













| Year 8 English – Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Context | | Tier 2 Vocabulary | | Shakespeare’s BIG Ideas | | |
| <p>In ‘Julius Caesar’, <u>Shakespeare is exploring key moments of transition</u> in the history of Rome.</p> <p>For over a thousand years, Rome was the <u>city of the world</u>.</p> <p>The Romans ruled the <u>greatest empire</u> the world had ever seen.</p> <p>Even after its decline and fall, the name of Rome lived on for centuries by <u>providing</u> the western world with <u>models of excellence</u> in every dimension of human life.</p> <p>The date of Caesar’s death, Match 15th, is also called the Ides of March.</p> <p>By the end of the Roman Civil War in 45 BC, Caesar had been appointed ‘Imperator’, which meant Roman <u>leader for the rest of his life</u>.</p> <p>The date of Caesar’s death, Match 15th, is also called the Ides of March.</p> | | <p>Augment – made greater</p> <p>Conspiracy – a secret plan to do something harmful</p> <p>Exalted – At a high or powerful level</p> <p>Hamartia – a fatal flaw in one’s character</p> <p>Hubris – excessive pride or self confidence</p> <p>Mutiny – open rebellion against authority</p> <p>Oration – a formal speech given at a state occasion</p> <p>Regicide – the act of killing a king</p> <p>Tyrannicide – the act of killing a tyrant</p> <p>Tyrant – someone who rules through fear</p> <p>Wrath – extreme anger</p> | |  | <p>Public vs Private Self</p> <p>Characters in the play often adopt a public self, presenting themselves as ruthless political machines. They often shun their private feelings and loyalties in favour of what they believe to be the public good.</p> | |
| | | | |  | <p>Fate vs Freewill</p> <p>Fate and freewill co-exist in a delicate balance in the play. Caesar recognises that certain events lie beyond human control and that they should not be feared.</p> | |
| | | | |  | <p>Misinformation and misreading</p> <p>Much of the play deals with the characters’ failures to interpret correctly the omens they encounter. The inability to read people and events leads to downfall; the ability to do so is the key to survival. In the world of politics, characters must gauge public opinion correctly if they are to rise to power.</p> | |
| | | | |  | <p>Dictatorship and power</p> <p>Shakespeare warns his audiences that too much powers and abuse of power is dangerous. Caesar’s hubris leads to his fall.</p> | |
| | | | |  | <p>Ambition</p> <p>Shakespeare is criticising those who have great ambition, saying it leads to great conflict. The ambition of Caesar and Cassius leads to their downfall.</p> | |
| | | | | | | |
| Key Characters | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| JULIUS CAESAR | MARK ANTONY | MARCUS BRUTUS | CASSIUS | CASCA | DECIUS BRUTUS | CAIUS LIGARIUS |
| Dictator of Rome | Friend of Caesar and one of the leader of Rome after Caesar’s death | Friend of Caesar who kills him ‘for the good of Rome.’ | Leader of the conspiracy against Caesar and brother-in-law of Brutus. | The first conspirator to stab Caesar. | Conspirator who uses flattery to get Caesar to the Senate House. | Final member of the conspiracy, Brutus asks him to help make Rome well. |

