

William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* Performance Adaptation Project

Character & Plot Development Worksheet

Assignment: Groups of students will rewrite and perform Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* by adapting it to one of the themes listed below. Circle the scenario upon which you and your group plan to base your play.

1. Pretend each character in the play is a current political figure. Which character would be which politician? Why? How would they behave/speak as a result? What is the motivation for their actions?
2. Pretend each character in the play is an animal. Which character would be which animal? Why? How would they behave/speak as a result? What is the motivation for their actions?
3. Pretend each character in the play is a stereotypical teenager. Which characters would belong to which social "groups"? Why? How would they behave/speak as a result? What is the motivation for their actions?
4. Develop your own scenario and define the characters. Your ideas **MUST** be submitted in writing and approved in advance.

Names of each group member:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Directions: Define each character listed below according to the theme you and your group have selected. Use the questions following each scenario to define the character. Don't forget to consider: What is the motivation of each character? Were the characters and their actions justified? What is each character's tragic flaw and how did they bring their problems upon themselves? If you select #4, you will need to devise your own questions. Include the name that you will give each character in your version of the play.

Major Characters:

Julius Caesar — _____

Antony — _____

Brutus — _____

Cassius — _____

Octavius — _____

Minor Characters:

Other conspirators (min. 2)

#1 _____ — _____

#2 _____ — _____

Other characters (2-3)

_____ — _____

_____ — _____

_____ — _____

Directions: Define the plot and the effects according to the theme you and your group have selected. Use a separate sheet of paper to describe each.

Plot:

1. List the events in Shakespeare's play that you believe are most important and **MUST** be included in your version.
2. Describe how you will apply the scenario that you have chosen to the events listed above. (For example: How will your Cassius convince your Brutus to join the conspiracy? What is the reason your Cassius and your Brutus fear your Caesar?) *Don't forget to consider: What is the motivation of each character? Were the characters and their actions justified? What is each character's tragic flaw and how did they bring their problems upon themselves?*

Effects:

1. What costumes might your characters wear? Describe how your ideas would enhance the audience's understanding of the play.
2. What might your sets look like? Describe how your ideas would enhance the audience's understanding of the play.
3. What might your props be and how might they look? Describe how your ideas would enhance the audience's understanding of the play.
4. What music or sound effects might you use? Where and how would they be used? Describe how your ideas would enhance the audience's understanding of the play.
5. What other effects might you use? Describe how your ideas would enhance the audience's understanding of the play.