

JULIUS CAESAR
READING COMPREHENSION
ACT 1
YEAR 3 AND 4

QUESTIONS

The weather was good, that was a relief. It had taken ages to plan the festival and if it had rained, then the day would probably have been ruined. It was two o'clock on a February afternoon and the sun was shining! Everyone was starting to emerge from their houses full of excitement - it had been a long winter, but finally everyone had something to cheer about. Well actually, they had two things to cheer about, because Julius Caesar had returned to Rome at last.

The war between Caesar and Pompey had lasted for four years but finally, finally it was over. Pompey was gone, Caesar was home and the good times were back. It was party time!

1. What month does this story take place in?

2. What was the weather like? Tick one box

Rainy Sunny Snowy Windy

**3. 'Everyone was starting to emerge from their houses full of excitement'
What does the word 'emerge' mean? Tick one box**

Come out Disappear Sing Excited

4. What city is this story set in?

5. What is the name of the character who has just returned home?

Pompey Pompeii Julia Caesar Julius Caesar

The streets were filling quickly now, tables were being set up crammed with food and drink - a feast! Music could be heard and people were beginning to dance. The Festival of Lupercal had begun. Let's just hope the rain stays away a bit longer. Suddenly two soldiers, called Flavius and Marullus, appeared and demanded a local shoemaker tell them why everyone was out, rejoicing and celebrating...

"We make holiday to see Caesar and to rejoice in his return," replied the shoemaker joyfully.

Flavius and Marullus were angry and asked why everyone seemed to have so quickly forgotten Pompey, who had been a very popular Roman General.

So, it seems that not everyone was so happy to see Julius Caesar return. A lot of people (especially soldiers) were very fond of Pompey and were sad to see him go. A bit like when your favourite player gets transferred to another club. Except that Pompey hadn't been transferred, he'd been, well, killed by Caesar. So it's not like football at all. The soldiers moved on and the festival started again.

6. Write down two things that show there was a celebration festival going on

i. _____

ii. _____

7. What was the festival called?

8. What were the two soldiers called?

Flavour and Marullus

Flavius and Marullus

Flavius and Maurice

Flavour and Marian

9. Why were the two soldiers angry?

10. What had happened to Pompey?

Suddenly a cry went up: “Caesar,Caesar!” And there he was at the front of a procession - smiling and waving to the crowd, drinking in the love of the people. Then a shout came from within the crowd - “CAESAR, beware the Ides of March!” - “What man is that?” asked Caesar. His friend Brutus told him it was a soothsayer. Now a soothsayer is a person who is really good at telling the future or predicting what's going to happen. They are kind of like magical fortune-tellers!

“Set him before me, let me see his face. Speak once again,” said Caesar
“Beware the Ides of March,” repeated the soothsayer.

“He is a dreamer, let us leave him,” said Caesar as he moved in, dismissing the soothsayer as a nobody. And with that Caesar was gone, smiling and waving to the crowd once again.

11.A. Complete the sentence below, directly from the text

“CAESAR, beware _____”

B. Who said it?

12.What is a soothsayer? Tick one box

A dentist	<input type="checkbox"/>	A teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
A fortune teller	<input type="checkbox"/>	A robot	<input type="checkbox"/>

13.What is the name of Caesar’s friend who tells him what a soothsayer is?

14.What sort of mood is Julius Caesar in? Use a direct quote from the text to support your answer.

Brutus watched his friend disappear into the distance. Suddenly he felt an arm on his shoulder and turned to see Cassius. Cassius was another important Roman: he was clever and told everyone that he was their friend, but people were a bit unsure about him. He was what you might call....crafty. Brutus didn't really want to talk to Cassius right now, he had things on his mind. Brutus wanted to leave, but Cassius wanted to talk. Just then another cry went up from the crowd.

“What means this shouting” said Brutus, “I do fear the people choose Caesar for their king.”

Do you fear it?” asked Cassius - “Then I think you would not have it so....”

“I would not Cassius, yet I love him well.”

Brutus was uncomfortable with this conversation and wanted to leave, but Cassius had things to say. He told Brutus that Caesar was getting far too big for his boots, that Rome was about the people, not just one man.

15. Who put their arm on Brutus' shoulder

16. Cassius was... TICK 2 BOXES

An important Roman	<input type="checkbox"/>	A Royal Prince	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kind	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crafty	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. What are two synonyms for 'crafty'. Tick 2 boxes

Strong	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sneaky	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selfish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cunning	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. What did Cassius tell Brutus? Write down two things, using evidence from the text.

i.

ii.

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ANSWERS

1. What month does this story take place in?

February

2. What was the weather like? Tick one box

Sunny

3. ‘Everyone was starting to emerge from their houses full of excitement’

What does the word ‘emerge’ mean? Tick one box

Come out

4. What city is this story set in?

Rome

5. What is the name of the character who has just returned home?

Julius Caesar

6. Write down two things that show there was a celebration festival going on

i. singing

ii. dancing

7. What was the festival called?

The Festival of Lupercal

8. What were the two soldiers called?

Flavius and Marullus

9. Why were the two soldiers angry?

People had forgotten Pompey and were already celebrating his death.

10. What had happened to Pompey?

He had been killed by Caesar

11.A. Complete the sentence below, directly from the text

“CAESAR, beware the Ides of March”

B. Who said it?

A soothsayer

12. What is a soothsayer? Tick one box

A fortune teller

13. What is the name of Caesar's friend who tells him what a soothsayer is?
Brutus

14. What sort of mood is Julius Caesar in? Use a direct quote from the text to support your answer.

Caesar was in a happy, jolly mood:
"smiling and waving to the crowd once again".

15. Who put their arm on Brutus' shoulder
Cassius

16. Cassius was... TICK 2 BOXES
An important Roman
Crafty

17. What are two synonyms for 'crafty'. Tick 2 boxes
Sneaky
Cunning

18. What did Cassius tell Brutus? Write down two things, using evidence from the text.

- i. Caesar was getting far too big for his boots
- ii. Rome was about the people, not just one man.