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TENDER HEART HIGH SCHOOL, SEC. 33 B, CHD.

CLASS: IX

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

PLAY JULIUS Caesar

ACT 1, SCENE - 2 WORKBOOK ANSWERS

Passage: 1

- (i) Soothsayer is a person who can predict one's future or a person with prophetic powers. The soothsayer called out to Caesar. He warned Caesar to be careful of the Ides of March i.e., 15th of March.
- (ii) Here 'press' means crowd. The crowd of Romans who have gathered there to see the festivity during the festival of Lupercal. Another meaning of 'press' is the mob.
- (iii) Caesar being deaf of one ear turns his other ear to listen. He challenges the speaker to repeat his statement again and warns him to come to his face and say what he has to say.
- (iv) Caesar does not take the warning of the speaker seriously. He just dismisses the warning of the speaker by calling him a day dreamer who need not to be taken seriously or need not to be taken notice of.
- (v) It is his wife Calpurnia who later warns him as she had a terrible dream of Caesar's death. Caesar is shown as haughty and boastful character here who does not adhere to any such superstitious premonitions.

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PASSAGE: 2

- (i) Brutus and Cassius are at a public place in Rome. It is the occasion of the feast of Lupercal. The scene finishes soon after Julius Caesar exits the scene.
- (ii) Cassius who is one of the representatives of the Tribune and is close to Brutus and Caesar both has observed lately that Brutus' manner has become hard and he lacks the gentle look of friendship and affection.
- (iii) Brutus says that he is in no mood to enjoy any games and frivolous activities which take place during the festivity of Lupercal festival. He tells Cassius that he lacks lively spirit which Antony has that is why he does not want to join anyone and prefers to stay alone.
- (iv) Brutus tells Cassius that he is suffering from internal conflict. That is why his attitude towards his friends has changed. It means no offence or neglect to friends, but he has failed to show customary respect and courtesies.
- (v) Cassius has his own selfish motive in showing his excessive love and friendship towards Brutus. He wants to enter Brutus' mind by speaking about the growing powers and popularity of Caesar whereas Brutus is no less than Caesar in any way.

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Passage - 3

- (i) Cassius continues telling him (Brutus) that people hold him (Brutus) in high esteem and loves him truly and Brutus is unaware of his goodness and nobility. People are lamenting that the oppression by Caesar is not being noticed by Brutus.
- (ii) Brutus refers to the dangerous insinuations made by Cassius. Brutus says that he is not aware of what oppression is there because being a close friend of Caesar, he does not notice Caesar's tyranny.
- (iii) Cassius offers to be Brutus' mirror to reflect Brutus' virtues about which Brutus is still unaware. He wanted Brutus to acknowledge his own latent worth so that he gets ready to compete against Julius Caesar or he agrees to join him in his evil plan.
- (iv) Cassius assures Brutus that he (Cassius) is never non-serious. He does not talk rudely. He is not insincere. He does not crack jokes unnecessarily and tries to win anybody's love and affection. He is a loyal and trustworthy friend who is loyal in friendship.
- (v) Brutus portrays himself as a wellwisher of the common people. He is ready to stake his honour for the sake of Rome if Rome ever faces tyranny.

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Passage - 4

- (i) Brutus and Cassius are alone together after the exit of Caesar at the Lupercal festivities because they are discussing the affairs of the state in the wake of Caesar's triumph over Pompey and his sons.
- (ii) Brutus is not in favour of Caesar's becoming a King because he fears republicanism can be in danger if all powers are vested in one person.
- (iii) Cassius highlights Caesar's weaknesses as:
 - a) Julius proved to be a poor swimmer when he was challenged to leap (jump) into the turbulent waters of the river Tiber.
 - b) Once Caesar cried like a helpless girl when he was suffering with high fever in Spain.
- (iv) Cassius goes on comparing Brutus and Caesar by putting emphasis on their names and by focussing on the weightage of their names. He says that when pronounced their ^{names} have the same emphasis and their names sound as good as that of Caesar.
- (v) The word 'fear' signifies some unfavourable happening to the individual as well as to any well-wisher of the state. Cassius interprets the word 'fear' to arouse Brutus' spirits to rise against Julius Caesar.