

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will gain a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," exploring themes of politics, subterfuge, and oratory. The student will also learn about Marlon Brando's portrayal of Marc Antony, focusing on the use of gesture and method acting in cinema, culminating in a creative watercolor portrait inspired by the characters and themes discussed.

## Materials and Prep

- Watercolor paints and brushes
- Watercolor paper
- Notebook and pencil for notes
- Access to a quiet space for reading and painting
- Prior reading of "Julius Caesar" (recommended)

## Activities

- **Character Analysis:** The student will choose a character from "Julius Caesar," such as Marc Antony or Brutus, and write a short paragraph analyzing their motivations and actions in the play. This will help them understand the complexities of the characters.
- **Watch a Scene:** The student will watch a clip of Marlon Brando's portrayal of Marc Antony, focusing on his use of gestures and oratory skills. Afterward, they will discuss how Brando's performance adds depth to the character.
- **Watercolor Portrait:** The student will create a watercolor portrait inspired by their chosen character, incorporating elements that represent the themes of betrayal and power. This will encourage creativity while reinforcing their understanding of the character's significance.
- **Rhetorical Devices Practice:** The student will identify and list rhetorical devices used in Antony's famous speech. They will then create their own short speech using similar techniques, practicing their oratory skills.

## Talking Points

- "In 'Julius Caesar,' Shakespeare explores the tension between ambition and morality through the actions of characters like Brutus and Antony."
- "Marlon Brando's portrayal of Marc Antony is a masterclass in method acting, showcasing how gestures can convey powerful emotions without words."
- "Antony's speech, 'Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears,' is a perfect example of how effective rhetoric can sway public opinion."
- "The theme of subterfuge is prevalent in the play, as characters manipulate each other for personal gain, leading to tragic outcomes."
- "Understanding the political landscape of ancient Rome helps us see the relevance of these themes in today's world."