

Chapter 1 : Brutus Character Analysis - Essay

Brutus is the most complex of the characters in this play. He is proud of his reputation for honor and nobleness, but he is not always practical, and is often naive. He is the only major character in the play intensely committed to fashioning his behavior to fit a strict moral and ethical code, but he takes actions that are unconsciously.

Marcus Brutus Character Analysis You are here: The character who was in charge of the assassination was, ironically, Marcus Brutus, a servant and close friend to Julius Caesar. But what would cause a person to kill a close friend? Marcus Brutus, a servant and close friend to Caesar, has a strong relationship with Caesar but a stronger relationship with Rome and its people. Brutus is very close to Caesar. In many points of the play, Brutus was talking and next to Caesar. Brutus also loves Caesar but fears his power. I do fear the people do choose Caesar for their king yet I love him well. As the quote says, Brutus would not allow Caesar to rise to power and then turn his back onto the people of Rome. Brutus says that Antony cannot see their members of the conspiracy hearts, which are full of pity. Again, this shows how Brutus loved Caesar but cared for the life of Rome and its people more. This is the only reason Brutus would conspire against Caesar. Just allowing Brutus to speak to Caesar shows his respect for Brutus. Caesar feels that Brutus is noble to him and does the right thing regardless of personal danger. Caesar realizes that there must be a noble reason for this assassination if Brutus was in it. This again shows how much Caesar respects Brutus. Brutus and Caesar both respect each other, but in different ways. Marcus Brutus had a very important role in the conspiracy against Caesar. Brutus also declares to himself that his role in the conspiracy is to save Rome. If Brutus was not in the plot of The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, the conspiracy would probably not have worked. Also, if Brutus was not in the play, the whole end of the play would not ever occur. Brutus would not be there to have an army or kill himself, and Cassius will already be beheaded. If Brutus was not in the play, the title would have absolutely no meaning. Marcus Brutus was a good friend to Julius Caesar, but not good enough. He had moral values dealing with Rome and its people.

Chapter 2 : Brutus Quotes (10 quotes)

Brutus' character is complex, and he is often thought of as a tragic hero. Learn more about the character Brutus from the play 'Julius Caesar' and test your knowledge with a quiz. Brutus and Trust.

There is a tide in the affairs of men Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life Is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat; And we must take the current when it serves, Or lose our ventures. Marcus Brutus speaker Related Themes: Page Number and Citation: The colored dots and icons indicate which themes are associated with that appearance. Brutus has no interest in watching the festivities, and says Cassius says that this possibility must Cassius says that they cannot blame fate for their subservient positions: Cassius, telling him to speak into his good right ear. The procession exits, leaving Cassius, Brutus, and Casca. Alone, Cassius says that though Brutus is too Cassius gives him letters to plant where Brutus will find them. Casca and Cassius discuss how Brutus is essential to their plan, because He orders his servant Lucius to light a Brutus asks him to go check whether the next day is There is a knock and Brutus sends Lucius to the door. Cassius whispers with Brutus, and then suggests they all swear an oath to follow through with their plans. Brutus says that Cicero is too proud to take part in any plan that was someone Brutus says that without Caesar, Antony will be harmless, and more likely to kill himself out Brutus promises to reveal his secrets to Portia, who goes inside. Ligarius enters, and seems to Antony enters a moment later,

Brutus emerges as the most complex character in Julius Caesar and is also the play's tragic hero. In his soliloquies, the audience gains insight into the complexities of his motives. In his soliloquies, the audience gains insight into the complexities of his motives.

