

TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL, SEC. 33 B, CHD.
CLASS : X
SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE
ACT 3, SC. 1 Julius Caesar

Extract 1.

- (i) Caesar gives no answer but at his place Cassius asks them not to present their petitions in the street but come to the senate house. Caesar gets angry with Artemidorus because he insists that his letter should be read first because it was related to his safety.
- (ii) Popilius wishes Cassius success in his enterprise. Cassius gets tensed up because of his guilty consciousness. He fears if Popilius knows about his plot. He instructs Casca to be quick in striking their blows to murder Caesar.
- (iii) Cassius feels disturbed when Popilius wishes him success in his enterprise as he gets apprehensive that Popilius might have come to know about his planning. But Brutus calms him down. He tells Cassius that Popilius is not speaking to Caesar about them or their plan.
- (iv) Trebonius draws Mark Antony out of the way of Caesar. He does so to help the conspirators in their plan to murder Caesar. Metellus Cimber's suit to Caesar is that his banished brother should be called back.

The following things show Caesar's high handedness.

Metellus Cimber kneels before him but Caesar calls it his ~~weak~~ humility to melt his heart.

CLASS : X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

2. Caesar asks him not to behave foolishly.
3. He says that sweet words, servile low stooping (He calls it dog like flattery) cannot melt his heart. Nothing can persuade him to change the sentence.

Passage 2.

- (i) Metellus Cimber is in the capacity of a petitioner. He is pleading for his brother. He is pleading for repealing the banishment of his brother Publius Cimber. No he is not sincere about his request. He knows that Caesar will not change his decision or the decision taken by the Senate.
- (ii) It is so because Caesar knows that these stoopings, bows and salutations have no effect on him. He is firm in his decision. These things melt foolish people - servile low stooping, sweet words, dogs like flattery and fawning submissiveness. Caesar is not like these fools because he does no wrong and he cannot be persuaded to change his sentence.
- (iii) Caesar tells Metellus that his brother was banished according to the rule of the state. He, as an individual cannot change the law of the land. Caesar threatens him that if he goes on kneeling, he will kick him out of his way.
- (iv) "For the repealing of my banish'd brother."
- (v) Brutus responds to the request of Metellus. He

CLASS : X

Act III, SC - 1

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

requests Caesar to allow Publius Cimber immediate freedom. He wants that he should be allowed to come back.

Passage 3.

- (i) Brutus has requested Caesar to immediately repeal the banishment of Publius Cimber. It has shocked Caesar because it is an unjust demand made by an honest leader like Brutus.
- (ii) After Brutus, Cassius also makes the same request to Caesar. His words "Even at your feet does Cassius fall," are very much unlike Cassius. The words show that Cassius is behaving like a perfect actor.
- (iii) Caesar says that if he could be easily persuaded like him (Cassius), he would have been moved by prayers. But he is unlike him.
- (iv) He compares himself to the pole star. The pole star has no equal in the sky. It has constancy, it holds its position unchangingly. He compares himself to the Pole Star because like this star he is constant, firm and fixed at his position.
- (v) Caesar's purpose is to emphasise his firmness, determination and constancy. He is unique like the Pole star.

CLASS : X**SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE****PASSAGE 4.**

- (i) Casca is one of the conspirators devoted to Cassius. He has been given the duty to stab Caesar first at the back. This duty is assigned to him by Cassius who was solely responsible for hatching this conspiracy against Julius Caesar.
- (ii) He stabs Caesar from behind at his back. It is a cowardly act because a brave person always attacks his enemy from the front.
- (iii) Brutus strikes Caesar in the end. He is the best, most loved and trusted friend of Caesar. When he does this Caesar cries, "Et tu, Brute! Then fall, Caesar." The last words signify that when the most trusted and loved friend wants to kill Caesar, he must die. Caesar was completely disheartened and shattered on seeing Brutus' treachery.
- (iv) Caesar falls at the foot of his great enemy Pompey's statue. The irony lies in the fact that Caesar lies dead at the foot of his enemy's statue, whom he defeated and killed. Caesar's murder is a turning point in the story. Instigated by Antony the people of Rome rise in revolt, chase the conspirators and burn down their houses.
- (v) They go to the public platform in the marketplace and proclaim from there that they have gained liberty from the tyrannical rule of Caesar.

