

Julius Caesar

William Shakespeare

This extract is from Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar. Julius Caesar has just been stabbed by a group of very important men – including Brutus, who he thought was his friend – and has just been called a traitor. They said that he was too ambitious and wanted to be king. His real friend, Marc Antony, cannot say that Caesar was a good man or he would be called a traitor too, but he makes this speech at Caesar's funeral.

- 1 Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.
- 9 Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest –
For Brutus is an honourable man;
So are they all, all honourable men –
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.
- 13 He was my friend, faithful and just to me:
But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.
- 16 Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.
- 21 I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,
But here I am to speak what I do know.
You all did love him once, not without cause:
What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him?
- 25 O judgement! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me.

Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Circle the correct option to complete this sentence. These words are spoken by:

Julius Caesar Brutus the people Marc Antony.

2b

1 mark

2 “The good is oft interred with their bones”

Which of the following is closest in meaning to the phrase “oft interred”? Tick **one**.

sometimes celebrated often buried
often celebrated often interested

2a

1 mark

3 What is the “grievous fault” that Caesar is accused of?

2d

1 mark

4 Which of the following is closest in meaning to the phrase “under leave of Brutus”? Tick **one**.

I must say goodbye to Brutus when Brutus has gone
under Brutus’s tree with Brutus’s permission

2a

1 mark

5 **Find** and **copy** a short quotation from the speech that tells you why Brutus thought Caesar was a bad man.

2d

2 marks

6 Why do you think it is important to the speaker to say these words to this audience?

2d

2 marks

7 Using information from the text, tick **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The speaker has come to the funeral to praise Caesar, not to bury him.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brutus said that Caesar was ambitious.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The speaker thinks that Caesar was ambitious.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The speaker is challenging the listeners to mourn for Caesar because they used to think he was a good man.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2b

1 mark

8 Underline the words that say that people are not thinking about what they are doing.

“What cause withhold you then, to mourn for him?”

*O judgement! thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason.”*

2d

1 mark

9 Based on what you have read, do you think the speaker believes that Brutus is a good man?

Yes No

Explain your answer using evidence from the speech.

2d

1 mark