Brutus appears guilty of killing Caesar in season two and bathes naked in a river in order to have himself reborn of his past actions and from then on seems less worried about it. The good humour does not last long however as he is soon defeated at the Battle of Philippi by the combined forces of Octavian and Antony. Unwilling to run when Cassius died, Brutus sadly walks towards the advancing enemy ranks and forces them to stab him to death in a scene reminiscent of the senators stabbing Caesar. Brutus is also the direct descendant of Lucius Junius Brutus who founded the Roman republic. His father died when he was a child and was brought up alone by his mother, although Caesar appears to have had a large part in his upbringing also. At the beginning of the series, Brutus first appears when he visits Caesar at his camp in Gaul, on the way home from visiting his cousin. Brutus appears to show a very real affection for Caesar, and Caesar appears to reciprocate these feelings and treats him as a father would a son. Upon returning home, his mother demands to know if Caesar asked of her at all; the fact that Brutus humorously teases his mother before giving her the love letter suggests that the affair has indeed been going on for so long that he finds no reason to question it. On the Ides of March, Brutus and the other senators involved in the plot attack Caesar on the Senate floor, stabbing him to death. Brutus kneels next to Caesar, both of them clearly heartbroken at seeing each other in such a state; he stabs Caesar and Caesar finally dies. Season Two[edit] Unable to stand killing a man he once loved, Brutus hurries home and washes the blood off of his shaking hands while Servilia tries to keep him calm. Although Brutus seems confident that the transfer of power will be peaceful, Antony proves otherwise and politically manoeuvres Brutus, along with the other conspirators with the exception of Servilia , to leave Rome. As a result, Brutus begins to grow careless of his image and becomes a bearded, drink-sodden wreck much to the annoyance of Cassius. After washing his sins free in a river, Brutus seems to recover from his guilt and sets out with much more rigour. While in Asia Minor, Brutus receives an urgent message from Cicero: Octavian has taken control of Rome and is using his army to coerce the senators into declaring Brutus and Cassius enemies of the state. Cicero pleads for Brutus and Cassius to take their army and return to Rome in order to remove Octavian, who Cicero guarantees is weak. Overjoyed at going home, Brutus marches his men all the way to Greece before encountering the combined forces of Octavian and Antony. Unwilling to dishonour himself any longer, Brutus kisses his signet ring passed down to him from his father by Servilia and orders his men to save themselves. Brutus then walks towards the advancing enemy while stripping off his armour. Comparison with the historical Marcus Junius Brutus[edit] Marcus Junius Brutus was the son of Servilia and the tribune of the same name. He was the half-brother to Junia Tertia , who married his ally Gaius Cassius Longinus as well as having two other sisters. No one has a clear view on what the historical Brutus was really like, although his personality and life is best recalled in Plutarch who describes him as an intelligent and well-read man saying that "There was practically no Greek philosopher with whom Brutus was unacquainted or unfamiliar Again, Servilia fills this gap.

Chapter 4 : The character of Marcus Brutus in Julius Caesar from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

Character Analysis: Brutus William Shakespeare's play, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, was mainly based on the assassination of Julius Caesar. The character who was the mastermind behind the assassination was, ironically, Marcus Brutus, a senator and close friend to Julius Caesar.

Brutus was also active in the province of Cilicia, in the year before Marcus Tullius Cicero was proconsul there; Cicero documents how Brutus profited from money lending to the provincials in his Letters. When the Battle of Pharsalus began on August 9, Caesar ordered his officers to take Brutus prisoner if he gave himself up voluntarily, but to leave him alone and do him no harm if he persisted in fighting against capture. Indeed, he and Brutus enjoyed a close relationship at this time. Caesar immediately forgave him. Caesar then accepted him into his inner circle and made him governor of Gaul when he left for Africa in pursuit of Cato and Metellus Scipio. On that day, Caesar was delayed going to the Senate because his wife Calpurnia tried to convince him not to go. Caesar dismissed him, and Cimber subsequently grabbed his toga. Publius Servilius Casca Longus was allegedly the first to attack Caesar with a stab to the shoulder, which Caesar blocked. Brutus is said to have been wounded in the hand and in the legs. Nonetheless, uproar among the population against the assassins caused Brutus and the conspirators to leave Rome. Brutus settled in Crete from 44 to 42 BC. Antony had laid siege to the province of Gaul, where he wanted a governorship. In response to this siege, Octavian rallied his troops and fought a series of battles, culminating in the Battle of Mutina, in which Antony was defeated. When Octavian heard that Brutus was on his way to Rome, he made peace with Antony. The two sides met in two engagements known as the Battle of Philippi. The obverse of the coin features a portrait of Marcus Brutus. Lucius Plautius Cestianus was the moneyer who actually managed the mint workers who produced the coin. The two daggers on the reverse differ to show more than one person was involved in the slaying. The cap is a pileus liberty cap that in Roman times was given to slaves on the day of their emancipation – freedom from slavery. A gold aureus with the same design was also minted. Both coins are exceptionally rare. Knowing his army had been defeated and that he would be captured, Brutus committed suicide by running into his own sword being held by two of his own men. Among his last words were, according to Plutarch, "By all means must we fly; not with our feet, however, but with our hands". Brutus also uttered the well-known verse calling down a curse upon Antony Plutarch repeats this from the memoirs of Publius Volumnius: Forget not, Zeus, the author of these crimes in the Dryden translation this passage is given as Punish, great Jove, the author of these ills. Brutus was cremated, and his ashes were sent to his mother, Servilia. Plutarch states that there was a letter in existence that was allegedly written by Brutus mourning the manner of her death. He was made assistant to Cato, governor of Cyprus, which helped him start his political career. He was given the quaestorship in Cilicia. Brutus followed Pompey to Greece during the civil war against Caesar. Brutus was pardoned by Caesar. He was made governor of Gaul. He was made Praetor. Murdered Caesar with other liberators; went to Athens and then to Crete. This was the noblest Roman of them all: All the conspirators save only he Did that they did in envy of great Caesar; He only, in a general honest thought And common good to all, made one of them.

