

Make a copy of this document and title it Act IV Reading Skill Activity - Julius Caesar, make sure it's in your shared folder, then complete the assignment.

Name:

The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, Act IV, by William Shakespeare

Reading: Read Between the Lines

When reading Shakespearean drama, you need to read between the lines to find the deeper meaning of a character's words or actions.

- Keep the larger situation in mind as you read. For instance, early in Act IV, Antony describes Lepidus as "Meet to be sent on errands." Note that Antony has been deciding which of his political rivals will die and which will share power. Between the lines, he is saying, "Fit to run errands—and nothing else."
- Follow indirect references. For example, when Lucilius reports on Cassius, Brutus says, "Thou has described / A hot friend cooling." "A hot friend" refers to Cassius, whom Brutus worries is no longer his ally.

Make sure that you use a distinctly different and easily readable font color for your work.

DIRECTIONS: Using your ability to read between the lines and to understand the characters and situations in Act IV, answer the following questions.

1. Parts
 - a. A. In the opening lines of Act IV, Scene i, Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus discuss which Romans must die. What specific individuals do they mention as being marked for death?
 - b. B. What does this conversation reveal about the characters of these three men?
2. Parts
3. Parts
 - a. A. Why is Cassius so shocked when he finally hears the news of Portia's death from Brutus? What does Cassius mean when he says, "How scap'd I killing when I cross'd you so?"
 - b. B. In lines 146–191 of Act IV, Scene iii, how does Brutus react to the death of his wife, Portia? What does his reaction reveal about his commitment to the philosophy of Stoicism?