

Focus on Brutus

Directions: Read act 2, scene 1, of *Julius Caesar*, and answer the following questions.

1. Reread Brutus's soliloquy near the beginning of the scene. How would you summarize his thoughts? What images recur? Does the scene cause you to admire him?
2. Why do Cassius and the other men come to see Brutus?
3. Why does Brutus object to involving Cicero in the conspiracy?
4. How would you summarize the comments about Mark Antony?
5. What strange language does Brutus use in discussing the killing of Caesar?
6. Why is Portia worried about Brutus? What does she want from him?
7. What words would you use to describe Portia? Why?
8. What does the closing conversation between Legarius and Brutus emphasize?

Meet Marcus Brutus

Directions: Act 2, scene 1, presents Brutus much as the Roman historian Plutarch depicted him in the history he wrote not many years after the assassination. Shakespeare shows Brutus in several roles—as a master of a high-ranking household, as a citizen, as a coconspirator against Caesar, and as a husband. Use the chart below to identify what you learn about Brutus in each role.

Role	Brutus's Character and Personality
1. Household master	
2. Citizen	
3. Conspirator	
4. Husband	