Chapter 5 : Character Analysis: Brutus by Kaity Moore on Prezi

The rest of play traces Brutus' inner turmoil, which is why a lot of literary critics see Brutus as the great-grandfather of two of Shakespeare's later protagonists: Hamlet (the moodiest teenager in literature) and the introspective Macbeth. This speech also says a lot about Brutus' character.

Julius Caesar A successful military leader who wants the crown of Rome. Unfortunately, he is not the man he used to be and is imperious, easily flattered, and overly ambitious. He is assassinated midway through the play; later, his spirit appears to Brutus at Sardis and also at Philippi. He joins the conspiracy the night before the assassination and is the first conspirator to stab Caesar.

Marcus Antonius Mark Antony He appears first as a confidant and a devoted follower of Caesar, and he offers Caesar a crown during the feast of Lupercal. He has a reputation for sensuous living, but he is also militarily accomplished, politically shrewd, and skilled at oration. He is one of the triumvirs, and he and Octavius defeat Brutus and Cassius at Philippi.

A soothsayer He warns Caesar during the celebration of the feast of Lupercal to "beware the ides of March."

Marcus Brutus A praetor; that is, a judicial magistrate of Rome. He is widely admired for his noble nature. He joins the conspiracy because he fears that Caesar will become a tyrant, but his idealism causes him to make several poor judgements and impedes his ability to understand those who are less scrupulous than he.

Cassius The brother-in-law of Brutus and an acute judge of human nature, Cassius organizes the conspiracy against Caesar and recruits Brutus by passionate argument and by deviously placed, forged letters. He is defeated by Antony at the first battle of Philippi, and he commits suicide when he mistakenly believes that Brutus has been defeated.

Cicero A senator and a famous orator of Rome. He is calm and philosophical when he meets the excited Casca during the night of portentous tumult proceeding the day of the assassination. The triumvirs have him put to death. Consequently, he is the only conspirator who does not actually stab Caesar.

Portia The wife of Brutus and the daughter of Marcus Cato.

Publius An elderly senator who arrives with the conspirators to escort Caesar to the Capitol. He is stunned as he witnesses the assassination. Brutus sends him out to tell the citizens that no one else will be harmed.

Artemidorus He gives Caesar a letter as the emperor enters the Capitol; in the letter, he lists the conspirators by name and indicates that they intend to kill him, but Caesar does not read it. This comment intensifies the dramatic tension in the moments immediately prior to the assassination by causing Cassius and Brutus to briefly fear that they have been betrayed. The mob at first confuses him with Cinna the conspirator, but even after they discover their error, they kill him anyway "for his bad verses."

He and Antony lead the army that defeats Cassius and Brutus at Philippi. He is weak, and Antony uses him essentially to run errands. Antony admires his loyalty to Brutus and thus he protects him, hoping that Lucilius will choose to serve him as loyally as he did Brutus.

Pindarus At Philippi, he erroneously tells his master, Cassius, that the scout Titinius has been captured by the enemy when the scout has actually been greeted by the victorious forces of Brutus. Thinking that all is lost, Cassius decides to die; he has Pindarus kill him with the same sword that he used to help slay Caesar.

