

JULIUS CAESAR: ACT V

WHAT IS THE DISAGREEMENT FROM WHICH
SIDE ANTONY AND OCTAVIUS WILL ATTACK?
(862)

Antony suggests that Octavius enter
from the left side, but Octavius
disagrees and decides to enter from
the right.

WHAT HAS MARK ANTONY STARTED
REFERRING TO OCTAVIUS AS? (862)

Caesar.

It shows that he is starting to see
him more as an equal.

WHY DOES CASSIUS SAY, “NOW BRUTUS, THANK YOURSELF, THIS TONGUE HAD NOT OFFENDED SO TODAY, IF CASSIUS MIGHT HAVE RULED [GOTTEN HIS WAY]”? (863)

Cassius is saying that had he gotten his way (killing Antony, not letting Antony speak, etc.), they wouldn't be in this situation.

Brutus has no one to thank but himself for the battles and problems.

WHY IS CASSIUS FEARFUL OF WHAT
WILL HAPPEN NEXT? (866)

“Two mighty eagles fell”

Cassius sees this as a bad omen of
things to come.

For the audience: Foreshadowing

WHAT DOES BRUTUS PLAN TO DO IF HE
LOSES THE BATTLE? (867)

Commit suicide, because he does
not want to lose and go back to
Rome in disgrace.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SHORT
SCENE?

To show the disarray, chaos, and
action associated with war.

WHAT DOES CASSIUS MEAN WHEN HE SAYS “THE DAY I BREATHED FIRST. TIME IS COME ROUND, AND WHERE I DID BEGIN, THERE I SHALL END”? (868)

“The day I breathed first” = birthday
It is his birthday, the day that gave him
life.

He expects to die (end) on his
birthday.

He sees this as a good thing.

WHAT HAPPENS TO CASSIUS? HOW?
(869)

Cassius asks Pindarus to stab him
which he does.

Cassius dies by the same sword he
used to kill Caesar, and says now
Caesar is avenged.

BONUS: WHAT DOES BRUTUS SAY HE
DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR?

Brutus doesn't have time to mourn
him.

AN APOSTROPHE IS WHEN SOMETHING NONHUMAN IS ADDRESSED AS IF IT WERE ALIVE AND LISTENING.
WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF APOSTROPHE? (871)

Messala speaking to 'Error' and asking it questions.

The reason Messala does this is that Cassius dies due to an error/misunderstanding. Cassius sends Titinius, his best friend, into the battlefields. Pindarus is asked to keep watch. Pindarus thinks Titinius is captured/killed and tells Cassius. Cassius, fearing they will lose and feeling guilty about what happened to Titinius decides to commit suicide. However, it turns out Titinius is fine and was not captured/killed. Cassius died for nothing. Then Titinius commits suicide out of guilt.

Ironic. They were evenly matched in the war.
Cassius was losing to Antony Brutus was winning against Octavius.

COMPARE LINES 45 AND 94. WHAT DO
THEY TELL US ABOUT THE EVENTS
TAKING PLACE?

The characters feel that Caesar is
being avenged (getting his revenge).

WHY DOES THE SCENE START WITH AN
ALARUM [TRUMPETS, DRUMS] AND
BRUTUS IMMEDIATELY LEAVING? (872)

As seen in Scene II, it is showing the chaos and madness associated with war. Even Brutus is running around to get things done.

WHAT DOES LUCILIUS OFFER TO DO
FOR BRUTUS? (872-873)

Lucilius offers to pretend to be Brutus and get killed, so that the enemy will think they have killed Brutus. Brutus can be safe.

WHY DOES ANTONY WANT KINDNESS
TOWARDS LUCILIUS, AN ENEMY? (873)

Antony respects Lucilius for his
loyalty and bravery.

Some readers say it was because he
wanted to get more information on
Brutus.

WHAT DOES BRUTUS ASK CLITUS TO
DO FOR HIM AND WHAT IS CLITUS'
RESPONSE? (874)

Brutus asks Clitus to kill him, and Clitus responds that he could never do such a thing. Clitus would rather kill himself first.

WHAT HAPPENS TO BRUTUS? WHY?
(876)

Brutus asks Strato to hold a sword and
Brutus runs upon it to kill himself.

He knew they would lose, and he saw
the ghost of Caesar again on the
battlefield and knew it was his time to
die.

BONUS QUESTION

WHAT DOES BRUTUS MEAN BY, "CAESAR, NOW BE STILL; I KILLED NOT THEE WITH HALF SO GOOD A WILL"?

He is telling the spirit of Caesar that it can rest now since he (Brutus) is going to kill himself.

He also states that he is killing himself more willingly than he killed Caesar. Meaning he is showing remorse for killing Caesar and understands he was convinced into it (not fully his own will).

HOW DOES OCTAVIUS CREATE A
RESTORATION OF SOCIAL ORDER? (876)
L60-61

He says he will 'entertain' the enemy,
giving them a second chance,
possibly to join him.

Instead of simply murdering them in
war.

WHY DOES ANTONY REFER TO BRUTUS
AS THE "NOBLEST ROMAN OF THEM
ALL.."? (876)

Antony goes on to explain it is because Brutus did everything for the good of Rome and the people, and not for a selfish reason, unlike the other conspirators.

WHAT DOES OCTAVIUS SUGGEST THEY
DO FOR BRUTUS? (876-877)

Give Brutus a proper and honorable
burial.

WHO SPEAKS THE LAST LINE OF THE
PLAY? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS THE
CASE? (877)

Octavius.

In most of Shakespeare's plays, the
next ruler has the final piece of
dialogue in the play.