

Chapter 1 : Coriolanus (film) - Wikipedia

Coriolanus (/kɛˈriˈɛɪˈnɪˈɔːlənʊs/ or /-ɛˈriˈɛɪˈnɪˈɔːlənʊs/) is a tragedy by William Shakespeare, believed to have been written between and The play is based on the life of the legendary Roman leader Caius Marcius Coriolanus.

Synopsis[edit] "Virgilia bewailing the absence of Coriolanus" by Thomas Woolner The play opens in Rome shortly after the expulsion of the Tarquin kings. There are riots in progress, after stores of grain were withheld from ordinary citizens. The rioters are particularly angry at Caius Marcius, [2] a brilliant Roman general whom they blame for the loss of their grain. The rioters encounter a patrician named Menenius Agrippa, as well as Caius Marcius himself. Menenius tries to calm the rioters, while Marcius is openly contemptuous, and says that the plebeians were not worthy of the grain because of their lack of military service. Two of the tribunes of Rome, Brutus and Sicinius, privately denounce Marcius. He leaves Rome after news arrives that a Volscian army is in the field. The commander of the Volscian army, Tullus Aufidius, has fought Marcius on several occasions and considers him a blood enemy. The Roman army is commanded by Cominius, with Marcius as his deputy. The siege of Corioli is initially unsuccessful, but Marcius is able to force open the gates of the city, and the Romans conquer it. Even though he is exhausted from the fighting, Marcius marches quickly to join Cominius and fight the other Volscian force. In recognition of his great courage, Cominius gives Caius Marcius the agnomen , or "official nickname ", of Coriolanus. He effortlessly wins the support of the Roman Senate , and seems at first to have won over the plebeians as well. However, Brutus and Sicinius scheme to defeat Coriolanus and whip up another riot in opposition to his becoming consul. Faced with this opposition, Coriolanus flies into a rage and rails against the concept of popular rule. He compares allowing plebeians to have power over the patricians to allowing "crows to peck the eagles". The two tribunes condemn Coriolanus as a traitor for his words, and order him to be banished. Coriolanus retorts that it is he who banishes Rome from his presence. After being exiled from Rome, Coriolanus seeks out Aufidius in the Volscian capital of Antium , and offers to let Aufidius kill him to spite the country that banished him. Moved by his plight and honoured to fight alongside the great general, Aufidius and his superiors embrace Coriolanus, and allow him to lead a new assault on Rome. Rome, in its panic, tries desperately to persuade Coriolanus to halt his crusade for vengeance, but both Cominius and Menenius fail. Volumnia succeeds in dissuading her son from destroying Rome, and Coriolanus instead concludes a peace treaty between the Volscians and the Romans. When Coriolanus returns to the Volscian capital, conspirators, organised by Aufidius, kill him for his betrayal. Shakespeare himself had been charged and fined several times for hoarding food stocks to sell at inflated prices [13] For these reasons, R. Parker suggests "late Parker acknowledges that the evidence is "scanty Elements of the text, such as the uncommonly detailed stage directions, lead some Shakespeare scholars to believe the text was prepared from a theatrical prompt book. Analysis and criticism[edit] A. Bradley described this play as "built on the grand scale," [15] like King Lear and Macbeth, but it differs from those two masterpieces in an important way. Readers and playgoers have often found him an unsympathetic character, as his caustic pride is strangely, almost delicately balanced at times by a reluctance to be praised by his compatriots and an unwillingness to exploit and slander for political gain. The play is less frequently produced than the other tragedies of the later period, and is not so universally regarded as great. Bradley, for instance, declined to number it among his famous four in the landmark critical work Shakespearean Tragedy. Eliot wrote a two-part poem about Coriolanus, "Coriolan" an alternative spelling of Coriolanus ; he also alluded to Coriolanus in a passage from his own The Waste Land when he wrote, "Revive for a moment a broken Coriolanus. After , however, its themes made it a natural choice for times of political turmoil. Seemingly undeterred by the earlier suppression of his Richard II , Tate offered a Coriolanus that was faithful to Shakespeare through four acts before becoming a Websterian bloodbath in the fifth act. Director King Rich Warren placed the action in a fascist s setting that mirrored depression era America. The production was well received by critics. The play was directed by Angus Jackson. He intended to make it a tragedy of the workers, not the individual, and introduce the alienation effect ; his journal notes showing that he found many of his own effects already in the text, he considered staging the play with only minimal changes. It starred

Alan Howard and was directed by Elijah Moshinsky. In the Royal Shakespeare Company performed a new staging of Coriolanus, along with two other plays, at the University of Michigan. The director, David Farr, saw the play as depicting the modernization of an ancient ritualized culture, and drew on samurai influences to illustrate that view. The play is basically about the birth of democracy. Shakespeare pronunciation guides list both pronunciations as acceptable. Written by philosopher Charles Pigden, it was published in *Conspiracy Theories: The Philosophical Debate* Ashgate Oxford University Press, , 17â€™ Lippincott, , p. Coriolanus Cambridge University Press, , pp. Parker, Coriolanus Oxford University Press, , 2â€™3.

