

Julius Caesar

Act 3

by William Shakespeare

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: censure, coffers, enfranchisement, extenuated, interred, mantle, misgiving, prophesy, strife, unassailable

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Play:

Section 1 · Act 1 · Caesar's triumph in the streets of Rome

Section 2 · Act 2 · Brutus alone in his orchard at night

Section 3 · Act 3 · Caesar arrives at the Capitol

Section 4 · Act 4 · New rulers divide power in Rome

Section 5 · Act 5 · The armies meet on the plains of Philippi

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. I asked the experts to **censure** my proposal before the vote.

- A. to harshly criticize
- B. to quietly set aside
- C. to weigh and judge

2. The king's **coffers** were nearly empty after the long war.

- A. halls of the royal palace
- B. money stores; a treasury
- C. stores of grain and food

3. The new constitution promised the **enfranchisement** of every freed worker.

- A. granting of citizen rights
- B. heavy taxation of the poor
- C. forced relocation to new land

4. Her calm tone **extenuated** the bad news she had to share.

- A. explained more clearly
- B. drew more attention to
- C. made to seem less serious

5. The soldiers were **interred** with full honors in the village.

- A. honored
- B. buried
- C. mourned

6. She wrapped a heavy **mantle** around her shoulders against the cold.

- A. a loose cloak
- B. a thick blanket
- C. a knitted scarf

7. She felt a sudden **misgiving** as the plane began to shake.

- A. a sense of mild curiosity
- B. a feeling of doubt or unease
- C. a moment of total confusion

8. The old sailor would **prophesy** a storm whenever the gulls flew inland.

- A. to predict or foretell
- B. to warn loudly of
- C. to grumble about

9. Years of **strife** between the two families finally ended in peace.

- A. bitter conflict
- B. quiet bargaining
- C. cold distance

10. His reputation seemed **unassailable** after years of honest work.

- A. widely known and respected
- B. earned slowly over time
- C. impossible to attack or challenge

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

Olympus — Mount Olympus, the towering mountain home of the Greek gods; here a symbol of the immovable

Et tu, Brute — Latin for 'And you, Brutus?' — Caesar's cry of betrayal on seeing Brutus among his killers

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	B
8	A
9	A
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 "As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall
To beg enfranchisement for Publius Cimber."

As it is used in the passage, the word 'enfranchisement' most nearly refers to...

- A. the right to vote in elections
- B. freedom and restored citizenship
- C. a pardon for Cassius's boldness

2 "Yet in the number I do know but one
That unassailable holds on his rank ..."

In the passage, Caesar is characterized as someone who...

- A. is willing to reconsider the banishment
- B. is troubled by the pleas around him
- C. cannot be challenged or moved

3 "but yet have I a mind
That fears him much, and my misgiving still
Falls shrewdly to the purpose."

It can reasonably be inferred that Cassius's misgiving concerns...

- A. regret over killing Caesar
- B. the danger of sparing Antony
- C. trust in Brutus's good judgment

4 "Over thy wounds now do I prophesy ... A curse
shall light upon the limbs of men;"

The lines following the word 'prophesy' primarily function to...

- A. recall an omen from before the murder
- B. pronounce a blessing over the body
- C. foretell the bloodshed to come

5 "... Domestic fury and fierce civil strife
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy ..."

The passage most strongly suggests that Italy will...

- A. be united under a new ruler
- B. be torn by conflict among its people
- C. be invaded by a foreign army

6 "Censure me in your wisdom, and awake your
senses that you may the better judge."

As it is used in the passage, the word 'censure' most nearly means...

- A. to weigh and judge carefully
- B. to condemn and blame
- C. to interrupt and silence

7 "... glory not extenuated wherein he was worthy,
nor his offenses enforced for which he suffered death."

According to the passage, Brutus says Caesar's worthy deeds will be...

- A. exaggerated beyond the truth
- B. kept hidden from the people
- C. recorded fully, not downplayed

8 "The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones."

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Good deeds are forgotten after death.
- B. Caesar deserves a grand burial.
- C. Evil is punished during life.

9 "He hath brought many captives home to Rome,
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill."

Antony notes that the captives' ransoms 'did the general coffers fill' in order to...

- A. show Caesar enriched Rome
- B. prove Caesar was a harsh conqueror
- C. describe Rome's growing army

10 "You all do know this mantle. I remember
The first time ever Caesar put it on."

Antony draws the crowd's attention to Caesar's mantle in order to...

- A. use the bloodied cloak to stir grief
- B. admire the fine cloth Caesar wore
- C. remind them of Caesar's royal power

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	Enfranchisement today usually means the right to vote; here it means freeing the banished Cimber and restoring his citizen rights.
2	C	Character comprehension.
3	B	Event comprehension.
4	C	
5	B	
6	A	Here censure carries its older sense — to weigh or judge, not the modern 'to condemn'; Brutus pairs it with 'that you may the better judge.'
7	C	
8	A	Interred literally means buried; here Antony means good deeds are buried — forgotten — with the dead.
9	A	
10	A	Event comprehension.

Teacher Context: Act 3

Caesar brushes past the soothsayer and a final warning as he reaches the Capitol, where the conspirators carry out their plan. Antony is allowed to speak at the funeral, and his oration turns the crowd against the conspirators. Rome erupts into riot.