

A stylized black and white illustration of a stage. At the top, two spotlights hang from a rig, casting light downwards. A scalloped valance curtain is at the very top. On the left and right sides, long curtains hang down, framing the central text area.

Herb and Lois Walker's

**SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS**

# **Julius Caesar, Junior**

A "Shortened Shakespeare"

by Lee Karvonen

**Teacher Version**

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## **JULIUS CAESAR, JUNIOR**

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### **ESTABLISHING THE RHYTHM**

To find the proper rhythm for this piece, first read-aloud and clap through the sections as you go. Each underlined word or word part falls directly on a beat. As you read, clap on each underlined word, keeping the rhythm steady. Be careful not to read too fast!

This is a rehearsal technique and readers will not clap throughout these sections during performance. After you have established the beat, it is time to start interpreting, experimenting, and having fun with the words by varying tempo, volume, inflection, and expression. Be careful not to allow the development of a "sing-song" delivery while rehearsing and performing this script.

### **STAGING**

This script may be staged as either a Readers Theater Reading or as a Traditional Play: **If you are staging it as RT**, hang signs around each characters neck telling the audience the name of that character. (**JULIUS CASESAR, MARK ANTONY, BRUTUS, CICERO**, etc.). Since most RT productions do not involve much stage movement, ask some of the other characters who have smaller parts to hold up large signs at the proper moments to inform the audience which stage movements are happening at the time. (**CAESAR AND ANTONY EXIT, CAESAR AND ANTONY EXIT, CINNA ENTERS, CASCA STABS AND THE OTHERS FOLLOW, CASSIUS DIES, CAESAR'S GHOST ENTERS**, etc.)

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**CAST: JULIUS CAESAR, MARK ANTONY, BRUTUS, CICERO, CASSIUS, CASCA, CALPURNIA, FLAVIUS, MARULLUS, SOOTHSAYER, PORTIA, LUCIUS, 2 SERVANTS, PLEBEIANS 1 & 2, OCTAVIUS, CINNA, METELLUS, CAESAR'S GHOST**

## **SCENE ONE**

FLAVIUS:           BEHOLD THE CITY STREETS ALL CHOKED WITH THE  
FOLKS OF ROME  
AND ALL OF THEM OUT TO WELCOME JULIUS  
CAESAR HOME.

MARULLUS:       WHERE WERE THEY WHEN POMPEY CAME HERE  
AFTER A BIG WIN?  
YET THEY'RE HERE TO CHEER THE GUY WHO  
BASICALLY DID HIM IN.

FLAVIUS:           LET US CHASE THEM OFF THE STREETS BEFORE  
CAESAR GETS HERE.

MARULLUS:       THAT'S GOOD! HE DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR ANY  
LOUDER CHEERS.

## **SCENE TWO**

SOOTHSAYER:     CAESAR, MIGHTY CAESAR, BEWARE THE IDES OF  
MARCH.

CAESAR:           WHO IS THAT WHO'S SPEAKING UNDERNEATH THE  
ARCH?

SOOTHSAYER:     BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH, O CAESAR; PERIL IS  
AT HAND.

CAESAR: YOU ARE DREAMING, OLD GUY, CAESAR'S NOT  
AFRAID OF ANY MAN!

### **SCENE THREE**

CASSIUS: HEY, BRUTUS, CHECK WHAT'S HAPPENING.  
CAESAR'S FLYING HIGH  
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I JUST DON'T LIKE  
ABOUT THAT GUY.

BRUTUS: O, CASSIUS, CAESAR IS MY MAN. I LOVE HIM LIKE  
A BROTHER.

CASSIUS: BUT WOULD YOU SAY, IN ALL OF ROME, THERE IS  
JUST NO OTHER?

BRUTUS: I WILL ADMIT HE'S OVER-RATED, BUT HE IS A  
GOOD MAN  
AND I WILL SUPPORT HIM AS LONG AS I  
REASONABLY CAN.

