The Grammardog Guide to
The Tragedy of
Julius Caesar
by William Shakespeare

All quizzes use sentences from the play.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.
About Grammardog

Grammardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Grammardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book a great book. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Grammardog’s strategy is to put the author’s words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.

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# THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR by William Shakespeare – Grammar and Style

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**SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR** by William Shakespeare

**EXERCISE 5  COMPLEMENTS**

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

- **d.o.** = direct object
- **i.o.** = indirect object
- **p.n.** = predicate nominative
- **o.p.** = object of preposition
- **p.a.** = predicate adjective

**ACT I**

___1. Beware the *ides* of March.

___2. *Vexed* I am of late with passions of some difference, conceptions only proper to myself, which give some soil, perhaps, to my behaviors . . .

___3. Calpurnia’s cheek is *pale*, and Cicero looks with such ferret and such fiery eyes as we have seen him in the Capitol, being crossed in conference by some senators.

**EXERCISE 6  PHRASES**

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

- **par** = participial
- **ger** = gerund
- **inf** = infinitive
- **appos** = appositive
- **prep** = prepositional

**ACT I**

___1. Go you down that way *toward the Capitol*; this way will I.

___2. The torrent roared, and we did buffet it with lusty sinews, *throwing it aside* and stemming it with hearts of controversy.

___3. I, as Aeneas, *our great ancestor*, did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder the old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber did I the tired Caesar.

**EXERCISE 9  STYLE: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Identify the figurative language in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

- **p** = personification
- **s** = simile
- **m** = metaphor
- **o** = onomatopoeia
- **h** = hyperbole

**ACT I**

___1. And when you saw his chariot but appear, have you not made an universal shout, that *Tiber trembled underneath her banks* to hear the replication of your sounds made in her concave shores?

___2. If the tag-rag people did not clap him and *hiss* him, according as he pleased and displeased them, as they use to do the players in the theater, I am no true man.
SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR by William Shakespeare

3. This rudeness is a sauce to his good wit, which gives men stomach to digest his words with better appetite.

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS, SYMBOLS, AND ANACHRONISMS

Identify the type of allusion used in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. anachronism b. mythology c. literature d. monarchy/royalty e. superstition/omens

ACT I

1. Forget not in your speed, Antonius, to touch Calpurnia; for our elders say the barren, touched in this holy chase, shake off their sterile curse.

2. I, as Aeneas, our great ancestor, did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder the old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber did I the tired Caesar.

3. I saw Mark Antony offer him a crown – yet ‘twas not a crown neither, ‘twas one of these coronets . . .

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE I

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tide of times.
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy
(Which like dumb mouths do ope their ruby lips
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue),
A curse shall light upon the limbs of men;
Domestic fury and fierce civil strife
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;
Blood and destruction shall be so in use,
And dreadful objects so familiar,
That mothers shall but smile when they behold
Their infants quartered with the hands of war,
All pity choked with custom of fell deeds;
And Caesar’s spirit, ranging for revenge,
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,
Shall in these confines with a monarch’s voice
Cry “Havoc,” and let slip the dogs of war,
That this foul deed shall smell above the earth
With carrion men, groaning for burial. (Act III, Scene i)

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.
SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE TRAGEDY OF JULIUS CAESAR by William Shakespeare

1 O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
2 That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
3 Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
4 That ever lived in the tide of times.
5 Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
6 Over thy wounds now do I prophesy
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20 Cry “Havoc,” and let slip the dogs of war,
21 That this foul deed shall smell above the earth
22 With carrion men, groaning for burial.
Sample Exercises - *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

1. The underlined words in Line 4 are examples of . . .
   a. assonance and consonance
   b. assonance and alliteration
   c. consonance and alliteration

2. Lines 7-8 contain an example of . . .
   a. metaphor
   b. simile
   c. personification
   d. hyperbole

3. Line 18 contains an example of . . .
   a. allusion
   b. personification
   c. metaphor
   d. analogy

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JULIUS CAESAR, Roman statesman and general OCTAVIUS, Triumvir after Caesar's death, later Augustus Caesar, first emperor of Rome
MARK ANTONY, general and friend of Caesar, a Triumvir after his death
LEPIDUS, third member of the Triumvirate
BRUTUS, leader of the conspiracy against Caesar
CASSIUS, instigator of the conspiracy
CASCA, conspirator against Caesar
TREBONIUS, " " "
CAIUS LIGARIUS, " " "
DECIUS BRUTUS, " " "
METELLUS CIMBER, " " "
CINNA, " " "
CALPURNIA, wife of Caesar
PORTIA, wife of Brutus
CICERO,

Portion of Adjectives to Describe the Characters in Julius Caesar
Quotations (Full)
All About Et tu, Brute?
How to Pronounce the Names in Julius Caesar.

Julius Caesar: Plot Summary. Act 3, Scene 1
Caesar and his train approach the Senate. He sees the soothsayer in the crowd and confidently declares, "The ides of March are come" (1). "Ay, Caesar; but not gone" (2), replies the soothsayer. Artemidorus is also on the street and he pleads with Caesar to read his scroll. But Caesar ignores him and enters the Senate. Cassius approaches him with a request to overturn a previous ruling and let a banished countrymen return home. So after all we see that intellect is necessary to the highest moral action." (J. D. Snider. The Tragedy of Julius Caesar by Shakespeare) Read on...
Scene 2. CAESARâ€™s house. Scene 3. A street near the Capitol. Scene 4. Another part of the same street, before the house of BRUTUS. Act III. Scene 1. Rome.