



JULIUS CAESAR VOCABULARY

Academic and content-specific vocabulary words support reading comprehension and may appear across a variety of materials, in language arts and in content areas. Understanding academic vocabulary may contribute to improved performance on assignments and assessments, as these words appear often in directions. General academic words are important in all subjects—reading, writing, grammar, morphology, and spelling. Read the information related to the vocabulary word(s) and then, **look up the definitions for the vocabulary words. Put the definitions IN YOUR OWN WORDS rather than merely copy/paste.**

1

In Shakespeare's plays, characters sometimes make speeches when they are alone on stage. These soliloquies reveal a character's private thoughts and are a means of providing important information to the audience. In Act 1, Scene 2, Cassius delivers a soliloquy that reveals a plot to influence Brutus to participate in the conspiracy to overthrow Caesar. It involves sending letters to Brutus that express the Romans' high regard for him. Related to soliloquies are asides—comments made to the audience that cannot be heard by other characters present on stage. These asides appear in brackets. As you continue to read, look for other soliloquies and asides that impart important information to the audience. An additional type of speech is a monologue. *Monos* is a Greek root meaning "one or a single thing." *Monos* is the root of words referring to one thing. A monocle is a single eye lens someone might wear. In the play *Julius Caesar*, the most well-known monologue is delivered by Caesar's friend Mark Antony.

SOLILOQUY: _____

ASIDE: _____

MONOLOGUE _____

DIALOGUE _____

2

Rome until Caesar's day was a republic. It was not a full democracy, but it wasn't a kingdom either. The Romans were very proud that they weren't ruled by kings, and many feared the return of a single ruler, such as a king or a tyrant. At the same time, many in Rome were shut out of politics and felt unrepresented by their government, especially by the wealthy landowners who constituted the Senate and its supporters. The people who were feeling left out liked the pledges of charismatic leaders such as Caesar to do something about the state's problems and their own misfortunes, even if it meant overthrowing the republican government. The Roman people admired Caesar as a war hero and a strong leader. In 46 BC, they elected him dictator of Rome. A dictator is a ruler with complete control. In that time, dictators were temporary rulers elected in times of crisis, but Caesar was elected because of his popularity. The last Roman dictator had been elected almost 150 years earlier, at the end of the second Punic War. Caesar used his power to make many changes in Rome, often without approval from the Senate. He instituted the Julian calendar of 365¼ days. Caesar's calendar is closely related to the calendar we use today. The month of July is named in honor of Caesar. One year after his election as dictator, the Roman people elected Caesar "dictator for life." The Roman senators were outraged at Caesar's power and popularity. On March 15, 44 BC, Caesar was met by a mob of sixty senators who stabbed the dictator to death.

REPUBLIC: _____

DICTATORSHIP _____

IDEALISM : _____

3

The calendar used during the time the story takes place was based on the phases of the moon. The Ides of March is a significant date in the play and a date on which Julius Caesar is warned by a soothsayer..

IDES OF MARCH,: _____

SOOTHSAYER: _____