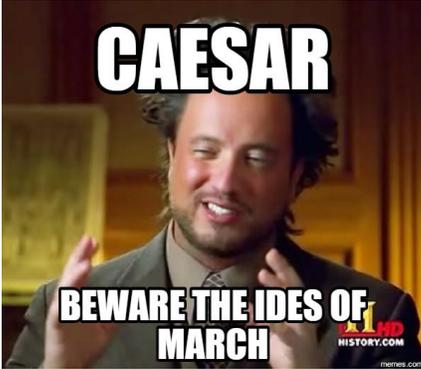


Act 3

Scene 1

The crowd of disloyal senators and a bunch of others surround Julius Caesar just outside the Capitol. After a vague interaction between Caesar and the **soothsayer**, Artemidorius pleads with



Caesar to read his letter first, as it's dearest to Caesar. **(This note tells Caesar of the plot and the names of the conspirators.)** Caesar, the picture of humility, says that, because he puts the affairs of Rome before his own, he'll read Artemidorius's letter last. Artemidorius presses him, and Caesar brushes him off: Before Caesar has time to consider that he's committed the biggest mistake of his life, he is hustled to the Capitol by Cassius. Cassius says Caesar needs to hurry to the Capitol.

Explain the two warnings that Caesar has gotten and ignored:

As Caesar enters the Capitol, Senator Popilius wishes Cassius good luck in "today's enterprise." Naturally, the conspirators flip out a little bit – Popilius, who is now chatting up Caesar, seems to know about the plot. Brutus, calm and collected, assures everyone that they're just scaring themselves. Popilius smiles with Caesar, who looks unconcerned, so he clearly hasn't just heard about the murder plot.

Meanwhile, Trebonius is busy luring Antony away, and the plan is falling into place. Metellus will come up close to Caesar, pretending to have some request, and everyone will gather around him to fall into killing position. Cinna says Casca will strike first. The team breaks and hustles as Caesar calls the Senate to order. Metellus is the first to come before Caesar. Caesar declares that Metellus's brother (whom Metellus is making a request on behalf of) will remain banished. Further, no amount of begging and pleading will shake the great Caesar, it only makes him mad. (Caesar, in his arrogance, definitely makes it harder to be sympathetic towards him here.) As Metellus is making his plea for his brother Publius, Brutus joins in and kisses Caesar's hand, which totally surprises Caesar. Cassius falls to Caesar's feet. As Caesar is surrounded, he declares he definitely won't change the law to accommodate Publius. He declares himself to be **"as constant as the northern star."** While every man might be a fiery star, all the stars move except the northern one. Caesar identifies with that star, so he's not about to change his mind.

The conspirators press on, and Caesar demands that they go away, saying that their pleading is as useless as trying to lift up Olympus, mountain of the gods. Caesar is shocked when Brutus decides to kneel.....



Suddenly Casca rises to stab Caesar. Brutus stabs him too. Caesar's last words are some of literature's most famous: **"Et tu, Brute? [You too, Brutus?] – Then fall, Caesar!"** It seems Caesar is willing to fall if one of his most noble friends, Brutus, would betray him. This is moving, even after the whole, "I'm the most special star in the whole galaxy" speech.

Describe what you would think if you were just an onlooker at the capitol:

Immediately after Caesar falls, Cinna proclaims, "Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!" and tells everybody to run and spread the message in the streets. Brutus realizes that all the other folks standing around in the Capitol watching Caesar bleed might be a bit shocked. He tells them to stay and relax, as **"ambition's debt is paid,"** meaning Caesar's death is the cost and consequence of Caesar's determination.

Trebonius enters to confirm the worst: Antony has run to his house, shocked by the act, and people are shrieking in the street like it was Doomsday. Brutus then basically says: "We all know we'll die eventually, and life is just the process of waiting for the days to pass before it happens." (Maybe Brutus should get a hobby, or a support group.) Brutus goes on to suggest that, as Caesar's friends, **they've done him a favor by shortening the period of time he would've spent worrying about death.** Interesting logic. Weirdly, Brutus then calls everyone to **bathe their hands up to their elbows in Caesar's blood and to cover their swords with it,** so they can walk out into the streets and the marketplace declaring peace, freedom, and liberty in the land.



Cassius says he's sure this bloodbath will go down in history as a noble act, and everyone agrees that Brutus should lead the procession into the street, as he has the boldest and best heart in Rome. Just then, Antony's servant enters, causing the marching band of merry, bloody men to take pause.

So as an onlooker, you've just seen them murder Caesar, and are now seeing them bathe in his blood. What are your thoughts?

Antony has sent word with his servant to say Brutus is noble and wise, and, further, that while Antony loves Brutus and honors him, Antony also feared, loved, and honored Caesar. Brutus tells Antony's servant that his master will be safe if he comes to the Capitol. Cassius, however, is still suspicious of Antony. Antony shows up and makes a great show over Caesar's body, weeping and

wailing. He worries aloud about who else will be killed over some secret grudge the conspirators might hold. Antony then pleads with the conspirators to kill him right now if they want him dead, as to die by swords still fresh with Caesar's blood would be the greatest death ever, hands down. Brutus then pleads with Antony that, though the conspirators' hands are bloody, their hearts are pitiful. After all, someone needed to do this terrible deed for Rome, to drive out fire with fire. Brutus promises to soon explain the reason they've killed Caesar. Right now, though, they've got to go out and quiet the public, which is a bit frightened of the men who stopped for a quick dip in Caesar's blood.

