

TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL, SEC. 33 B, CHD.
CLASS : IX
SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE
Julius Caesar : Act 2, SCENE - 1

PASSAGE 1.

- (i) Brutus is in his orchard. He is unable to speak because his mind is disturbed on Caesar's becoming a tyrant and knowing about the conspiracy being hatched by the conspirators.
- (ii) Brutus is speaking about Caesar's death. He fears that Julius Caesar will become more ambitious and tyrannical once he is crowned because his vast powers will turn his head and he will become more powerful and will be beyond the power of anyone else to check him from suppressing the common people of Rome.
- (iii) Brutus foresees his apprehension that Caesar will get tyrannical and will not be using his intellect and will definitely be overpowered by his ambitious nature if he is crowned. It reveals that Brutus, though, Caesar's friend, is a lover of Republicanism who cannot overlook the welfare of Romans.
- (iv) First of all, Brutus compares Caesar to a serpent's egg; if it is hatched it will surely bite. So, it should be killed before it comes out of its egg. Secondly, an ambitious person like Caesar is humble enough during his struggle but turns haughty and arrogant once he attains his goal of ruling over the people of his Kingdom.
- (v) Lucius, who is Brutus' servant enters after the extract. He brings a sealed paper/envelope while searching for a flint. He had found it in Brutus' study.

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PASSAGE 2.

- (i) I have not slept between the acting of a dreadful thing
And the first motion, all the interim is
Like a phantasma, or a hideous dream:
The Genius and the mortal instruments
Are then, in council; and the state of man
[See the text please]

The given lines lay stress on Brutus' internal conflict before the execution of this noble enterprise. Brutus' intellect guides him to kill Caesar for his tyrannical nature whereas his noble nature stops him from doing so as he has been a very good friend of Julius before joining the group of conspirators.

- (ii) The conspirators arrive to meet Brutus and they had disguised themselves. Their hats were pulled down over their ears and their faces were hidden in their cloaks. Lucius finds great difficulty in recognising them.
- (iii) Brutus says that conspiracy is afraid and ashamed to show its face by night when evil things are all over. Here conspiracy is personified. His advice is that it should hide its face in smile and pleasantness.
- (iv) The figure of speech used to describe conspiracy is personification. He gives conspiracy the name of the dangerous night and makes it look alive like the night.
- (v) What does Lucius tell Brutus? Who else was

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with the visitor ? (Extra Question)

Ans. Lucius tells Brutus that there is Cassius who is standing at the door. He wanted to meet Brutus. He was accompanied by other conspirators. They all wanted to meet him.

PASSAGE 3.

- (i) Cassius suggests that an oath should be taken before the dangerous enterprise. It shows his cunningness and foresightedness to ensure that those who are connected with this enterprise remain loyal and committed.
- (ii) According to Brutus, priests, cowards, deceitful persons, old worthless creatures patiently take oaths.
- (iii) Brutus feels that swearing an oath is not necessary when honest persons committed to a great cause are involved in a noble cause. According to him oath should be taken to justify a bad deed and as Julius Caesar's assassination is a noble deed as bestowing more powers in him may prove fatal to the welfare of Roman citizens so no such ritual or resolution was required.
- (iv) Brutus contradicts Cassius who suggests that Antony who is a close associate of Julius Caesar should also be killed. Brutus commits a blunder because sparing the life of Antony later on spells a doom for the conspirators. Brutus has to pay a heavy price for this blunder later on.

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- (iv) Cassius shows his farsightedness regarding the necessity of killing Antony along with Caesar because he knows that Antony is not only a powerful orator but also the most trusted and beloved friend of Caesar, and not just a limb of Caesar. He proves to be correct when Antony became so powerful that he could not be subdued.

PASSAGE 4.

- (i) Cassius suggests that Mark Antony should also be killed along with Caesar. Brutus contradicts him by saying that Antony is just a limb of Julius Caesar and once the head is cut off the limb is of no use.
- (ii) Brutus is against the killing of Mark Antony. He feels that if they kill him, the act will appear to be motivated by jealousy as well as anger. They must present the murder of Caesar as a sacrificial act at the altar of freedom. Killing of Antony after killing Julius Caesar would be a brutal act.
- (iii) Brutus underestimates Mark Antony and his capabilities. His assessment of him proves to be wrong. It is Antony who, after Caesar's death instigates people using his immaculating oratorical skills to instigate people against the conspirators. Brutus' irrational advice brings about their downfall.

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