English - Kirk

**Study Questions – Julius Caesar Acts 4 and 5**

**ACT 4**

1. What new elements are revealed about Antony’s character? What leadership roles do Octavius and Lepidus take on? In light of this information, what is the irony of Brutus’ actions and hopes?
2. What new features emerge in the characters of Brutus and Cassius in their arguments/fighting? To what degree can these be considered as the consequence of their act of murder?
3. What clues are given or suggested that the conspirators are inevitably heading for failure and disaster?
4. Discuss the *apparition* sequence (a supernatural appearance of a person or thing, especially a ghost). How does Shakespeare prevent the apparition from being viewed as simply a hallucination of Brutus? In what ways is the apparition the “evil spirit” of Brutus?

**ACT 5**

1. What is hinted about the states of mind of Cassius and Brutus in their farewell speeches to each other in the first scene?
2. Discuss in detail the steps by which the battle is lost for Cassius and Brutus. How closely does this correspond with Brutus’ claim that it is the spirit of Julius Caesar that has defeated them?
3. What are the contrasts shown in the deaths of Cassius and Brutus? Why are they different – and what does this difference show about these two characters and their roles in the play.
4. Why does Brutus kill himself even more willingly than he had killed Caesar? Does he ultimately regret his part in the assassination of Caesar?
5. What final impression is left with the audience of Brutus – in his death and the statements about him given by Antony and Octavius?

**FINAL QUESTION**

1. This is a play about relationships, traditions, loyalty and honor. When you consider what you know about the characters and their relationships over the course of the play, who do you consider to be the tragic hero? Why?

**Important Quotes from the Play**

1. “Men at some time are masters of their fates:

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our starts,

But in ourselves, that we are underlings.”

**Speaker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. “Cowards dies many times before their deaths;

The valiant never taste of death but once.”

**Speaker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. “Between the acting of a dreadful thing

And the first motion, all the interim is

Like phantasma, or a hideous dream.”

**Speaker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. “And Caesar’s spirit, ranging for revenge,

With Ate by his side come hot from hell,

Shall in these confines with a monarch’s voice

Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war …”

**Speaker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. “O Julius Caesar, thou art mighty yet!

Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords

In our own proper entrails.”

**Speaker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. “According to his virtue let us use him,

With all respect and rites of burial.”

**Speaker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. “I could be well moved, if I were as you;

If I could pray to move, prayers would move me;

But I am constant as the northern star…”

**Speaker \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Act \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Scene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**