses puns to add humor. He wants to foreshadow what will happen later in the play and wants the audience to emotionally feel the tragedy.

EVIDENCE In the play, the cobbler says to Flavius that he is “a mender of bad soles,” (Julius Caesar 1.1.13) and “when they are in great danger, I re-cover them” (Julius Caesar 1.1.23-4).

ANALYSIS The audience knows that it is a pun. The cobbler is talking about mending the souls of people. He also covers over or “re-covers” the shoe bottom, but he also takes people who are in “great danger” and recovers their souls. This is humorous to the audience, but the most important effect is not to cause laughter as much as it is to make the audience expect and to worry about the assassination of Julius Caesar and the pain that Brutus and others feel later.

SIGNIFICANCE The soul-mending that Brutus wants cannot be achieved, of course, and so he runs on his sword to end his misery. The pain that Portia, his wife, will later endure as she swallows coals is also an expression of her spiritual suffering. Their souls--though once as pure as fresh soles nailed on a pair of shoes by the cobbler --cannot be repaired. Shakespeare knows that by introducing the pun and the idea of the troubled souls that he can deepen the emotional chasm, and through humor, anticipation, and dread make more profound the tragedy in this play.