CASSIUS: OVER-RATED! OVER-PROUD! HE IS OVER US!  
ALL OF ROME JUST LAPS IT UP AND MAKES OF HIM  
A FUSS.  
YOUR NAME IS JUST AS GOOD AS HIS; IT ROLLS  
RIGHT OFF THE TONGUE  
AND YET HE IS AN OLD MAN; ROME NEEDS  
SOMEONE YOUNG!

BRUTUS: I FEAR ROME CHOOSES HIM FOR KING; I CHOOSE  
DEMOCRACY.

CASSIUS: IF CAESAR IS PROCLAIMED OUR KING, WE ARE NO  
LONGER FREE!

ONCE HE CHALLENGED ME TO SWIM A RIVER  
BUT HE NEEDED A HAND,  
HE ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT,  
AND I HAD TO GET HIM TO LAND!

AND ONCE IN SPAIN HIS SICKNESS STRUCK  
AND MIGHTY CAESAR SHOOK.  
HE CRIED FOR WATER LIKE A GIRL,  
AND GOOD HE DIDN'T LOOK!

BRUTUS: ANOTHER SHOUT! I FEAR THE PEOPLE HONOUR  
HIM SOME MORE.

CASSIUS: ARE WE TO SIMPLY WATCH HIM RISE, OR DO WE  
CHANGE THE SCORE?  
HE STANDS ABOVE US LIKE A GOD; WE CREEP  
ABOUT BELOW.  
THE FAULT'S NOT IN OUR STARS, BUT US, THAT WE  
ARE DOWN SO LOW.  
WHAT DOES HE EAT THAT MAKES HIM GREAT,

WHILE WE ARE ONLY MEN?  
WHEN WILL THE NAME OF BRUTUS BE GREAT TOO  
ONCE AGAIN?

BRUTUS: I HEAR YOU, CASS, BUT GIVE ME TIME TO THINK  
ON WHAT YOU'VE SAID.  
I'LL SLEEP ON IT, BUT I'LL SAY NOW, YOUR STORY  
HAS SOME CRED.

(Brutus exits.)

CASSIUS: WELL, BRUTUS, YOU CAN BE PERSUADED; THAT IS  
CLEAR TO ME.  
A LITTLE MORE PERSUASION, THOUGH, BEFORE  
YOU TRULY SEE.  
TONIGHT I'LL SPREAD SOME HYPE IN BRUTUS'S  
HOUSE TO LET HIM THINK  
THAT MANY DIFFERENT CITIZENS WOULD GIVE  
BRUTUS THE WINK.  
FOR BRUTUS IS A NOBEL ROMAN, BUT HE IS JUST  
TOO NICE.  
I MUST PERSUADE DEAR BRUTUS THAT HE MUST  
PAY THE PRICE!

#### **SCENE FOUR:**

CAESAR: ANTONY, I'D HAVE ABOUT ME THOSE MEN WHO ARE  
FAT.  
YOND CASSIUS' LOOKS ARE LEAN AND HUNGRY;  
AND I DON'T LIKE THAT.

ANTONY:        DON'T FEAR HIM, CAESAR; HE IS NOBLE, NOT  
                  DANGEROUS AT ALL.  
                  ANOTHER NOBLE ROMAN WHO WILL ANSWER  
                  CAESAR'S CALL.

CAESAR:        FEAR MEANS NOTHING TO ME, BUT I WISH HE  
                  WERE MORE FAT.  
                  TO TOP IT ALL, HE THINKS TOO MUCH, THE SKINNY,  
                  LITTLE RAT!  
                  AND THE MAN JUST HAS NO CULTURE; MUSIC  
                  NEVER HITS HIS EAR.  
                  YOU KNOW THAT I FEAR NO ONE, BUT IF I DID, IT'S  
                  HE I'D FEAR.

(Caesar and Antony exit.)

CASSIUS:       HEY, CASCA, WHAT WENT ON TODAY WHEN CAESAR  
                  HIT THE TOWN?

CASCA:         ANTONY OFFERED HIM THE CROWN AND THRICE HE  
                  TURNED IT DOWN.

CASSIUS:       THREE TIMES THE CROWN WAS OFFERED, AND  
                  CAESAR THRICE SAID NO?