Titinius An officer in the army commanded by Cassius and Brutus, he guards the tent at Sardis during the argument between the two generals, and is a scout at Philippi for Cassius. After Cassius commits suicide when he mistakenly believes Titinius to have been taken prisoner by the enemy, Titinius kills himself in emulation of Cassius.

At Philippi, he hears Cassius confess that he believes in omens.

Varro and Claudius Servants of Brutus, they spend the night in his tent at Sardis. Neither of them observes the ghost of Caesar that appears to Brutus. He dies during the second battle at Philippi while trying to inspire the army by loudly proclaiming that he is the son of Marcus Cato and that he is still fighting.

Volumnius A friend of Brutus and a soldier under his command at Philippi. He refuses to hold a sword for Brutus to impale himself on. Later, he becomes a servant to Octavius.

Chapter 6 : Shakespeare's Brutus - An analysis of the Character of Marcus Brutus

Julius Caesar: Marcus Brutus Character William Shakespeare's play, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, is mainly based on the assassination of Julius Caesar. The character who was in charge of the assassination was, ironically, Marcus Brutus, a servant and close friend to Julius Caesar.

Role in the film Brutus is first seen at the vet as a puppy trying to get some milk from his mother, Duchess like his other siblings but due to a case of "too much litter and too little milk", his own mother picked him up and pushed him away as some dogs do to their own pups sometimes; making him the runt of the litter. Pruitt is forced to feed him and take care of him himself almost everyday. Pruitt quickly has an idea to give Brutus to Mark and allow Danke to feed him enough milk until he is properly weaned and wet nursed. As much as Mark would love to have a Great Dane for a pet and to help him stay alive, he regretfully refuses since he has enough dogs in his own house now and being the Dachsie lover his wife really is, she would never agree to it either even though Dr. Pruitt is not trying to sell him or anything. Pruitt gives Brutus to Mark to feed him some milk while he goes in to bring him Danke and her pups. As Mark begins to feed Brutus one milk drop at a time, he changes his mind and decides to bring Brutus back home momentarily. At home, after Mark returns with the dogs, when Fran notices Brutus with Danke and the other pups as he is drinking some milk from her with the pups, she quickly assumes that Danke gave birth to another puppy, which she finds a bit funny-looking, even though Mark tries to explain to her about the situation and the truth. When Fran tells Mark he ought to be nicer to Danke now that she "had a boy puppy" something Mark had always wanted, Mark is too happy to tell Fran the truth and decides to keep Brutus either way. Later, Mark thinks of a name for the male puppy: Brutus of Cornwall as seen in a picture of the dog book he was reading through as a name that has a spark of dignity, nobility, solidity, and strength in it after discussing the names with his wife, who now finds Brutus "ugly" since his head and feet are out of proportion. However, a few weeks later, Brutus has grown much bigger than the Dachsie puppies now named: Fran, now full of regret and remorse, apologizes to both Mark and Brutus but then, coldly tells Mark to take Brutus back to Dr. At the vet, Mark, choiceless and regretful, returns Brutus to Dr. Pruitt, who is also disappointed about this, hopes that Dr. Pruitt will find a good home for him, and tells him his name is Brutus. A few more weeks later, Brutus, now a full-grown Great Dane with cropped ears, is seen happily relaxing with his new foster Dachshund family while Fran prepares a shirt for Danke. When Mark asks Fran to pose for him with Danke as though she were burping a baby at his studio for his latest work, Brutus watches his foster sisters causing a mess around the living room with yarn until he joins in only to get his head stuck in a yarn box and then get blamed for the mess by Fran when she and Mark return after hearing him barking and after the Dachsie sisters quickly return to their baskets to make themselves look innocent. Later, as Mark begins drawing and coloring Brutus on canvas, Brutus, tied on a leash in the garden, continuously barks since he wishes to join his foster family and play with them, who are getting their pictures taken by Fran at the same time and place. To give him a break and make him happy, Mark unleashes Brutus and Brutus starts playing with the Dachsies, which somewhat upsets Fran since his intervention is disrupting some poses she has in mind for her dogs. Brutus again watches them and then, joins them, which causes a really big mess in the studio. As punishment, Brutus is left outside as the Garrisons discuss financial payment for all the messes and damages caused in the house and studio. This eventually leads to an argument between the couple about whether to keep Brutus or not anymore. This act makes Mark give up and decide to take Brutus back to Dr. Pruitt first thing in the morning. Brutus is left to sleep in the garage for the night with a shovel to keep the door open and allow him to breathe properly. In the morning, Brutus is seen still guarding Sergeant Carmody having slept all night on a tree. When Mark notices the police car, he finds out that Brutus had chased the officer up and kept him on that tree all night. This allows Mark to call his wife and show her how defensive, important, and valuable Brutus can be if they keep him around, which will make no thief dare try to enter their home, so, Fran decides to allow Brutus to stay and to tell Mark to let the officer down in the meantime. Despite Mark telling Brutus to go back inside, he later comes out again and barks at Sergeant Carmody, now trapped in his inoperative car, which leaves him sighing and

