

## Remote Learning Packet

*NB: Please keep all work produced this week. Details regarding how to turn in this work will be forthcoming.*

**April 6 - April 10, 2020**

**Course:** 7 Literature & Composition

**Teacher(s):** Mr. Binder [jared.binder@greatheartsirving.org](mailto:jared.binder@greatheartsirving.org)

### **Weekly Plan:**

Monday, April 6

- ☐ Read Brutus' soliloquy and try to understand both Shakespeare's writing and Brutus' reasons why he believes Caesar must die.
- ☐ Ask others how they would translate Shakespeare's words.
- ☐ Make a list of Brutus' arguments.
- ☐ Continue memorizing Brutus' soliloquy found in Act2,Sc.1, lines 10-36 of Julius Caesar.

Tuesday, April 7

You will begin writing the 1st draft of your essay today. Whatever you do not finish on the checklist below will be homework tomorrow.

- ☐ Write your opening paragraph. Be sure to make a claim in it.
- ☐ Write the body of your essay. This should be 1-3 paragraphs in length.
- ☐ Write your concluding paragraph.
- ☐ Continue memorizing Brutus' soliloquy found in Act2,Sc.1, lines 10-36 of Julius Caesar.

Wednesday, April 8

- ☐ Finish the first draft of your essay. Make sure everything from yesterday's checklist is complete.
- ☐ Have a parent, sibling, or classmate read your 1st draft,edit it and make suggestions on how to improve it.
- ☐ Continue memorizing Brutus soliloquy found in Act2,Sc.1, lines 10-36 of Julius Caesar

Thursday, April 9

- ☐ Write your 2nd draft of the essay keeping in mind the feedback you got from the person who read and edited your 1st draft.
- ☐Correct any spelling errors.
- ☐Correct any grammar errors.
- ☐Correct any punctuation and capitalization errors.
- ☐Correct any run-on sentences and fix any sentence fragments.
- ☐Continue memorizing Brutus soliloquy found in Act2,Sc.1, lines 10-36 of Julius Caesar

Friday, April 10

☐ No School. No homework.

### **Statement of Academic Honesty**

I affirm that the work completed from the packet is mine and that I completed it independently.

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Student Signature

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Parent Signature

I affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, my child completed this work independently.

## **Monday, April 6**

Refer back to the homework I gave you last Thursday. I asked you to look at Brutus' Soliloquy and write about which of his arguments you thought was the strongest and why and which was the weakest and why. Now I want you to consider all of Brutus' arguments found there. Brutus begins his soliloquy with the line, "It must be by his death....". Why must it be by his death? What are ALL the reasons given by Brutus? Before you consider whether you agree with him or not just try to understand what his reasons actually are. As you know, Shakespeare's writing isn't the easiest to understand. The first thing to do then is to make your best effort to figure out what is actually being said. Carefully read the soliloquy and try to puzzle out the meaning of the words. Then I encourage you to ask parents, friends, or classmates what they think Shakespeare is saying. Once you feel like you've got a better understanding of the text I want you to write down in your own words what you think Shakespeare is saying as it pertains to Brutus' arguments. I want to read over your "translations" of Shakespeare so hold on to them. Finally, make a list of all the reasons Brutus gives why Caesar must be assassinated. Example:" Brutus feels Caesar must be killed because..." or "Brutus gives the following reasons..." or "These are Brutus arguments why Caesar must be killed." Again this assignment is not about whether you agree with Brutus or not. It is about really trying to understand correctly what his arguments are.

Note: Some of you may struggle with this assignment. Because of this, I have written some thoughts and notes on the subject which you can find at the end of this learning packet. I do ask that you think about the assignment, talk to others about it, and write down your conclusions before you consult my notes.

## **Tuesday, April 7**

Hopefully, yesterday you got a good understanding of the reasons why Brutus believes Caesar must be killed. Now is your chance to respond. Do you agree with Brutus' arguments? Do you disagree with them? Maybe you agree with some of his reasons but not all of them.

Today you will begin writing a 3-5 paragraph essay responding to his arguments. Below is your essay prompt.

### **Essay Prompt: Is Brutus right that it is necessary to kill Caesar in order to protect the people of Rome and the republic?**

In your opening paragraph consider the question that Brutus has been thinking about. Is it necessary to kill Caesar? Mention Brutus' conclusion to this question: "It must be by his death." Brutus can see no other alternative. Then choose a position/take a side/make a claim. "In this essay I will examine the arguments given by Brutus and show why Brutus' was right/wrong to kill Julius Caesar."

In the body of your essay (1-3 paragraphs) explain the reasons Brutus gives why he believes it is necessary to kill Caesar. Try to make it clear to the reader what Brutus is actually arguing. Then make your own argument explaining why you think he is right or wrong. Think about how someone with an opposing viewpoint might challenge your reasoning. How would you respond to them?

You might agree with the conclusion that Brutus comes to but not with some of his arguments. If this is the case you should bring this up in your essay. Feel free to bring in arguments of your own and discuss

why you feel they would be a better argument than the one Brutus gives in a certain portion of his soliloquy.

If you disagree with Brutus discuss which of his arguments you think are his better ones but why they are ultimately wrong.

Finally, in your concluding paragraph come back to the original question. Must it be by his death? Briefly summarize why you think Brutus was right or wrong in his thinking and how this important question regarding Caesar should have been answered.

