

TEACHER: Kashama Sharma
TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL, SEC-33B, CHD.
CLASS: X
SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE
ACT 3, SC-2

CONTEXT QUESTIONS:

QUESTION 1.

Brutus: As Caesar loved me, I weep for him, as he was fortunate

- (i) The scene takes place at the Forum in Rome. Brutus is addressing the citizens of Rome. He is trying to pacify the citizens or anxious Roman mob with satisfactory reasons behind Julius Caesar's assassinations.
- (ii) He calls the Roman mob a better judge because Brutus' noble intention for killing Julius Caesar for preventing the dictatorship and tyranny of Julius Caesar and restoring Republicanism in Rome will surely persuade and pacify the Roman people about his integrity towards the Romans. No, Brutus is proved wrong later on when Antony addresses the mob and brings out the evil intention of the conspirators in front of them. All this happens because Roman mob is irrational and fickle-minded.
- (iii) Brutus feels that he has definitely offended Julius Caesar's friends by killing him. The Roman mob assures Brutus that he has not offended anyone as they could understand his selfless motive behind joining the conspirators.

Teacher : Kashama Sharma**CLASS : X****SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE**

- (iv) Brutus justifies at the end that he has not offended anyone because he himself was ready to face the same punishment if ever he will become a tyrant. Besides this he tells the commoners that the circumstances of Caesar's murder have been recorded in the archives of the Capitol. In those records his glory, which goes to his credit, good deeds have not been belittled and his offences for which he paid with his life, have not been highlighted.

Antony and others enter the scene with Caesar's body.

- (v) Brutus introduces Antony as the chief mourner, who otherwise had no hand in Caesar's death but he will surely receive the benefit of his death i.e., get a place to live in a free Republic along with the other commoners.

Brutus is completely confident that Antony will not cause any harm to the conspirators because he has been permitted by Brutus and others to give a speech to glorify Caesar's achievements and to give him an official tribute. indirectly

- (vi) **QUESTION 2 :** Antony : .. Noble Brutus had told you
Kindly do this general question yourself.

CLASS: X**SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE**

(ii) Two instances which prove that Caesar was not ambitious are - Caesar had brought many captives of war home to Rome and a huge sum/amount of money was taken as ransom for releasing them so he had contributed a great amount of money to the public treasury of Rome.

Secondly, Caesar had rejected the crown thrice during the festival of Lupercal, the crown, which was offered to him by Mark Antony.

(iii) Antony uses the word honourable in his speech which is a repetition in a sarcastic manner to incite the mob to anger and fury.

Antony cleverly brings out all the accomplishments or things Julius Caesar had done for the welfare of Roman mob using his oratorical skills and quoting the line that Brutus and other conspirators are honourable and he was addressing the commoners with their permission only.

(iv) Antony asks the mob to mourn for Julius Caesar's death with him as he had been brutally killed by the conspirators undermining his concern for the Roman people.

His ulterior motive in doing so is to bring the evil deeds of the conspirators in front of the Roman mob and to avenge Julius Caesar's death.

CLASS : X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

- (v) The mob was completely dumbstruck and convinced by Mark Antony's funeral speech that he had been greatly wronged by the conspirators. The commoners ^{i.e., the first citizen} are seen saying that there has been much logic in Antony's funeral speech about Julius Caesar. The second citizen reports that Caesar has been killed for wrong reasons and the conspirators had only satisfied their personal grudges. The third citizen was apprehensive that not only a great injustice was done to Julius Caesar but they will have to work under a worse ruler than him also.

QUESTION 3. "O masters, If I were disposed to stir your hearts"

- (i) Antony chooses dead Caesar to wrong rather than the ^{other} honourable men. He even includes himself and the Roman mob to wrong than the ^{other} honourable men Brutus, Cassius and the rest.

- (ii) Antony had found a document which was Julius Caesar's legal will and ^{even} was bearing the seal of Caesar. If the people will be familiar with the contents of the document they will rise to mutiny and rage as Caesar's love and concern for the welfare of Roman mob will come to the fore and the commoners will be acquainted with

CLASS : X

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE

the evil deeds and personal grudges of the conspirators.

(iii) According to Antony he will greatly wrong or do an injustice to the honourable men whose daggers stabbed Caesar to death for delaying in reading the contents of what he had found in Caesar's closet.

He incites the mob further by showing them the corpse of Julius Caesar who had made a will and left so many lucrative things for every citizen of Rome. He even takes the permission of mob to come down from the pulpit and join them so that he could incite them to take revenge of his death without being blamed by the conspirators for turning the tables against them.

(iv) After coming down from the platform and joining the commoners he tries to incite their emotions more by telling them to ^{have a} look at Caesar's cloak which he was wearing one summer evening when he had defeated the enemy tribe Nervii [Nervii - The warlike Gallic tribes whom Caesar conquered in 57 B.C. Caesar fought bravely and his victory was celebrated with great pomp in Rome.] and recognise it and find out how brutally Cassius' dagger had pierced his cloak. He even provokes them ^{to shed tears also} envious. He wants to show them how did Cassius' dagger, how did beloved Brutus' dagger,

CLASS: X**SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE**

and how fiercely malicious Casca's dagger had made a big hole in Caesar's cloak. Indirectly he points out how their beloved ruler had become a victim of their evil deeds and jealousy.

(v) "If I were disposed to stir more hearts and minds to mutiny and rage?"

The given lines mean that if Antony is allowed to rouse their feelings and passions so as to incite them to mutiny and rage, then he will be doing an injustice to Brutus and Cassius and the rest.

(ii) Yes, using his powerful oratory Antony really stirs their minds to mutiny and rage because implicitly he reminds them of Caesar's will and emphasises that they will get familiar with the contents of the will then they will get extremely sentimental and rush forward to kiss Caesar's wounds out of reverence and even dip their handkerchiefs in his sacred blood in order to keep the handkerchiefs as relics. He even says that they would beg for a hair of Caesar to keep it as a sacred memorial and at the time of their death they will mention it in their wills and bequeath it as a rich legacy to their children.

— last page —