whimpering in despair in the end. Later, when Japanese caterers, Mr. The Garrisons come just in time to stop the commotion. Toyama asks them to take him away and finds it hard to believe he is actually a dog despite Fran assuring him otherwise. When Brutus starts barking, he lies on the ground again; thinking it is the only way to "fool a wild beast. During the party, Brutus is offered a bone by Mark as he shows him to Dr. Pruitt, who seems impressed with how well he has grown since the last time he saw him as a puppy. However, when Chloe tricks Brutus into letting go of his bone and steals it from him, Brutus breaks free from his bond and begins chasing her around while causing a mess at the party and people to panic. Eventually, this leads Fran to wanting to get rid of Brutus once and for all when she tells Mark that she called Dr. After Mark manages to rescue Chloe, they realize that Brutus was only trying to warn them about what happened to Chloe and probably trying to save her since he knew she was in there all along. Now, at last, this act of heroism allows Fran to change her mind about Brutus and allow him to stay forever. During a break, Fran is annoyed when she sees Brutus acting like as though he were a lapdog when Fran calls for the Dachsies to come on her lap; making the Garrisons finally realize that he thought he was a Dachshund after all this time of living and growing up with them since he was a puppy, so, Mark tries to show Brutus what he really is with the help of a dog book. Pruitt tends to Brutus when he sees Brutus not obeying Mark when it comes to heeling. Seeing as to how beautiful and perfect he grew up to be as he figured he would, Dr. During the next six days, Brutus begins to undergo some training despite all the faults. Although Brutus has shown some improvements in the end, Dr. The next day, at the dog show, Brutus is being groomed to be prepared for the upcoming show with Great Danes as he notices the owners strangely resembling their dogs and vice versa. At first, Brutus is almost recognized by Fran and Mark and Dr. When it is time for the Great Danes to perform, Brutus and Mark enter the show. Before the show, Brutus is intrigued and somewhat amazed to be around dogs of his species for the first time. When the judge notices Brutus acting weird, he asks them to stop. At first, Brutus seems reluctant to stand up like a real Great Dane as Mark tells him to and probably gives up until he notices a lady with her female Harlequin Great Dane, thus, prompting him to stand up and act like a real Great Dane. Pruitt tells Mark that it was because he saw the female Dane that made Brutus want to show off for her. Later, the judge asks Mark, another man, and their dogs only to walk them again. Then, Brutus is left to be judged with Dr. Pruitt for best of breed while Mark goes out to show Fran his prize after she and Chloe had won second place as they apologize and reconcile with each other. Finally, Brutus and Dr. Pruitt are awarded the best of breed ribbon as Mark, Fran, and Chloe watch them perform perfectly well at the show. At night, after earning a matched set of ribbons and giving the first place blue ribbon to Dr. Pruitt since he deserved it for all the help he provided for Mark and Brutus, Brutus can be seen sleeping with the Dachsies as he whines in his sleep. Then, Brutus is awoken by Chloe as she affectionately licks him only to be barked at along with her family by him as he wishes to go back to sleep and finally knows that he is really a Great Dane and not a Dachshund. Then, he happily goes back to sleep as the movie comes to an end. Gallery The Disney Wiki has a collection of images and media related to Brutus. Brutus was named after a Great Dane named Ch. Brutus of Cornwall as seen in a picture of a dog book which Mark was reading in order to find a perfect name for him which has a spark of dignity, nobility, solidity, and strength in it in the movie. Though it is possible a stud service was used.

Chapter 7 : Brutus the Younger - Wikipedia

Shakespeare's Characters: Brutus (Julius Caesar) From *Julius calendrierdelascience.com* Henry Norman Hudson. New York: Ginn and Co., Coleridge has a shrewd doubt as to what sort of a character Shakespeare meant his Brutus to be.