### **Wednesday, April**

Yesterday, you began writing your essay. Today you should finish writing your first draft if you haven't already. When you finish writing it, think of one or two people you think could give you some helpful suggestions about how to improve your essay and how to correct it. Ask them to tell you if there are any parts of your essay that are unclear. Ask them if they found any of your arguments weak and unpersuasive and why. Ask them to mark any errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation or sentence structure (i.e. run on sentences or sentence fragments). Also ask them what they liked about your essay!

### **Thursday, April 9**

Ok, it's the last day of this school week and the last chance to work on your essay. Today is the day to polish it and make it shine. Hopefully you got some helpful suggestions from your chosen editor(s) yesterday. Now is the time to really consider what to change or fix based on what they've said.

Remember, though, you are the writer and you have the final say in what stays, what goes, what changes and what doesn't. Here are your objectives for today's writing. Make your essay as clear to the reader as you can. Make your arguments as strong, reasonable, and persuasive as you can. Clean up any mistakes such as spelling, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure. If you haven't typed your essay, make sure your handwriting is as nice and legible as you can make it. Whether you've typed or handwritten your essay make sure that it is clean, unwrinkled, has no doodles etc. Make it look respectable! Your name, date, class, grade and section should appear in the upper left hand corner of your essay.

### **Friday, April 10**

No homework

## **Brutus' Soliloquy: Act 2, Scene1, lines 10-36**

It must be by his death; and for my part,  
I know no personal cause to spurn at him,  
But for the general: he would be crown'd.  
How that might change his nature, there's the  
question.

It is the bright day that brings forth the adder,  
And that craves wary walking. Crown him  
- that!

And then, I grant, we put a sting in him  
That at his will he may do danger with.  
Th' abuse of greatness is, when it disjoins  
Remorse from power; and to speak truth of  
Caesar,

I have not known when his affections sway'd  
More than his reason. But 'tis a common proof  
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,  
Whereto the climber-upward turns his face;  
But when he once attains the upmost round,  
He then unto the ladder turns his back,  
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees  
By which he did ascend. So Caesar may.  
Then, lest he may, prevent. And since the  
quarrel

Will bear no colour for the thing he is,  
Fashion it thus - that what he is, augmented,  
Would run to these and these extremities;  
And therefore think him as a serpent's egg,  
Which, hatch'd, would as his kind grow  
mischievous,  
And kill him in the shell.

***It must be by his death: The arguments of Brutus for the assassination of Julius Caesar***  
**(Mr. Binder's interpretation)**

"It must be by his death." There is no other solution to this problem. Caesar must be assassinated.

"And for my part I know no personal cause to spurn at him, but for the general." Caesar has never done Brutus any wrong. He has no grudge against him. He is concerned about the general welfare, the common good of Rome.

"He would be crowned" Brutus believes Caesar wishes to be king therefore he is ambitious.

"How that might change his nature, there's the question." The crown will "change his nature" in some way. Brutus fears the crown will transform Caesar in a negative way and make him dangerous.

"Crown him that, and then I grant we put a sting in him that at his will he may do danger with." If Caesar is crowned he will become quite dangerous. He will have the power to do harm whenever he wants.

"The abuse of greatness is when it disjoins remorse from power." A ruler abuses his position/authority when he divorces mercy/compassion from the power that he wields. Brutus seems to indicate that this is often the case. The great forget the common good and wield their power without thinking about how it might affect others.

"And, to speak truth of Caesar, I have not known when his affections swayed more than his reason." This is an important admission by Brutus. In fairness to Caesar, he acknowledges that he has never seen Caesar act in this manner. On the contrary Caesar's reason always influences him more than his personal desires or emotions.

"But tis a common proof that lowliness is young ambition's ladder, whereto the climber-upward turns his face; but, when he once attains the upmost round, he then unto the ladder turns his back, looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees by which he did ascend." Nevertheless ("but"), continues Brutus we very often see in history and through our own experiences ("tis a common proof") that once the great reach the heights of power they forget their humble origins and all the lowly steps that led them to the top. They turn their back on these things and perhaps even the people who helped them along the way and ("looks in the clouds") can see nothing but their own current greatness.

"So Caesar may." It is quite likely that Caesar will do exactly the same thing. More likely than not he will become corrupted by power just like these other rulers we know of.

"Then, lest he may, prevent." In order to keep this from happening we must stop Caesar from taking the crown. We can't take any chances.

“And since the quarrel will bear no color for the thing he is, fashion it thus: that what he is augmented, would run to these and these extremities.” Brutus makes another important admission here. Based on Caesar’s past and present character and behavior it does not make any sense to kill him. But Brutus returns to his previous concern that the crown might change Caesar’s nature. He argues that the crown will augment Caesar’s character. The crown will take Caesar’s vices and virtues etc. and increase or enlarge them until they become extreme. It is interesting that he does not say exactly what those extremities in Caesar would be. He just says, “these and these.”

“And therefore think him as a serpent’s egg, which, hatched, would, as his kind, grow mischievous, and kill him in the shell.” Brutus, based on his own arguments and line of reasoning, compares Caesar to a baby snake. Right now it seems harmless. It’s tiny and locked inside a shell. But it’s still a snake and when it hatches it will act according to its nature and cause harm. The danger and vice in Caesar right now are very small but the crown will change that. It will augment them and make him a very great danger indeed. Therefore, Caesar must be killed now before he grows stronger and before he has a chance to do harm as he surely will if he’s made king.