

Act 4 Scene 1 Summary: This Group of men are Pro-Caesar



Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus are gathered with a checklist of the men they plan to murder for conspiracy (killing Caesar). Lepidus agrees that his brother can be killed as long as Antony agrees for his nephew to be killed. Lepidus is sent to collect Caesar's will, to see if they can divert some of his money their way. As soon as Lepidus has gone, Antony begins to talk trash about him. Antony thinks Lepidus is a slight man, so it's a shame that he'll be sharing power with Antony

and Octavius in the triumvirate (a group of three men holding power).

What is the *denotative* (dictionary) definition of the underlined word?

What is the *connotative* (ideas and emotions) meaning of the underlined word?

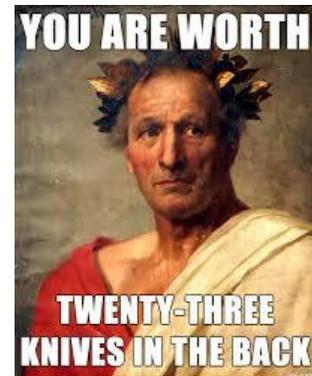
Antony says he only took Lepidus's word about who should die because he's more experienced than Octavius. The plan is to let Lepidus bear the burden of ruling while doing as he's told by the other two. Octavius is more in the pro-Lepidus camp and insists that he's a good soldier. Antony replies that his (Antony's) horse is a good soldier too – good at being led and ordered. To them, Lepidus should only be a puppet. They then discuss the fact that Brutus and Cassius are raising an army, which they have to fight by allying their friends and funds. They go off to sit in council and discuss how they'll fight their enemies and weed out the traitors.

What is the conflict between Antony and Octavius?

Reread the underlined sentence above. How does this change your view of Antony?

Act 4 Scene 2 Summary: This Group of men are Anti-Caesar

Brutus and his friend **Lucilius** meet **Pindarus**, servant and friend to **Cassius**, with **Titinius**, another mutual buddy. (Wow, that's a lot of "us"es.) Brutus says Cassius, who isn't there yet, has engaged in or overseen some shady business that makes Brutus wish they had never killed Caesar. Still, if Cassius is on his way, that's OK. Lucilius admits, when asked by Brutus, that Cassius wasn't his usual friendly self. To Brutus, it sounds like the friendship is cooling. Cassius's army will stay in Sardis (in what's now Turkey) that night, and the cavalry will arrive with Cassius. Cassius enters and announces that Brutus has done him wrong.



Brutus is shocked: how could he wrong someone who's like a brother to him? The two men are about to have a spat, and they agree it's best to do it privately rather than let the troops know they're fighting. They order their armies to be moved away so they can go to Brutus's tent and argue in private, with Lucilius and Titinius guarding the door.

Is the conflict described above an example of *internal conflict* or *external conflict*? Why?

What details or remarks above suggest that tension is increasing between Brutus and Cassius?

Why does Brutus suggest meeting in his tent? _____

Act 4 Scene 3 Summary: Brutus and Cassius are in the tent

The root of Cassius and Brutus's argument comes out: Brutus has condemned a man, Lucius Pella, for taking bribes from the Sardians. Cassius wrote a letter saying Pella shouldn't be punished, but Brutus ignored it. He accuses Cassius of being dishonorable for suggesting they let bribery slide. Cassius resents being called greedy, but Brutus gets to the heart of the matter: they all killed Caesar for justice's sake, but when they start getting involved in petty robbery, it compromises their honor and calls into question their noble motives for killing Caesar. Cassius and Brutus then argue, and Brutus is all "I don't even know who you are anymore." Brutus tells Cassius to get out of his sight, which doesn't go over well, and the two start threatening each other.

What wrong has Brutus done to Cassius by condemning Lucius?