Coleridge has a shrewd doubt as to what sort of a character Shakespeare meant his Brutus to be. A strange piece of casuistry indeed! And yet the character of Brutus is full of beauty and sweetness. In all the relations of life he is upright, gentle, and pure; of a sensitiveness and delicacy of principle that cannot bosom the slightest stain; his mind enriched and fortified with the best extractions of philosophy; a man adorned with all the virtues which, in public and private, at home and in the circle of friends, win respect and charm the heart. Being such a man, of course he could only do what he did under some sort of delusion. And so indeed it is. Yet this very delusion serves, apparently, to ennoble and beautify him, as it takes him and works upon him through his virtues. At heart he is a real patriot, every inch of him. But his patriotism, besides being somewhat hidebound with patrician pride, is of the speculative kind, and dwells, where his whole character has been chiefly formed, in a world of poetical and philosophic ideals. He is an enthusiastic student of books. Plato is his favorite teacher; and he has studiously framed his life and tuned his thoughts to the grand and pure conceptions won from that all but divine source: His great fault, then, lies in supposing it his duty to be meddling with things that he does not understand. Conscious of high thoughts and just desires, but with no gift of practical insight, he is ill fitted to "grind among the iron facts of life. The characters of those who act with him are too far below the region of his principles and habitual thinkings for him to take the true cast of them. Himself incapable of such motives as govern them, he just projects and suspends his ideals in them, and then misreckons upon them as realizing the men of his own brain. So also he clings to the idea of the great and free republic of his fathers, the old Rome that has ever stood to his feelings touched with the consecrations of time and glorified with the high virtues that have grown up under her cherishing. But, in the long reign of tearing faction and civil butchery, that which he worships has been substantially changed, the reality lost. But Brutus is so filled with the idea of that which has thus passed away never to return that he thinks to save or recover the whole by preventing such formal and nominal change. And so his whole course is that of one acting on his own ideas, not on the facts that are before and around him. Indeed, he does not see them; he merely dreams his own meaning into them. He is swift to do that by which he thinks his country ought to be benefited. That they will do this is the very thing which he has in fact no reason to conclude; notwithstanding, because it is so in his idea, therefore he trusts that the conspirators will "be called purgers, not murderers. It is certain that, unless so construed, the act must prove fruitful of evil; all Rome is full of things proving that it cannot be so construed; but this is what Brutus has no eye to see. To do otherwise would be unjust, and so would overthrow the whole nature of the enterprise as it lives in his mind. Thus the course of Brutus serves no end but to set on foot another civil war, which naturally hastens and assures the very thing he sought to prevent. He confides in the goodness of his cause, not considering that the better the cause, the worse its chance with bad men. He thinks it safe to trust others because he knows they can safely trust him; the singleness of his own eye causing him to believe that others will see as he sees, the purity of his own heart, that others will feel as he feels. Here then we have a strong instance of a very good man doing a very bad thing; and, withal, of a wise man acting most unwisely because his wisdom knew not its place; a right noble, just, heroic spirit bearing directly athwart the virtues he worships. On the whole, it is not wonderful that Brutus should have exclaimed, as he is said to have done, that he had worshiped virtue and found her at last but a shade. So worshiped, she may well prove a shade indeed! As if one should say, "O yes, yes! Plutarch has a short passage which served as a hint, not indeed for the matter, but for the style of that speech. As, when the war was begun, he wrote unto the Pergamenians in this sort: And what a rare significance attaches to the brief scene of Brutus and his drowsy boy Lucius in camp a little before the catastrophe! There, in the deep of the night, long after all the rest have lost themselves in sleep, and when the anxieties of the issue are crowding upon him,--there we have the earnest, thoughtful Brutus hungering intensely for the repasts of treasured thought. And do we not taste a dash of benignant irony in the implied repugnance between the spirit of the man and the stuff of his present

undertaking? The idea of a bookworm riding the whirlwind of war! The thing is most like Brutus; but how out of his element, how unsphered from his right place, it shows him! There is a touch of drollery in the contrast, which the richest steeping of poetry does not disguise. And the irony is all the more delectable for being so remote and unpronounced; like one of those choice arrangements in the background of a painting, which, without attracting conscious notice, give a zest and relish to what stands in front. The scene, whether for charm of sentiment or felicity of conception, is one of the finest in Shakespeare. How to cite this article:

Chapter 8 : SparkNotes: Julius Caesar: Character List

Julius Caesar - A great Roman general and senator, recently returned to Rome in triumph after a successful military campaign. His good friend Brutus worries that Caesar may aspire to dictatorship over the Roman republic, Caesar seems to show no such inclination, declining the crown several times.

While Brutus loves Caesar as a friend, he opposes the ascension of any single man to the position of dictator, and he fears that Caesar aspires to such power. Unlike Caesar, Brutus is able to separate completely his public life from his private life; by giving priority to matters of state, he epitomizes Roman virtue. Torn between his loyalty to Caesar and his allegiance to the state, Brutus becomes the tragic hero of the play. Read an in-depth analysis of Brutus. While his good friend Brutus worries that Caesar may aspire to dictatorship over the Roman republic, Caesar seems to show no such inclination, declining the crown several times. Yet while Caesar may not be unduly power-hungry, he does possess his share of flaws. Read an in-depth analysis of Julius Caesar. Read an in-depth analysis of Antony. Cassius dislikes the fact that Caesar has become godlike in the eyes of the Romans. He slyly leads Brutus to believe that Caesar has become too powerful and must die, finally converting Brutus to his cause by sending him forged letters claiming that the Roman people support the death of Caesar. Impulsive and unscrupulous, Cassius harbors no illusions about the way the political world works. A shrewd opportunist, he proves successful but lacks integrity. Casca relates to Cassius and Brutus how Antony offered the crown to Caesar three times and how each time Caesar declined it. He believes, however, that Caesar is the consummate actor, lulling the populace into believing that he has no personal ambition. Calpurnia invests great authority in omens and portents. She warns Caesar against going to the Senate on the Ides of March, since she has had terrible nightmares and heard reports of many bad omens. Brutus later hears that Portia has killed herself out of grief that Antony and Octavius have become so powerful. He later dies at the order of Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus. Though Antony has a low opinion of Lepidus, Octavius trusts his loyalty. Decius convinces Caesar that Calpurnia misinterpreted her dire nightmares and that, in fact, no danger awaits him at the Senate. Decius leads Caesar right into the hands of the conspirators.

Marcus Junius Brutus is a historical figure who features as a character in the HBO/BBC2 original television series Rome, played by Tobias Menzies. He is depicted as a

Human nature was paramount with Shakespeare, and the facts of history have been subordinated in his plays wherever they interfered with his conception of character. Julius Caesar This tendency to place character conception before historic truth is best illustrated in Julius Caesar by the portrayal of Caesar himself. Shakespeare insists, despite history, that he is a tyrant, weak in body and mind, easily flattered, vain, superstitious. Subject to epileptic fits. He is the idealist, the dreamer, so universally respected that the conspirators seek him to give prestige to their cause. Love of country, of liberty, of honor, are his guiding principles. Patriotic and liberty loving. Not that I love Caesar less but that I loved Rome more. The name of honor more than I fear death. Romans need no other bond than their pledged word. Self controlled and stoical. We must die, Messala His public life is only a series of mistakes. Refuses to have Antony killed. Insists on marching to Philippi. Mark Antony, his political enemy, fitly pronounces him "the noblest Roman of them all. When finally her suppressed grief and suspense can no longer be endured, her mind gives way and in a fit of madness she takes her own life. Cassius Cassius is the foil to Brutus. Casca drawn into the conspiracy. Antony Antony, like Cassius, is a foil to Brutus. Like Cassius, he is an astute, practical man of the world, but unlike Cassius, he is fond of pleasure and adventure. Like Cassius again, he is bound by ties of affection and admiration to a finer nature. His love for Caesar is sincere, but he is shrewd and selfish enough to use it for his own ends. Joined to a masker and a reveller! Speech of conciliation to Brutus. Gains permission to speak at funeral. Lepidus, the third triumvir, is "a slight, unmeritable man, meet to be sent on errands," but having done his part in easing Antony "of divers slanderous loads," he is to be sent off "like to the empty ass, to shake his ears. But however practical and unscrupulous his own nature, he was able to recognize and admire nobility of character in another, as is shown in his frank appreciation of Brutus: