

***Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare** (Published by Washington Square Press)

Approved for use in Communication Arts II

Summary

After defeating the forces of the Roman general Pompey, Caesar returns in triumph to Rome. Fearing that Caesar has ambitions to be king, Cassius and some of the other senators plot to kill him. Ignoring the warnings of his wife and other omens, he goes to the Capitol on the ides of March and is assassinated by the senators, one of whom is Brutus, who has been a friend and supporter. The rest of the play involves the struggle for power between the forces of Brutus and Cassius and of Antony and Octavius, the latter being victorious.

Connection to the Curriculum

The play is a piece of classical literature that is a part of the collective knowledge of high school graduates. The play serves as a vehicle for analyzing literary elements such as character development, theme, irony, dialogue, and poetic devices. Students benefit from an in-depth exploration of the stage directions and language constructs that drive the action of the play, in addition to a review of Shakespearean theater basics. It offers sophomore students opportunities to analyze persuasive techniques (a critical element in preparation for the state writing assessment) and serves as a means to discuss and evaluate moral issues in light of what is good for the State.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Writing: 3.1- The students use writing as a tool for learning throughout the curriculum.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.11- The student uses information from the text to make inferences and draw conclusions.

1.4.14- The student explains and analyzes cause-effect relationships in appropriate-level narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive texts.

1.4.15- The student uses paraphrasing and organizational skills to summarize information.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student identifies and describes different types of characters.

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social, and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and its influence on characters and events in the story.

2.1.3- The student analyzes and evaluates how the author uses various plot elements.

2.1.4- The student analyzes themes.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices.

2.1.6- The student recognizes ways that literature from different cultures presents similar themes.

Writing:

3.1- The student writes effectively for a variety of audiences, purposes, and contexts.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

The story of Julius Caesar involves battles, death, omens, bloody dreams, and plots for revenge. These are told in typical Shakespearean style.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities