

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to analyze and compare the themes of nationalism and prosperity in Shakespeare's depiction of Cleopatra, while understanding the significance of hyperbole and pathos in conveying the epic style of the narrative. The student will also explore how these themes reflect the values of Roman society through the lens of Augustan public art.

## Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for notes and reflections
- Access to a computer or tablet for research (if needed)
- Printouts of selected excerpts from Shakespeare's works featuring Cleopatra
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, or paints) for creative activities
- Basic knowledge of Shakespeare's life and works, particularly "Antony and Cleopatra"

## Activities

### • Epic Style Analysis:

The student will read selected excerpts from "Antony and Cleopatra" focusing on Cleopatra's entrance on the barge. They will analyze how Shakespeare uses hyperbole and pathos to enhance the epic nature of her character and her influence in Roman society.

### • Creative Art Project:

Using the themes discussed, the student will create a visual representation of Cleopatra's barge. They can illustrate the grandeur and prosperity of the scene, incorporating elements that reflect Roman values such as power, beauty, and nationalism.

### • Comparative Discussion:

Engage in a discussion comparing Cleopatra's portrayal in Shakespeare's work to the themes found in Augustan public art. The student will present their findings and thoughts on how art during this period reflected societal values.

## Talking Points

- "What do you think Shakespeare wanted to convey about Cleopatra's character through her grand entrance?"
- "How does the use of hyperbole in describing Cleopatra's barge enhance our understanding of her as a ruler?"
- "Can you identify any moments of pathos in Cleopatra's story? How do they affect our perception of her?"
- "In what ways does Cleopatra represent the ideals of Roman nationalism?"
- "How does Shakespeare's portrayal of Cleopatra compare to other historical depictions of her?"
- "What elements of Augustan public art can you relate to the themes in 'Antony and Cleopatra'?"
- "Why is it important for us to understand the context of Roman society when analyzing Shakespeare's work?"
- "What values do you think were most important to the Romans, and how are they reflected in the art and literature of the time?"
- "How does Cleopatra's story resonate with modern themes of power and identity?"
- "What role does gender play in Shakespeare's depiction of Cleopatra?"
- "How can we see the influence of Roman culture in today's society?"

shakespeare cleopatra celebrating prosperity barge sails river pathos hyperbole reflect the epic style analyze and compare the themes of nationalism Augustan public art themes reflect the values of Roman society / Lesson Planner / LearningCorner.co

- "What lessons can we learn from Cleopatra's rise and fall in terms of leadership?"
- "How does the concept of prosperity manifest in both Cleopatra's life and in Roman society?"
- "What do you think Shakespeare's personal views on Cleopatra were, based on his writing?"
- "How do you feel about the dramatic elements of Cleopatra's character? What makes her memorable?"