Chapter 2 : Coriolanus () - IMDb

ACT I SCENE I. Rome. A street. Enter a company of mutinous Citizens, with staves, clubs, and other weapons First Citizen Before we proceed any further, hear me speak.

Plot[edit] In Rome , riots are in progress after stores of grain are withheld from citizens and civil liberties are reduced due to a war between Rome and neighbouring Volsci. During a march, the rioters encounter Martius, who is openly contemptuous and does not hide his low opinion of the regular citizens. The commander of the Volscian army, Tullus Aufidius Gerard Butler , who has fought Martius on several occasions and considers him a mortal enemy, swears that the next time they meet in battle will be the last. Martius returns to Rome victorious and in recognition of his great courage, General Cominius John Kani gives him the agnomen of "Coriolanus". He easily wins the Roman Senate and seems at first to have won over the commoners as well due to his military victories. Two tribunes , Brutus Paul Jesson and Sicinius James Nesbitt , are critical of his entrance into politics, fearing that his popularity would lead to Coriolanus taking power away from the Senate for himself. They scheme to undo Coriolanus and so stir up another riot in opposition to him becoming consul. When they call Coriolanus a traitor , Coriolanus bursts into rage and openly attacks the concept of popular rule as well as the citizens of Rome, demonstrating that he still holds the plebeians in contempt. He compares allowing citizens to have power over the senators as to allowing "crows to peck the eagles". The tribunes term Coriolanus a traitor for his words and order him banished. Coriolanus retorts that it is he who will banish Rome from his presence: After being exiled from Rome, Coriolanus seeks out Aufidius in the Volscian capital of Antium and offers to let Aufidius kill him, to spite the country that banished him. Moved by his plight and honoured to fight alongside the great general, Aufidius and his superiors embrace Coriolanus and allow him to lead a new assault on the city, so that he can claim vengeance on the city which he feels betrayed him. Coriolanus and Aufidius lead a Voscilian attack on Rome. Panicked, Rome sends General Titus to persuade Coriolanus to halt his crusade for vengeance; when Titus reports his failure, Senator Menenius Brian Cox follows but is also shunned. In response, Menenius, who has seemingly lost all hope in Coriolanus and Rome, commits suicide by a river bank. Volumnia succeeds in dissuading her son from destroying Rome and Coriolanus makes peace between the Volscians and the Romans alongside General Cominius. When Coriolanus returns to the Volscian border, he is confronted by Aufidius and his men, who now also brand him as a traitor. They call him Martius and refuse to call him by his "stolen name" of Coriolanus. Aufidius explains to Coriolanus how he put aside his hatred so that they could conquer Rome but now that Coriolanus has prevented this, he has betrayed the promise between them. For this betrayal, Aufidius and his men attack and kill Coriolanus.

Chapter 3 : Coriolanus: List of Scenes

From a general summary to chapter summaries to explanations of famous quotes, the SparkNotes Coriolanus Study Guide has everything you need to ace quizzes, tests, and essays.

I also like the man Coriolanus as he is revealed in the play. He cannot be true both to his mother and his republic and to himself--and that is his tragedy. The verse of this play is often harsh and crabbed, but it is a monumental crabbedness, an imposing harshness--very much like the personality of its hero. It is an extremely rich play, that yields more with each reading or performance. I think Measure for Measure is like that too The Bard is in a class of his own. However, it is a long intro and a little heady at times and not a particularly enjoyable read. But, it was a valuable read. The plot of this text in short is that Coriolanus is a warrior hero of Rome and is in line for the Consulship leader of Rome, but tradition has it that he must go to the common folk and ask their permission. This is a task he is loath to do, and the Tribunes of the people use this against him in stirring up the rabble. And the story takes off from there. Shakespeare is asking us in this play what we prefer from our leaders. Do we want their flattering, their disdain if they have the skills to lead , etc. It is a very relevant question, especially today. There are many examples all around the world today. Is that a virtue or vice we are left to decide. Shakespeare gives this character no soliloquies, so we never get in his head. The text boasts some interesting characters besides the titular Coriolanus. Then there is Volumnia, the mother of Coriolanus who when she is on stage dominates the play. The recent professional production I saw recognized this fact, and Volumnia was clearly an audience favorite. She is another ambiguous, larger than life character in the Shakespeare canon. They are worth a read. As for the Pelican Shakespeare series, they are one of my two favorite editions since the scholarly research is usually top notch and the editions themselves look good as an aesthetic unit. The Pelican series was recently reedited and has the latest scholarship on Shakespeare and his time period. Well priced and well worth it.

