

Studying Julius Caesar introduces students to Shakespeare, laying the groundwork for an understanding of Elizabethan settings, a respect for the play form and its norms, and the confidence necessary to interact with complicated and archaic language. Pupils will be able to experience the play via a range of creative, dramatic, analytical learning possibilities. Studying Julius Caesar also allows students to understand a significant piece in the literary canon through difficult reading materials and advanced terminology, appreciation and understanding of poetry techniques and metre. History of English is the study of how language has evolved throughout time. Students must have a good awareness of

By the end of this lesson, students will have a foundational understanding of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" and its historical context. They will be able to identify key characters and events, and understand the play's themes of power, ambition, and betrayal. Students will also develop their critical thinking skills by analyzing the play's language and dramatic techniques. The lesson will include a variety of activities, such as reading, discussion, and creative writing, to engage students and deepen their understanding of the play. The lesson will conclude with a reflection on the play's relevance to modern society and a discussion of the importance of studying literature.

Materials and Preparation: Copy of "Julius Caesar" by William Shakespeare. Poetic devices: iambic pentameter, meter, rhyme, sonnet, couplet, blank verse, prose. Literary devices: foreshadowing, pathetic fallacy / Lesson Planner / LearningCorner.co

- Access to a dictionary or online language resource for archaic terms
- Art supplies for creative activities (colored paper, markers, etc.)
- Access to video clips of performances of "Julius Caesar" (optional)
- Background information on Elizabethan England and Shakespeare's life

Activities

- **Character Hot Seat:** Students will take turns sitting in the "hot seat" as different characters from the play. The other students will ask questions related to the character's motivations and actions, encouraging deeper understanding of the characters' complexities and relationships.
- **Shakespearean Language Decoding:** Students will work in pairs to decode selected passages from "Julius Caesar." They will translate the archaic language into modern English, helping them grasp the meaning and emotion behind the text.
- **Creative Scene Reenactment:** In small groups, students will choose a significant scene from the play to reenact. They can add their own creative twist, such as modernizing the setting or altering character motivations, to explore themes and dramatic techniques in a fun and engaging way.
- **Poetry Analysis:** Students will analyze a sonnet written by Shakespeare, focusing on its structure, rhyme scheme, and use of poetic devices. They will then create their own sonnet inspired by the themes of "Julius Caesar."
- **Contextual Discussion:** A guided discussion on the social, political, and cultural context of Shakespeare's time, focusing on how these factors influence the themes and characters in "Julius Caesar." Students will be encouraged to share their thoughts and insights.

Talking Points

- "Shakespeare wrote 'Julius Caesar' during a time when England was experiencing significant political change. Understanding this context helps us appreciate the play's themes of power and betrayal."
- "Dramatic devices like soliloquies give us insight into a character's inner thoughts. For example, when Brutus speaks alone, we see his moral struggle."
- "Shakespeare often uses iambic pentameter to create rhythm in his poetry. Can you feel the beat when reading it aloud?"

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To identify dramatic techniques used by a playwright To accurately label using both literary terminology and word classes in a quotation To apply knowledge of relevant contextual factors to the play to support interpretations Extend Exploration of other plays and poems written by Shakespeare for comparison of dramatic and poetic devices What subject specific language will be used and developed in this topic? Dramatic devices: stagecraft, act, scene, monologue, soliloquy, stage directions, dramatic irony • Poetic devices: iambic pentameter, meter, rhyme, sonnet, couplet, blank verse, prose • Literary devices: foreshadowing, pathetic fallacy / Lesson Planner / LearningCorner.co