CLASS: X**SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Brutus tries to assure the people not to run away due to fear. He says Caesar has paid the price for his high ambition. He has been sacrificed at the altar of liberty. It tells us that Brutus was not a malicious person but a noble misguided person.

Passage 5.

- (i) They have said that they are Caesar's friends because they have shortened his period of fearing death. No, it is not ^{to be} taken seriously because they are only trying to console their guilty consciousness.
- (ii) Brutus feels that by washing their hands in Caesar's blood they have achieved freedom from tyranny. There will be peace and liberty in Rome now. It was an act of sacrifice and not murder in his eyes. It seems to be fulfilment of Calpurnia's dream because she had seen healthy Romans, smiling and washing their hands in blood pouring from Caesar's statue.
- (iii) "Then walk we forth, even to the market-place."
- (iv) Cassius says that they will be called liberators of Rome by the men as they are the one who gave their country liberty. Members of this group make a serious mistake. They did not anticipate that the mob acts on emotions and not on reason.

CLASS : X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

- (iv) Cassius says that it is a grand scene which will be enacted on the stage over and over again in numerous countries. Brutus too testifies what Cassius has said. The scene of Caesar's murder will be seen by coming generations on the stage.

Passage 6 :

- (i) Brutus spoke these words. Brutus and Cassius were present there.
- (ii) Another word for 'soft' is 'stop'. A friend of Antony has come here. He has come here on behalf of Antony.
- (iii) The four adjectives used are - noble, wise, valiant and honest. These adjectives are not justified because the speaker is neither noble, nor wise, nor valiant and nor even honest.
- (iv) Through his servant Antony makes two requests. He should be allowed to come and meet him safely. He should not be harmed in any way. He should be satisfied as to why Caesar was killed. This person is very dear and respectful to the speaker.
- (v) The speaker i.e. Brutus assures the servant that Antony will ^{not} be harmed.
- Yes, it is the turning point in the play because it brings in Antony who is to take revenge for Caesar. He says that he will fetch Antony there.

CLASS : X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

Passage 7.

- (i) Antony wishes that if he is to be killed this is the proper time for his death. His dead body should lie beside the body of Caesar. He makes such a wish because he finds this place beside his friend Caesar to be fit for his death.
- (ii) In reply to Antony's wish to be killed by them Brutus says that his wish cannot be granted. They appear to be butchers but they are not murderers. They are pitiful. They have killed Caesar for the welfare of Rome.
- (iii) Brutus assures him that they have no ill-will against him. They are ready to receive him. Antony assures them that he does not doubt their wisdom. He is ready to shake hand with each ^{one} of them. His interior motive is to take revenge for the murder of Caesar. Antony is not a coward, he is very shrewd.
- (iv) Antony compares Caesar to a deer and the conspirators to princes who have hunted him down. He wins their confidence by assuring them that he is with them and loves them all.
- (v) Antony requests that he should be allowed to address the Romans when the dead body of Caesar is brought out. Cassius objects to this request. Yes, Cassius was sound in his judgement. He knew that Antony would sway the audience.

CLASS: X

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

against them. His apprehension turned out to be true.

Passage 8.

- (i) He calls Caesar 'bleeding piece of earth' because Caesar's bleeding corpse (his remains) is lying on the earth. He calls the conspirators, butchers who murdered Caesar in a cowardly manner.
- (ii) Antony had been meek and gentle with these butchers when he shook hands with them. His shaking hands with conspirators shows that he is a man of practical wisdom.
- (iii) Antony makes this prophesy. A curse will fall upon the people of Rome. There will be a civil war among the people. Bloodshed and destruction will be there. Caesar's spirit will roam around to take revenge. Yes, his prophesy comes true. In the strife that follows the conspirators are killed one by one.
- (iv) A servant of Octavius Caesar comes after Antony's soliloquy. He brings the news that his master Octavius Caesar is coming to Rome.
- (v) Antony tells that person to go back and convey to Octavius that Caesar has been killed and that Rome is not a safe place for him to come. Antony asks him to stay for a while till the body of Caesar is carried to the market place. Moreover, he should tell Octavius about the state of affairs in Rome. — last page —