Chapter 4 : Coriolanus Summary - calendrierdelascience.com

A modern-day spin on one of Shakespeare's lesser known plays, Coriolanus is an ambitious and lyrical Greek tragedy that has everything you'd expect from the mind of the Bard; betrayal, revenge, pride, conflict, monologues, dilemmas, death- it's all in there.

The Volscians are headed by Tullus Aufidius, also a great soldier and perennial foe of Marcius. The hatred the two leaders have for each other fires their military ambitions. Locked inside the city, he and his troops fight so valiantly that they overcome the Volscians. Twice wounded, the victorious general is garlanded and hailed as Caius Marcius Coriolanus. On his return to Rome, Coriolanus is further proclaimed by patricians, consuls, and senators, and he is recommended for the office of consul, an appointment wholeheartedly approved by the nobles. Because the citizens, too, have to vote on his appointment, Coriolanus, accompanied by Menenius Agrippa, goes to Sicinius and Brutus, the plebeian tribunes, to seek their approval. The people long held only contempt for Coriolanus because of his arrogance and inhumane attitude toward all commoners. He is successful in this with individuals he approaches at random on the streets, but Brutus and Sicinius, who represent the common people, are not willing to endorse the elevation of Coriolanus to office. They voice the opinions of many citizens when they accuse Coriolanus of insolence and of abuses such as denying the people food from the public storehouses. Urging those citizens who voted for him to rescind their votes, Brutus and Sicinius point out that his military prowess is not to be denied but that this very attribute will result in further suppression and misery for the people. Menenius, Cominius, and the senators repeatedly plead with Coriolanus to approach the tribunes civilly, and Volumnia admonishes him that if he wants to realize his political ambitions he must follow their advice. She taught him arrogance, nurtured his desires in military matters, and boasted of his strength and of her part in developing his dominating personality. Coriolanus now infers that his mother in her older years is asking for submissiveness and compliance. Although he promises Volumnia that he will deal kindly with the people, it is impossible for him to relent, even when his wife, Virgilia, who never condoned his soldiership, lends her pleas to those of the group and appeals to his vanity as a capable political leader and to his responsibility as a father and a husband. Drawing his sword, he would have stood alone against the mob, but Menenius and Cominius, fearing that the demonstration might result in an overthrow of the government, prevail upon him to withdraw to his house before the crowd assembles. Coriolanus misinterprets the requests of his friends and family that he yield to the common people, and he displays such arrogance that he is banished from Rome. Tullus Aufidius, learning of these events, prepares his armies to take advantage of the civil unrest in Rome. Coriolanus, in disguise to protect himself against those who want to avenge the deaths of the many he killed, goes to Antium to offer his services to Aufidius against Rome. Aufidius divides his army in order that he and Coriolanus each can lead a unit, thereby broadening the scope of his efforts against the Romans. They are unsuccessful, and Cominius returns to inform the citizens that, in spite of old friendships, Coriolanus will not be swayed in his intentions to annihilate the city. Cominius reports that Coriolanus refuses to take the time to find the few grains who are his friends among the chaff he intends to burn. Menenius, sent to appeal again to Coriolanus, meets with the same failure. Coriolanus maintains that his ears are stronger against the pleas than the city gates are against his might. Calling the attention of Aufidius to his firm stand against the Romans, he asks him to report his conduct to the Volscian lords. Aufidius promises to do so and praises the general for his stalwartness. The petitioners are Volumnia, Virgilia, and young Marcius, his son. Telling them that he will not be moved, he again urges Aufidius to observe his unyielding spirit. Then Volumnia speaks, saying that their requests for leniency and mercy are in vain, since he already proclaimed against kindness, and that they will therefore not appeal to him. He also makes it impossible for them to appeal to the gods: They cannot pray for victory for Rome because such supplication will be against him, and they cannot pray for his success in the campaign because that would betray their country. Volumnia proclaims that she does not seek advantage for either the Romans or the Volscians but asks only for reconciliation. She predicts that Coriolanus will be a hero to both sides if he can arrange an honorable peace between them. Volumnia, Virgilia, and young Marcius return to Rome, there to be

welcomed for the success of their intercession with Coriolanus. Aufidius withdraws to Antium to await the return of Coriolanus and their meeting with the Roman ambassadors, but as he reviews the situation, he realizes that peace will nullify his plan for revenge against Coriolanus. Moreover, knowing of the favorable regard the Volscians have for Coriolanus, he believes he has to remove the man who was his conqueror in war and who might become his subduer in peace. At a meeting of the Volscian lords, Aufidius announces that Coriolanus betrayed the Volscians by depriving them of victory. In the ensuing confusion, he stabs Coriolanus to death. One of the Volscian lords pronounces Coriolanus the most noble corpse ever followed to the grave.

Chapter 5 : Summary of Coriolanus | Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Coriolanus grudgingly wins the votes of the people. The two tribunes soon scheme to undo his election, and pit the testy Coriolanus against the people. He is at last deemed a traitor and run out.

Coriolanus simplified Synopsis The audience finds itself as the play opens on a street in Rome, five hundred give-or-take years before the time of Christ, Rome at that time being a city that is just beginning to become a city, well before Rome was considered by anyone as an empire. A group of plebeians, the common people, are complaining among themselves about the lack of corn provided to them by the patricians, the aristocrats who decide how things in young Rome are run. The Roman soldiers retreat; then promptly regroup and re-rush the city, taking it. While a wounded but proud Martius returns to Rome to confer with Cominius, Lartius and his men hold the captured city. Menenius defends Martius as a loyal Roman and a good man. Meanwhile, in the Roman Senate, filled with patricians, the senators offer Coriolanus varying degrees of support. Cominius lavishes praise on him and recounts his heroic actions at Corioles. Sicinius says to the plebeians: Coriolanus delivers a set of lectures to the Senate, letting them know why he thinks they dare not let the plebeians gain influence and that the common people need be kept in their place. He draws his sword. The tribunes, having the authority, decide he is to be banished from Rome. There is a world elsewhere. In classic Shakespeare style, he bids them farewell, leaving them all emotionally wilted. Back in Rome, Volumnia lays into the tribunes; they take it in stride. Coriolanus later surfaces at the house of Aufidius in Antium, enters the house, charms the servingmen, asks to see Aufidius, who, entertaining the Volscian senators with a dinner party, leaves his guests and confronts this uninvited visitor, not recognizing him. Aufidius warmly greets him as if he were a long-lost friend. Aufidius has Martius meet the Volscian senators who just happen to have imminent plans to invade Roman territories. Aufidius immediately offers to split the command of his troops with Coriolanus; Coriolanus agrees, eager as he is to seek revenge against Rome. He leads them like a thing made by some other deity. Meanwhile, with Coriolanus and the Volscians camped on the outskirts of Rome, Sicinius persuades Menenius to meet with Coriolanus and try to convince him not to sack and ruin Rome. Menenius does briefly talk with Coriolanus, who summarily rejects him; empty-handed Menenius returns to Rome. Independently, Volumnia, Virgilia and young Martius, their son, enter the Volscian camp to give their best shot at convincing their son, husband and father to drop his plans to destroy Rome. Here Shakespeare has Volumnia offer perhaps the most beautiful and compelling mother-to-son set of arguments found in literature. Virgilia lets her mother-in-law do the persuading. The son is pretty much silent. Coriolanus and Aufidius return to Corioles. The conspirators kill him. Aufidius is Tullus Aufidius, the Volscian general. At one point, by his own assessment, he says he has been beaten by Martius a dozen times. He pledges revenge and retires to Antium after the Volscian defeat at Corioles. Brutus is Junius Brutus. Cominius was the leading Roman general at the time of the defeat of the Volscians at Corioles. He is a military hero. Coriolanus is insensitive to plebeians, modest with his military peers, and motivated, it seems, by a need to please his mother. He is referred to in the play as Coriolanus once he is bestowed that honorary title; referred to as Martius when addressed with less favor. Menenius Agrippa is a good and loyal friend to Coriolanus, considered by Coriolanus to be like a father. He is a gentle man, most often suggesting to whomever that the rhetoric be toned down. Sicinius is Sicinius Velutus. He, as Brutus, is a Tribune of the People, a champion of the people, appointed to protect the rights of plebeians. As he does with Brutus, Shakespeare has Sicinius handle himself very well. Shakespeare gives her excellent lines. She has a major role both early and then late in the play. The Play On a street in fifth century B. C Rome, a citizen speaks.

Chapter 6 : SparkNotes: Coriolanus: Summary

"Coriolanus" is a Shakespeare that I feel is underappreciated. Like in his "Julius Caesar", the Bard has captured the momentum and the irony of political life in a manner that is celebratory and derisive at the same time.

Chapter 7 : Coriolanus | Shakespeare's Staging

Coriolanus is not --never has been -- one of my favorites of Shakespeare's works. But the volume under review is in the Arden 3rd series and I've slowly been working my way through the 3rd series volumes as they appear.

Chapter 8 : Coriolanus - Wikipedia

As Coriolanus begins, two Roman patricians, Menenius and Martius, calm a revolt by the city's famished plebians. Martius, who despises the plebians, announces that their petition to be represented by tribunes has been granted.

Chapter 9 : Shakespeare's 'Coriolanus' and Robert Lepage's™ ethical fumbles - Stratford Festival Review

Coriolanus is a tragic play about conflict, power of the people and revenge. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee support for browsers with Javascript disabled, you may experience some difficulties using this website.