CASCA:         HE DID, BUT EACH TIME HE REFUSED, HE WANTED  
                  IT, I KNOW.  
                  THE PEOPLE, THEY JUST ATE IT UP, EACH TIME

THAT HE REFUSED  
AND THEY SET UP SUCH A ROAR, THEIR BAD  
BREATH, IT ABUSED.  
POOR CAESAR, AND HE FAINTED FROM THE  
HALITOSIS STORM.  
TO FAINT BEFORE THE MASSSES IS USUALLY BAD  
FORM.  
WHEN HE CAME TO, HE THEN OFFERED ME HIS  
KNIFE TO CUT HIS THROAT.  
OF COURSE, I DIDN'T, BUT, YOU KNOW, THE  
CROWD GAVE HIM ITS VOTE.

**SCENE FIVE:**

CICERO: HEY, CASCA, CAN YOU TELL ME WENT ON IN TOWN  
TONIGHT?

CASCA: CICERO, IT WAS SO STRANGE, I CAN'T BELIEVE MY  
SIGHT.  
A SLAVE HELD UP HIS HAND ON FIRE AND YET IT  
DIDN'T BURN,

A LION PASSED ME ON THE STREET; IT GAVE ME A  
QUITE A TURN;  
OTHERS SAW MANY MEN ON FIRE;  
SO MUCH THAT'S UNNATURAL, IT MADE ME  
PERSPIRE!

CICERO: SOUNDS LIKE IT'S "GOOD NIGHT" FOR ME; DOES  
CAESAR COME TOMORROW?



CASCA: HE ASKED ANTONY TO PICK HIM UP.

CICERO: THEN I WILL BID YOU MORROW.

(Cicero exits.)

CASSIUS: HEY, CASCA, WHAT IS HAPPENING? I THINK  
YOU'RE IN THE KNOW.  
WHAT IS UP WITH CAESAR? I FEAR HE WANTS TO  
GROW  
IN POWER AND IN PRESTIGE; I FEAR HE WOULD BE  
KING.  
HE'S NOT THE MAN THAT I WOULD WANT IN  
CHARGE OF EVERYTHING!

CASCA: SO CAESAR DOESN'T SEIZE YOU; TOMORROW THE  
SENATE MAKES HIM KING.  
APPARENTLY THIS NEWS IS NOT THE NEWS  
THAT WILL MAKE YOU SING.

CASSIUS: THESE ROMANS ARE BUT SHEEP AND SO BIG  
CAESAR IS A WOLF.  
IT'S TIME THAT WE CONSIDER WE SHOULD CROSS  
A GREATER GULF.  
I BEAR A BLADE IN MY HAND WITH WHICH I CAN  
CONTROL MY LIFE,  
BUT THERE IS A MUCH BETTER PLACE WHERE I CAN  
PLACE MY KNIFE!

CASCA: I AM WITH YOU, CASSIUS, JUST AS FAR AS YOU  
WOULD GO.

CASSIUS: OTHERS WAIT TO JOIN WITH US; IN THE MORNING  
BLOOD WILL FLOW!

(Cinna enters.)

CASCA: HERE CINNA COMES TO JOIN WITH US, PERHAPS TO  
GIVE US NEWS.

CINNA: HEY, CASCA, FOLKS ARE WAITING YONDER FOR THE  
BOTH OF YOU.  
IF CASSIUS COULD WIN BRUTUS TO OUR CAUSE,  
THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

CASSIUS: BRUTUS WILL BE ONE WITH US BEFORE IT GETS  
TOO LATE.  
HE'S LEANING NOW, JUST NEEDS A NUDGE, AND  
SOON HE'LL BE WITH US  
AND TOGETHER ALL WE ROMANS WILL RAISE QUITE  
A FUSS!

## **SCENE SIX**

BRUTUS: I GUESS WE HAVE TO MURDER HIM, THOUGH I LIKE  
THE MAN  
BUT I CANNOT DEPEND ON HIM, WHEN HE MOVES  
TO THE VAN.