

Death on the Ides of March

Directions: Act 3, scene 1, presents the play's major turning point, the assassination of Caesar. Use the following questions to analyze the scene.

1. What dramatic effects does Shakespeare achieve in the scene's opening lines?
2. What irony do you see in Caesar's last speech, which begins, "I could well be moved."
3. Earlier, in act 2, scene 1, Brutus presented the assassination as a sacrifice, not just a brutal murder. What action in act 3, scene 1, echoes that view?
4. How does the scene of the assassination relate to Calphurnia's dream?
5. What does the scene reveal about Mark Antony?
6. What does Mark Antony say he wants to do? How do Brutus and Cassius react?
7. When all the conspirators have left the scene, Antony delivers a soliloquy. What does he say?
8. In the light of the soliloquy, what do you expect Antony to attempt in his speech at Caesar's funeral?