

Shakespeare's
Julius Caesar



IMAGINE THIS...

- You are the leader of the free world.
- You are the most powerful human being on earth.
- You are the controller of the most powerful country in the world.
- You are untouchable.
- You can say or do anything you want.
- You are Julius Caesar.

YOU NEVER SAW IT COMING...

Your best friends stab you in the
back....
(literally)

The Real Caesar

- Julius Caesar really existed, and Shakespeare took his story from Plutarch's biography of Caesar and made it into a play.
- Caesar lived from 102 B.C. to 44 B.C.
- He was Rome's greatest military leader.
- The month of July is named after him.



The Real Caesar

- Rome ruled the world at this time.
- They were constantly waging wars and taking over countries.
- The Roman Empire was once the largest empire in the world.



The Real Caesar

- Once they would take over a country, a Roman governor would rule that area.
- The Roman officials were often very cruel.
- Many times the generals who took over the countries were asked to stabilize the area.
- Many generals became power-hungry and turned on each other.

The Real Caesar

- Caesar, a real commander, turned on another general, Pompey.
- Caesar and Pompey had been friends.
- Pompey tried to sway the Roman government to overturn Caesar.
- Caesar gained control by bribing the people with his money.
- He took control of Rome and went after Pompey.

The Real Caesar

- Pompey was murdered in Egypt before Caesar could reach him.
- While in Egypt, Caesar fell in love with Cleopatra (However, Caesar was married to Calphurnia).
- He made Cleopatra the ruler of Egypt.
- Caesar went back to Rome a hero and was made dictator.
- He made his friend, Brutus, a senator.

The Real Caesar

- Caesar believed he was invincible. He broke the law and brought a standing army into Rome.
- Rome had been run by a republican government for 450 years, and the thought of having a king terrified the citizens.
- However, the citizens of Rome so loved Julius Caesar that they would have allowed him to be their king.
- As Caesar became more pretentious, senators made plans to assassinate him.

Shakespeare's play opens a month
before this...

as Caesar returns from his campaign in
Spain. He has quelled a revolt led by
Pompey's sons.

Shakespeare heightens the dramatic events
of three years by compressing them into
five acts.

Shakespeare's Histories

- In all of Shakespeare's history plays, the world is ruled by a loving God who punishes evil and rewards good.
- All rulers were thought to be appointed by God.



Themes of *Julius Caesar*

- Chaos results when the prescribed social order is broken.
- The best intentions of good, noble men can lead to tragedy.
- Language is a powerful weapon, and in the hands of a skilled person, it can be used to manipulate.
- Violence and blood shed can never have morally good results.
- Orderliness and stable rule, even though dictatorial, are preferable to social chaos.

Main Characters

- **Caesar** – Successful military leader who wants the crown of Rome. Murdered midway through play. His spirit appears to Brutus later in the play.
- **Brutus** – Judicial magistrate of Rome. Known for his noble nature.
- **Cassius** – Brother-in-law of Brutus. Organizes conspiracy against Caesar.
- **Antony** – Devoted follower of Caesar. Persuasive speaker.

Your task

- Complete your Alpha boxes with a partner by identifying one word that begins with each letter of the alphabet that is relevant to Julius Caesar and his life. Please don't use what I have presented in this PowerPoint.
- We are going to the library to help us do this.

Your task

- Once we have completed our Alpha Boxes, we will use the words to create a summary of what we have learned. Each pair will orally present this summary to the class.

Sources

- http://bama.ua.edu/~peira003/jcpp_files/frame.htm
- Yahoo images
- EMC textbook