Vocabulary Study: *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare
Teacher Overview
Grade 10

Lesson Introduction/Overview
SAT Vocabulary words, definitions, and quotations
An alphabetical list of the ten words in each act is given at the beginning. The first word and definition in each definition box is the actual SAT word that has been used once or several times on the SAT exam. If a derivation is used in the play or the same word used as a different part of speech, an additional definition or note on the use is provided. The words and quotations from the play are given in order as they occur in the plot. The whole sentence or thought is included in the quotation.

You may wish to explain that sometimes words are contracted at the beginning, middle or end of the word as in 'twere (it were) and o'er (over). Shakespeare probably used this abbreviated form to accommodate the ten syllable, iambic pentameter line. Sometimes the past tense verb form is spelled with 'st instead of ed, such as in kill'st instead of killed for the same reason.

Complete List of SAT Words
This is an alphabetical listing of all fifty words in the study unit, with the act and scene in which the word is found.

Fill-in-the-Blank Activity
The sentences in this activity are mainly brief summaries or commentaries that are specific to each act, written for the most part in order as events happen in the play. The activity is meant to aid instruction and understanding of the play, as well as provide a check for vocabulary comprehension. Some answers are not the words given in the SAT list but are derivations of the words, adding a higher level of thinking to the lesson. This provides an assessment that is more difficult and challenging than simply matching ten words with ten blanks.

Multiple Choice Exam
The students will be tested on 25 of the 50 words listed. The form of the answer may be or may not be as given in the SAT list, as in the Fill-in-the-Blank Activity. The answer may be one of the derivatives of the SAT word.

Writing Activity
This activity might be used at the end of the study of *Julius Caesar*. It is an AP-like essay prompt based on lines from the play. Encourage your students to use some of the SAT words in their essays. This essay assignment can be a forty-minute timed in-class assignment or a take home assignment.

Acknowledgment:
The version of *Julius Caesar* used in writing this lesson is found online at the following site from the Gutenberg Project:
http://www.gutenberg.org/...text97/1ws2410.txt
Materials and Resources:
- Copies of lesson for each student
- Copies of Shakespeare’s tragedy *Julius Caesar*

*Answer keys for the sentence completion and multiple choice quizzes for this lesson are not included in open source materials. As the teacher of record, you may obtain copies of these answer keys by sending a message from your school email address to the NMSI help desk at HelpDesk@nms.org. Include your name, course taught, the name of your school, and your city and state.*
Complete List of SAT Words
*Julius Caesar*

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Vocabulary Study

Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare

Note: The words, definitions, and quotations in the first section are given in order as they appear in the play. Some words chosen from the play are not the same parts of speech as the SAT vocabulary words. In these cases, a second definition is given and the part of speech is indicated before the quotation.

Act I

alchemist
buffeted
countenance
incensed
prodigious
replicate
rout
sterile
tempestuous
vexation

1. **replicate** (REP luh kate) v. to repeat, to copy, or to duplicate; **replication** n. a copy or duplicate

derivatives: replication, replica, replicated

*Act I, scene i (n.)*

“And when you saw his chariot but appear,
Have you not made an universal shout
That Tiber trembled underneath her banks
To hear the **replication** of your sounds
Made in her concave shores?”

2. **sterile** (STER ul) adj. incapable of reproducing

derivatives: sterility, sterilization, sterilize

*Act I, scene i*

“Forget not in your speed, Antonio,
To touch Calpurnia, for our elders say
The barren, touched in this holy chase,
Shake off their **sterile** curse.”

3. **countenance** (KOUN tu nuns) v. to condone or to give approval; n. appearance, the look or expression on the face

derivatives: countenanced, countenances

*Act I, scene ii (n.)*

“Cassius,
Be not deceived; if I have veiled my look,
I turn the trouble of my **countenance**
Merely upon myself.”
4. **vexation** (vek SAY shun) *n.* discomfort or distress, annoyance, nuisance, irritation;  
**vexed** *adj.* annoyed or irritated  
derivatives: vex, vexatious, vexedly  

*Act I, scene ii (adj.)*  
“*Vexed* I am  
Of late with passions of some difference,  
Conceptions only proper to myself,  
Which give some soil perhaps to my behaviors;  
But let not therefore my good friends be grieved—  
Among which number, Cassius, be you one—nor  
Nor construe any further my neglect  
Than that poor Brutus with himself at war  
Forgets the shows of love to other men.”

5. **rout** (ROUT) *v.* to gouge out or to make a furrow in; to expel by force; *n.* an overwhelming defeat, a disorderly crowd of people, the rabble or mob  
derivatives: router, routed, routing  

*Act I, scene ii (n.)*  
“And be not jealous on me, gentle Brutus;  
Were I a common laugher, or did use  
To stale with ordinary oaths my love  
To every new protestor, if you know  
That I do fawn on men and hug them hard  
And after scandal them, or if you know  
That I profess myself in banqueting  
To all the *rout*, then hold me dangerous.”

6. **buffeted** (BUFF et id) *v.* struck repeatedly, battered  
derivatives: buffet, buffets, buffeting  

*Act I, scene ii*  
“The torrent roar’d, and we did *buffet* it  
With lusty sinews, throwing it aside  
And stemming it with hearts of controversy.”

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7. **tempestuous** (tem PES choo us) *adj.* turbulent, stormy; **tempest** *n.* a violent windstorm with wind and rain, a violent commotion
   derivatives: tempestuously, tempest

   *Act I, scene iii (n.)*
   “Cicero,
   I have seen **tempests** when the scolding winds
   Have rived the knotty oaks, and I have seen
   The ambitious ocean swell and rage and foam
   To be exalted with the threatening clouds,
   But never till tonight, never till now,
   Did I go through a **tempest** dropping fire.”

8. **incensed** (in SENSD) *v.* made angry, enraged, infuriated
   derivatives: incense, incenses, incensement

   *Act I, scene iii*
   “Either there is a civil strife in heaven,
   Or else the world too saucy with the gods
   **Incenses** them to send destruction.”

9. **prodigious** (pruh DIJ us) *adj.* extraordinary in bulk, quantity or degree, great in size, enormous
   derivatives: prodigiously, prodigiousness

   *Act I, scene iii*
   “Now could I, Casca, name to thee a man
   Most like this dreadful night,
   That thunders, lightens, opens graves, and roars
   As doth the lion in the Capitol,
   A man no mightier than thyself or me
   In personal action, yet **prodigious** grown
   And fearful, as these strange eruptions are.”

10. **alchemist** (AL kuh mist) *n.* one who practices medieval chemistry or tries to change metals into gold
   derivatives: alchemy, alchemistic

    *Act I, scene iii*
    “O, he sits high in all the people’s hearts,
    And that which would appear offense in us,
    His countenance, like richest **alchemy**,
    Will change to virtue and to worthiness.”
### Act II

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1. **taper** (TAY pur) *v.* to decrease in thickness or width; *n.* a wax candle
   
   *Act II, scene I (n.)*
   
   “Get me a *taper* in my study, Lucius.”

2. **spurn** (SPURN) *v.* to reject or to refuse with hostility
   
   *Act II, scene i*
   
   “It must be by his death, and, for my part, I know no personal cause to *spurn* at him, But for the general.”

3. **augment** (awg MENT) *v.* to make greater or to supplement
   
   *Act II, scene i*
   
   “And, since the quarrel
   Will bear no color for the thing he is,
   Fashion it thus, that what he is, *augmented*,
   Would run to these and these extremities;
   And therefore think him as a serpent’s egg
   Which hatch’d would as his kind grow mischievous,
   And kill him in the shell.”

4. **instigation** (in stuh GAY shun) *n.* urging, provocation, incitement
   
   *Act II, scene i*
   
   “Such *instigations* have been often dropp’d
   Where I have took them up.”
5. **whets** (WHETS) **v.** to stimulate; to sharpen by grinding
   
   derivatives: whet, whetted
   
   *Act II, scene i*
   
   “Since Cassius first did *whet* me against Caesar
   I have not slept.”

6. **affable** (AF uh bul) **adj.** friendly, courteous, amiable; **affability n.** the quality of being friendly, courteous, amiable
   
   derivative: affably
   
   *Act II, scene I (n.)*
   
   “Seek none, Conspiracy;
   Hide it in smiles and *affability*;
   For if thou path, thy native semblance on,
   Not Erebus itself were dim enough
   To hide thee from prevention.”

7. **entreaty** (en TREE tee) **n.** a plea, an earnest request; **entreat** **v.** to plea or make an earnest request
   
   derivatives: entreats, entreated, entreatingly
   
   *Act II, scene i (v.)*
   
   “Shall I *entreat* a word?”

8. **exorcise** (EK sor size) **v.** to expel an evil spirit, to get rid of something troublesome; **exorcist n.** one who expels evil spirits
   
   derivatives: exorcism
   
   *Act II, scene i (n.)*
   
   “Thou, like an *exorcist*, hast conjured up
   My mortified spirit.”

9. **portent** (POR tent) **n.** a sign or forewarning
   
   derivatives: portents, portended, portentous
   
   *Act II, scene ii*
   
   “And these does she apply for warnings and *portents*
   And evils imminent, and on her knee
   Hath begg’d that I will stay at home today.”
10. **emulate** (EM yuh late) v. to try to equal or to be like another, usually through imitation; **emulation** n. imitation of another

derivatives: emulative, emulator, emulators

*Act II, scene iii (n.)*

“My heart laments that virtue cannot live
Out of the teeth of *emulation.*”
Act III

- abridge
- confound
- enfranchise
- flourish
- legacy
- mutinous
- prostration
- unassailable
- vanquish
- vouchsafe

1. **enfranchise** (en FRAN chize) v. to give or to bestow something, such as the right to vote or citizenship; **enfranchisement** n. the release from slavery or custody, the privileges of free citizens

   derivatives: enfranchiser, enfranchises, enfranchised

   **Act III, scene i (n.)**
   “Pardon, Caesar! Caesar, pardon!
   As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall
   To beg **enfranchisement** for Publius Cimber.”

2. **unassailable** (un uh SALE uh bul) adj. undisputable, not able to be attacked with success

   derivatives: unassailably, unassailed

   **Act III, scene i**
   “So in the world, ’tis furnish’d well with men,
   And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive;
   Yet in the number I do know but one
   That **unassailable** holds on his rank,
   Unshaked of motion; and that I am he,
   Let me a little show it, even in this;
   That I was constant Cimber should be banish’d,
   And constant do remain to keep him so.”

3. **confound** (kon FOUND) v. to cause one to become confused; **confounded** adj. confused or bewildered

   derivatives: confounds, confoundedly, confounding

   **Act III, scene i (adj.)**
   “Where’s Publius?”
   “Here, quite **confounded** with this mutiny.”
4. **abridge** (uh BRIJ) *v.* to shorten, to diminish
   derivatives: abridged, abridges, abridgment
   
   *Act III, scene i*
   “Grant that, and then is death a benefit;
   So are we Caesar’s friends that have *abridged*
   His time of fearing death.”

5. **prostration** (pros TRAY shun) *n.* a stretching out due to lacking vitality, being completely overcome; **prostrate** *adj.* lying flat, face down in total submission
   derivatives: prostrates, prostrated, prostrating
   
   *Act III, scene i (adj.)*
   “Thus, Brutus, did my master bid me kneel,
   Thus did Mark Antony bid me fall down,
   And, being **prostrate**, thus he bade me say:
   Brutus is noble, wise, valiant, and honest;
   Caesar was mighty, bold, royal, and loving.”

6. **vouchsafe** (VOUCH safe) *v.* to grant or to give, as a favor
   derivatives: vouchsafed, vouchsafing
   
   *Act III, scene i*
   “If Brutus will **vouchsafe** that Antony
   May safely come to him and be resolved
   How Caesar hath deserved to lie in death,
   Mark Antony shall not love Caesar dead
   So well as Brutus living, but will follow
   The fortunes and affairs of noble Brutus
   Thorough the hazards of this untrod state
   With all true faith.”

7. **mutinous** (MYOOT un us) *adj.* rebellious, unruly; **mutiny** *n.* defiance, resistance, disobedience, revolt
   derivatives: mutinies, mutinousness
   
   *Act III, scene ii (n.)*
   “O masters! If I were disposed to stir
   Your hearts and minds to **mutiny** and rage,
   I should do Brutus wrong and Cassius wrong,
   Who, you all know, are honorable men.”
8. **legacy** (LEG uh see) *n.* a gift by will, something handed down by an ancestor or predecessor
derivative: legacies

*Act III, scene ii*

“Let but the commons hear this testament—
Which, pardon me, I do not mean to read—
And they would go and kiss dead Caesar’s wounds
And dip their napkins in his sacred blood,
Yea, beg a hair of him for memory,
And, dying, mention it within their wills,
Bequeathing it as a rich *legacy*
Unto their issue.”

9. **vanquish** (VAN kwishd) *v.* to conquer, overpower, subjugate
derivatives: vanquishes, vanquished, vanquisher

*Act III, scene ii*

“This was the most unkindest cut of all;
For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,
Ingratitude, more strong than traitors’ arms,
Quite *vanquish’d* him.”

10. **flourish** (FLUR ish) *v.* to thrive, to grow well
derivatives: flourishes, flourished, flourishing

*Act III, scene ii*

“Then I, and you, and all of us fell down,
Whilst bloody treason *flourish’d* over us.”
Vocabulary Study: *Julius Caesar*

| Vocabulary | Definition | Usage
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<td><strong>Act IV</strong></td>
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| chasten | v. to discipline, to use punishment to correct behavior; chastisement n. verbal punishment, rebuke for making a mistake | Act IV, scene iii (n.)
> “The name of Cassius honors this corruption, And chastisement doth therefore hide his head.” |
| chide | | |
| contaminant | n. something that causes impurity; something that defiles or pollutes; contaminate v. to cause impurity, defile or pollute | Act IV, scene iii (v.)
> “What, shall one of us, That struck the foremost man of all this world But for supporting robbers, shall we now Contaminate our fingers with base bribes And sell the mighty space of our large honors For so much trash as may be grasped thus?” |
| cynical | | |
| mettle | n. courage or spirit; derivatives: mettles, mettled, mettlesome | Act IV, scene ii
> “There are no tricks in plain and simple faith; But hollow men, like horses hot at hand, Make gallant show and promise of their mettle; But when they should endure the bloody spur, They fall their crests and like deceitful jades Sink in the trial.” |
| mirth | | |
| nimble | | |
| presumptuous | | |
| proscribe | v. to denounce or to condemn, to forbid; proscription n. the act of proscribing, prohibition, banishment | 1. proscribe (pro SCRIBE) v. to denounce or to condemn, to forbid; proscription n. the act of proscribing, prohibition, banishment
> derivatives: proscript, proscriptive |

Act IV,

chasten
chide
contaminant
cynical
mettle
mirth
nimble
presumptuous
proscribe
yoke

1. **proscribe** (pro SCRIBE) v. to denounce or to condemn, to forbid; **proscription** n. the act of proscribing, prohibition, banishment
   derivatives: proscript, proscriptive
   *Act IV, scene i (n.)*
   > “So you thought him, And took his voice who should be prick’d to die In our black sentence and **proscription.**”

2. **mettle** (MET ul) n. courage or spirit
   derivatives: mettles, mettled, mettlesome
   *Act IV, scene ii*
   > “There are no tricks in plain and simple faith; But hollow men, like horses hot at hand, Make gallant show and promise of their **mettle**; But when they should endure the bloody spur, They fall their crests and like deceitful jades Sink in the trial.”

3. **chasten** (CHAY sun) v. to discipline, to use punishment to correct behavior; **chastisement** n. verbal punishment, rebuke for making a mistake
   derivatives: chastened, chastening
   *Act IV, scene iii (n.)*
   > “The name of Cassius honors this corruption, And **chastisement** doth therefore hide his head.”

4. **contaminant** (con TAM uh nunt) n. something that causes impurity; something that defiles or pollutes; **contaminate** v. to cause impurity, defile or pollute
   derivatives: contaminated, contaminating, contamination
   *Act IV, scene iii (v.)*
   > “What, shall one of us, That struck the foremost man of all this world But for supporting robbers, shall we now **Contaminate** our fingers with base bribes And sell the mighty space of our large honors For so much trash as may be grasped thus?”

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5. **mirth (MURTH) n.** gladness and merriment usually accompanied by laughter
   derivatives: mirthful, mirthfulness
   
   *Act IV, scene iii*
   
   “By the gods,
   You shall digest the venom of your spleen,
   Though it do split you, for, from this day forth,
   I’ll use you for my *mirth*, yea, for my laughter,
   When you are waspish.”

6. **presumptuous** (pre ZUMP choo us) *adj.* brazenly overstepping bounds, arrogant;
   **presume** *v.* to take for granted, assume or suppose
   
   derivatives: presumptuously, presumption, presumptive
   
   *Act IV, scene iii (v.)*
   
   “Do not *presume* too much upon my love;
   I may do that I shall be sorry for.”

7. **yoke (YOKE) v.** to fit or to join with a harness, to connect or to join together
   
   derivatives: yoked, yoking, yokeless
   
   *Act IV, scene iii*
   
   “O Cassius, you are *yoked* with a lamb,
   That carries anger as the flint bears fire,
   Who, much enforced, shows a hasty spark
   And straight is cold again.”

8. **chide (CHIDE) v.** to voice disapproval, to scold
   
   derivatives: chides, chided, chiding
   
   *Act IV, scene iii*
   
   “Yes, Cassius, and from henceforth,
   When you are overearnest with your Brutus,
   He’ll think your mother *chides*, and leave you so.”

9. **cynical (SIN uh kul) adj.** given to faultfinding, sneering, and sarcasm; **cynic n.** a person who believes all people are selfish, whose outlook is scornful and negative
   
   derivatives: cynically, cynicism
   
   *Act IV, scene iii (n.)*
   
   “Ha, ha! How vilely doth this *cynic* rhyme!”
10. **nimble** (NIM bul) *adj.* quick in movement or resourcefulness; **nimbleness** *n.* light and quick of movement
   
   derivatives: nimbler, nimbly, nimblest

   *Act IV, scene iii (n.)*

   “This it is:
   Tis better that the enemy seek us;
   So shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers,
   Doing himself offense, whilst we lying still
   Are full of rest, defense, and **nimbleness.**”
Act V

1. **exigent** (EK si junt) *adj.* urgent, requiring immediate attention; **exigent** *n.* pressing necessity, decisive moment
   
   derivatives: exigence, exigency, exigencies
   
   *Act V, scene i (n.)*
   
   “Why do you cross me in this **exigent**?”

2. **vile** (VILE) *adj.* wretchedly bad, highly offensive, unpleasant or objectionable
   
   derivatives: viler, vilest, vileness
   
   *Act V, scene i*
   
   “Villains! You did not so when your **vile** daggers Hack’d one another in the sides of Caesar.”

3. **peevish** (PEE vish) *adj.* fretful, obstinate
   
   derivatives: peevishly, peeve, peevishness
   
   *Act V, scene i*
   
   “A **peevish** school boy, worthless of such honor, Join’d with a masker and a reveler!”

4. **presage** (PRES ij) *n.* something that foreshadows a future event, foreknowledge of the future; **presage** *v.* to have a presentiment, to foreshow or foreshadow
   
   derivatives: presagement, presager
   
   *Act V, scene i (v.)*
   
   “Now I change my mind, And partly credit things that do **presage**.”

5. **ascend** (uh SEND) *v.* to move upward, to rise from a lower station, to climb or advance
   
   derivatives: ascends, ascendancy, ascending
   
   *Act V, scene iii*
   
   “Pindarus **ascends** the hill.
   This day I breathed first: time is come round,
   And where I did begin, there shall I end;
   My life is run his compass.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Word</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Meaning</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Usage</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>tidings</strong> (TIE dings)</td>
<td><em>n.</em></td>
<td>information or news</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Act V, scene iii</strong></td>
<td>“These tidings would well comfort Cassius.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>derivatives: tiding, betide, tide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>melancholy</strong> (MEL un kol ee)</td>
<td><em>n.</em></td>
<td>depression of spirits, soberly thoughtful, pensive despondency</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Act V, scene iii</strong></td>
<td>“O hateful error, melancholy’s child, Why dost thou show to the apt thoughts of men The things that are not?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>derivatives: melancholia, melancholic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>engender</strong> (en JEN der)</td>
<td><em>v.</em></td>
<td>to cause, to produce or create</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Act V, scene iii</strong></td>
<td>“O error, soon conceived, Thou never comest unto a happy birth, But kill’st the mother that engender’d thee!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>derivatives: engenders, engendered, engendering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>tarry</strong> (TARE ee)</td>
<td><em>v.</em></td>
<td>to delay in coming or going, to linger</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Act V, scene v</strong></td>
<td>“It is more worthy to leap in ourselves Than tarry till they push us.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>derivatives: tarried, tarries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>virtuous</strong> (VIR choo us)</td>
<td><em>adj.</em></td>
<td>having excellent morals, righteousness; <strong>virtue</strong> <em>n.</em> moral excellence, goodness, righteousness</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Act V, scene v</strong></td>
<td>“According to his virtue let us use him With all respect and rites of burial.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>derivatives: virtuously, virtuousness, virtues</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Fill-in-the Blank Activity

Julius Caesar

Using the SAT words below, fill in the blanks with suitable vocabulary choices. Each word or its derivative is used once. The answers may or may not be used in the same plot context as in the quotations given with the definitions.

Act I

alchemist  replicate
buffeted  rout
countenance  sterile
incensed  tempestuous
prodigious  vexation

1. Cassius observes that Brutus’s ____________ is not as gentle toward him as it once was.

2. Caesar is ____________ and distressed because Cassius has a “lean and hungry look,” believing that “such men are dangerous.”

3. Caesar superstitiously believes that a simple touch will cure a childless woman of ______ ____________.

4. Ironically, the fickle commoner’s praise for Caesar is a ____________ of their shouts of joy for Pompey as he passed the same way.

5. Flavius and Marullus ____________ the commoners from the streets, ordering them back to their houses for their base ingratitude.

6. The weather on the evening before the Ides of March is ____________ and stormy.

7. Casca reports ____________ signs and omens of unusual natural occurrences, such as violent weather and fire falling from the sky.

8. The conspirators are ____________ and angered by the ambition and possible tyranny of Caesar as plans are made for him to be crowned king.

9. Casca tells Cassius that Brutus is so honorable and so highly regarded that his very presence will change what is wrong to right in the minds of the people, in the same way the ____________ changes base metal into pure gold.

10. Cassius confides to Brutus that he once saved the “immortal” Caesar from being ______ ________ by fierce waves and drowning in the Tiber.
**Act II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>affable</th>
<th>instigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>augmented</td>
<td>portent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emulate</td>
<td>spurn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entreaty</td>
<td>taper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exorcise</td>
<td>whets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Cassius and the other conspirators _____________ a dangerous plot to murder Caesar in the Senate on the Ides of March.

2. Brutus decides he must _____________ Caesar because he reasons that Caesar might become corrupt if he is crowned king.

3. While looking for a flint to light a _____________, Brutus’s servant finds a letter.

4. Cassius and the other conspirators go to the home of Brutus to _____________ him to join with them.

5. Cassius’ words about Caesar’s mortality and ambition serve to _____________ Brutus’s doubts and suspicions.

6. Lavishing praise, Ligarius calls Brutus the “Soul of Rome” and a “Brave Son” who has cured him of his sickness like the _____________.

7. Brutus realizes that he must appear _____________ and innocent in his behavior if he is to carry out his part in the assassination.

8. Because of her dreams of dire warnings and _____________ of doom, Calpurnia pleads with Caesar not to go to the Senate.

9. Caesar decides not to attend the Senate House but changes his mind when Decius _______ _____________ his appetite for the crown by saying that the dream predicts not his death, but his saving Rome.

10. Portia secretly longs to be constant and to _____________ a man’s mind in keeping her counsel by not revealing openly her inmost thoughts.
Act III

abridge                  mutinous
confound                prostration
enfranchise             unassailable
flourish                vanquish
legacy                  vouchsafe

1. Cassius falls __________ at Caesar’s feet to ask for mercy for Publius Cimber.

2. Caesar scolds Metellus Cimber for his “sweet words” and “base spaniel-fawning” when he stops Caesar in the street to beg for his brother’s __________.

3. The conspirators believe that once Caesar’s ambition and tyranny are made known to all of Rome, their position will be __________.

4. The conspirators wish to be known by the citizens of Rome as noble patriots, not as ___ __________ traitors.

5. Immediately after the assassination, stunned and __________, Mark Antony flees to his house.

6. Mark Antony’s request to speak at Caesar’s funeral is granted, and his safety there is ___ __________ by Brutus.

7. In private, Mark Antony swears to Caesar’s bleeding corpse that his spirit will be revenged and his enemies will be __________.

8. At first the cause of the conspiratorial senators seems to __________, that is until Rome hears what Mark Antony has to say.

9. In his funeral speech, Mark Antony lets the people of Rome know the contents of Caesar’s will and the __________ he has left them.

10. The period of mourning for those loyal to Caesar is quickly ________________ by their urgent desire to find and punish the conspirators.
Act IV

chasten
chide
contaminant
cynical
mettle
mirth
nimble
presumptuous
proscribe
yoke

1. Brutus observes that when close friendship lessens, men begin to show off their _______ _______ through posturing and deceit.

2. Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus make a list of names, ___________________ and condemning to death the enemies of Caesar.

3. Brutus ____________ Cassius for speaking loudly in front their armies, insisting that they take their quarrel inside for privacy.

4. Brutus is sharply critical and openly _____________ about Cassius’s claim to be older and wiser than he is.

5. Brutus grows angry and ________________ Cassius for having an “itching palm,” but Cassius does not accept this verbal rebuke.

6. Brutus callously taunts Cassius, saying he will laugh ________________ when he observes Cassius’s uncontrolled anger in the future.

7. Cassius tells Brutus that they are friends always, ________________ together, each bearing “his friend’s infirmities.”

8. ________________, the Poet oversteps himself and tells Cassius and Brutus they both should be ashamed of themselves for their unwarranted quarrel.

9. Brutus ends the discussion because they have talked too late into the night and must have rest so they can be refreshed and ________________ in the morning.

10. The ghost of Caesar appears late at night and ________________ Brutus’s thoughts, making his “blood cold” and his “hair to stare.”
Act V

- ascend
- engender
- exigent
- melancholy
- peevish
- presage
- tarry
- tidings
- vile
- virtue

1. Octavius swears to avenge Caesar’s violent murder at the hands of the merciless and ______ ______ ______ traitors.

2. Brutus respects Octavius; however, Cassius considers him young, ______ ______ ______ and spoiled.

3. Octavius suggests that the armies ______ ______ ______ until the signal is given, choosing “words before blows.”

4. The talk before the battle among the generals and leaders only ______ ______ ______ more resentment and hatred.

5. Cassius considers seeing two great eagles fall onto the hands of his soldiers as a ______ ______ ______ of events to come.

6. When Messala leaves him, Cassius is disconsolate and ______ ______ ______ about the outcome of the battle.

7. Cassius orders Pindarus to mount his horse, ride quickly up the hill, and bring back ______ ______ ______ of which troops have triumphed there.

8. Messala and Titinius both understand the ______ ______ ______ of their situation after hearing disastrous reports that Cassius is dead and Brutus has been taken alive.

9. Though his bitter enemy, Mark Antony praises Brutus’s ______ ______ ______ and calls him “the noblest Roman of them all.”

10. Following the defeat of the enemy armies and the deaths of the conspirators, Octavius Caesar will ______ ______ ______ the throne.
Multiple Choice Exam

Julius Caesar

1. fretful, obstinate
   a. peevish
   b. cynical
   c. affable
   d. exigent
   e. mutinous

2. to condone or to give approval or appearance
   a. prostration
   b. replicate
   c. countenance
   d. spurn
   e. tarry

3. friendly, courteous, amiable
   a. alchemist
   b. affable
   c. buffet
   d. melancholy
   e. mirth

4. to delay in coming or going, to linger
   a. proscribe
   b. tarry
   c. exorcise
   d. portent
   e. enfranchise

5. courage or spirit
   a. unassailable
   b. vouchsafe
   c. countenance
   d. cynical
   e. mettle

6. to cause one to become confused
   a. abridge
   b. chasten
   c. chide
   d. confound
   e. contaminate

7. urgent, requiring immediate attention
   a. exigent
   b. entreaty
   c. legacy
   d. sterile
   e. tempestuous

8. rebellious, unruly
   a. nimble
   b. incensed
   c. unassailable
   d. mutinous
   e. vile

9. extraordinary in bulk, quantity, or degree; great in size, enormous
   a. affable
   b. augmented
   c. enfranchise
   d. presumptuous
   e. prodigious

10. given to faultfinding, sneering, and sarcasm
    a. peevish
    b. affable
    c. cynical
    d. presumptuous
    e. melancholy
11. to conquer, overpower, subjugate
   a. vanquish
   b. portent
   c. presage
   d. spurn
   e. vouchsafe

12. to make greater or to supplement
   a. ascend
   b. augment
   c. chas
ten
   d. exorcise
   e. confound

13. to foreshow or foreshadow a future event
   a. proscribe
   b. replicate
   c. presage
   d. chas
ten
   e. engender

14. to stimulate, to sharpen by grinding
   a. vanquish
   b. yoke
   c. mettle
   d. flourish
   e. whet

15. to give or to bestow something, such as the right to vote or citizenship
   a. abridge
   b. augment
   c. exorcise
   d. rout
   e. enfranchise

16. a sign or forewarning
   a. exigent
   b. portent
   c. legacy
   d. vexation
   e. virtue

17. information or news
   a. tidings
   b. buffet
   c. contaminant
   d. entreaty
   e. legacy

18. to thrive, to grow well
   a. replicate
   b. chas
ten
   c. emulate
   d. countenance
   e. flourish

19. to strike repeatedly, batter
   a. flourish
   b. mettle
   c. presage
   d. buffet
   e. spurn

20. discomfort or distress, annoyance, nuisance
   a. tidings
   b. taper
   c. vexation
   d. portent
   e. prostration

21. to discipline, to use punishment to correct behavior
   a. chasten
   b. rout
   c. tarry
   d. vanquish
   e. yoke

22. to cause, to produce or create
   a. emulate
   b. ascend
   c. engender
   d. abridge
   e. flourish
23. to denounce or to condemn, to forbid
   a. whet
   b. vanquish
   c. incense
   d. proscribe
   e. taper

24. wretchedly bad, highly offensive, unpleasant or objectionable
   a. sterile
   b. vile
   c. prodigious
   d. exigent
   e. tempestuous

25. urging, provocation, incitement
   a. presage
   b. instigation
   c. tidings
   d. prostration
   e. vexation
Writing Activity

*Julius Caesar* Act III, scene ii

In one of the most famous scenes from William Shakespeare’s tragedy *Julius Caesar*, Mark Antony has been granted permission by the assassins to speak to the crowd at Caesar’s funeral. He knows he must be careful not to anger his enemies, but Antony also knows he must use what time he has carefully and effectively. As a skillful speaker and a clever manipulator of words and rhetoric, Antony speaks to the citizens of Rome.

Below is the first part of his funeral speech. How does Antony approach this difficult situation using rhetorical devices such as irony, sarcasm, tone, repetition, rhetorical questions, logical appeals, and reasoning?

Read the speech carefully, and then write an essay in which you state Mark Antony’s purpose, identify the rhetorical devices he uses, and comment on his attitude. What effect does this part of the speech have on his audience? Does Antony accomplish his purpose? Be sure to make references to specific quotations in order to support your points.

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears!
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them,
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious;
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer’d it.
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest—
For Brutus is an honorable man;
So are they all, all honorable men—
Come I to speak in Caesar’s funeral.
He was my friend, faithful and just to me;
But Brutus says he was ambitious,
And Brutus is an honorable man.
He hath brought many captives home to Rome,
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill.
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept;
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious,
And Brutus is an honorable man.
You all did see that on the Lupercal
I thrice presented him a kingly crown,
Which he did thrice refuse. Was this ambition?
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious,
And sure he is an honorable man.
I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,
But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause;
What cause withholds you then to mourn for him?
O judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,

And I must pause till it come back to me.