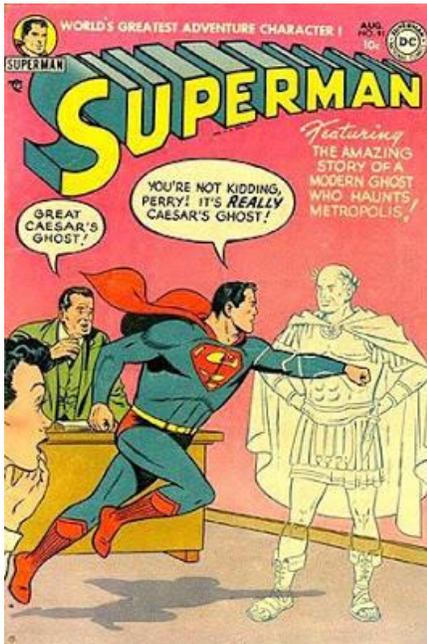
Brutus brings up an old problem: he had asked Cassius to send gold to pay his soldiers, but Cassius denied him, which was not cool. Cassius claims he didn't deny Brutus; it must've been some bad messenger's fault. Still, Brutus should be a good friend, Cassius says, and ignore his faults. That's what friends do. Things come to a head when Cassius offers Brutus his blade and naked chest. Cassius points out that Brutus stabbed Caesar out of love, which is more than Cassius is getting from Brutus right now. With the offer of murder on the table, they both realize they're being a bit moody and melodramatic. They agree that Cassius is showing his mother's temper again. From now on they'll be friends and not get angry at each other. Reread the underlined sentences above. **What is Cassius telling Brutus to do to him? Why is he telling Brutus to do this?** _____

As they step out of the tent, they find a poet waiting to tell them they should be friends. It's really nice of the poet to be so concerned. They laugh at him and send him off, then they direct Lucilius and Titinius to get their armies ready to lodge for the night. Then the big news about what put Brutus in such a bad mood comes out. Portia, Brutus's loving wife, was driven to grief by his flight from Rome and by Antony and Octavius's growing strength. Long story short, she has killed herself by swallowing coals. (Ouch.) After he tells all this to Cassius, Brutus gets some wine and aims to drink the pain away, saying they should speak no more of his dead wife. Messala and Titinius come in, and though Cassius would like to dwell on Portia's death a bit, Brutus is all business. **With what internal conflict has Brutus been struggling?** _____



ACT 4 Summary

They've learned that Octavius and Antony have decreed that a hundred senators must die in Rome. Both men are now on their way to Philippi. Brutus says he's only heard the names of seventy senators, and that Cicero is one of them. Messala then pipes up that Cicero is dead, and tries to skirt around the issue of Portia's death with Brutus. Brutus is less hurt than anyone expected him to be. He says Portia had to die only once, and he can bear that death. The talk then turns to beating their enemies at Philippi. Cassius thinks it's better for



them to sit tight until Antony and Octavius wear out their own armies with travel. That way Brutus and Cassius's army will still be fresh to fight. Brutus points out, though, that the enemy army might gather strength as it goes. Because more and more men between Rome and Philippi don't support Brutus and Cassius, they might be willing to join Antony and Octavius's forces. Brutus thinks his and Cassius's army is at its peak right now. They'll only get weaker, so it's better to act right away. They all agree to go to Philippi and meet Antony and Octavius's army.

Are Brutus and Cassius at an advantage or disadvantage in this war that they have started?

Explain. _____

Everyone decides to get a little sleep, and Brutus asks Lucius to play him a tune on his instrument, even though Lucius is sleepy. Brutus has called in some soldiers to sleep in his tent and keep watch. Everyone sleeps but Brutus, who

picks up his book to read. Just then Caesar's ghost shows up, claiming he is "thy evil spirit, Brutus." Brutus is a bit shaken, **and the ghost explains that he'll see him again at Philippi.** Brutus is all "see you then, I guess." After the ghost disappears, Brutus wakes the men who've been sleeping in his tent. None of them saw the ghost. Brutus has one of the men tell Cassius to send his army off early in the morning; Brutus's army will follow. It seems Caesar's ghost has only cemented Brutus's willingness to meet his fate, whatever it be.

Look at the bolded text above. Predict what will happen at Philippi.



Compare and contrast the Triumvirate and the conspirators.