Antony says he has no doubt that Brutus probably had some very good reason to kill Caesar, and he shakes bloody hands with the conspirators all around. He then looks on Caesar's corpse and begins a long-winded speech in praise of Caesar, whom he has betrayed by becoming loyal to his murderers. Cassius interrupts this dramatic posturing and flat-out asks whether Antony is with them or against them. Antony says he is committed to the conspirators, but then he notices Caesar's corpse again (still lying on the ground at their feet), and the plan to be down with the murderers suddenly looks a little less savory. Still, Antony will remain their friend if they can provide some reason to believe Caesar was dangerous. Brutus promises they can and must.

What are all of the emotions Antony is feeling right now? Predict what choice will he make about the conspirators.

Antony's only other little request is that he be allowed to take the body to the marketplace and to speak at Caesar's funeral. Brutus, ever trusting, readily gives in to Antony's request, but Cassius senses foul play and pulls Brutus aside. Cassius warns Brutus to bar Antony from speaking at Caesar's funeral, as he's likely to say things that will incite the people against the conspirators. Brutus will solve this problem by going to the pulpit first and explaining in a calm and rational manner his reasons for killing Caesar. Just to make sure, Brutus makes Antony promise not to say anything stirring at Caesar's funeral. Instead of blaming the killers, he should speak of Caesar's virtue by focusing more on Caesar's life than his death.

Antony promises and is left alone to give a little **soliloquy** (speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself), in which he reveals that he fully intends to incite the crowd to bloody murder against the conspirators. In fact, there'll be so much blood and destruction that Caesar might show up from hell with the goddess of discord at his side, and mothers will smile to see their infants torn limb from limb. (Ew.) Just then a servant arrives with the news that **Octavius** is on his way. Octavius is Caesar's adopted son and heir, and Caesar had recently sent him a letter asking him to come to Rome. Antony tells the servant to hold Octavius where he is, as it's not safe for him in the city yet. He says Octavius should come after Antony has had a chance to give his speech and kick-start the mob rioting.

Why does Caesar have an adopted son? _____

Scene 2

Brutus ascends to the pulpit and the crowd falls silent. He delivers an earnest, honest, and simple speech. First, he says that the people should trust his honor, which they know to be true. He asks if anyone can say they loved Caesar more than he did. No one can. Brutus says he rose against Caesar not because he didn't love him, but because he loved Rome more. If Caesar were still living, they'd all be slaves. To have let him live would be to submit to slavery, and that's downright un-Roman. So obviously Caesar had to die. Everybody is buying this, but then Antony shows up with Caesar's body. Brutus introduces Antony to the crowd and closes his speech by restating that he killed his best friend for Rome's sake and that **he will turn the same dagger on himself if his country ever needs his death**. Everyone is so happy with Brutus that there are **some calls to give him a statue among his ancestors and to make him the new Caesar**. (These folks are really missing the democratic message of his speech.) Brutus politely dismisses himself and asks everyone to stay and listen to Antony's speech. The crowd is firmly behind Brutus, and they shout out that Caesar was a tyrant and Brutus has done them all a favor.

Then Antony takes over, with the famous speech beginning: "**Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones; so let it be with Caesar.**" The crowd is as good as sold there, but Antony manages to stealthily bring it around to the opinion that Caesar has been killed wrongfully. He begins by insisting that Brutus and the other murderers are honorable, but then proceeds to slowly undermine that statement by pointing out how their chief gripe against Caesar, his ambition, could not be true. Antony gives examples of how Caesar loved his people, bringing in money to the country, weeping with the poor, and even refusing the crown three times. Clearly, he suggests, Caesar wasn't ambitious at all, but was devoted and loving to his citizens.

What examples does Antony give to prove that Caesar was not ambitious?

Antony uses a little reverse psychology on the crowd, **getting them to clamor to hear Caesar's will by insisting that they shouldn't hear it**. He descends to read them the will, but gets sidetracked by mourning over Caesar's body. Again Antony insists Brutus is honorable, but then points out the gash Brutus made in his friend's bloody body. Antony repeats this pattern over and over, until all are in agreement to burn, slay, and otherwise do not-so-nice things to Brutus and the other conspirators. They're so caught up and ready to go a-rioting that they forget about Caesar's will. Antony has to remind them that they wanted to hear it. After the mob gets the news that Caesar left everyone some **nice gardens and 75 drachmas** (money), they decide to cremate Caesar in the holy place and burn down the traitors' houses with the same fire. As the mob sets off to carry out the chaos and killing, Antony delights that his plan has worked. He then gets the news that Octavius has come to Rome with Lepidus. Both men are waiting for him at Caesar's house. Good fortune is upon

them, as they'll be the new **triumvirate (the three-man team that ruled Rome)**. We learn that Brutus and Cassius have fled the city like madmen.

What did Caesar leave the common people in his will? _____

Scene 3

The poet **Cinna**, who is traveling the streets, gets caught up by the mob. After asking him a few questions, they confuse him with **Cinna the conspirator**. He pleads that they've got the wrong guy, but the mob has no mercy. They decide to tear him to pieces anyway for his bad poetry. As they drag him offstage, they list the names of the conspirators whose houses they're off to pillage and burn.

Caption this picture:

