

VANESSA ELLEY --- 10ENGT --- JULIUS CAESAR INQUIRY PROJECT

Copy the screen grabs from the other page and use them in your inquiry portfolio. Underneath each picture, sum up in your own words how the character of Antony comes across in each performance (how he starts, when we see him change, how he ends up).

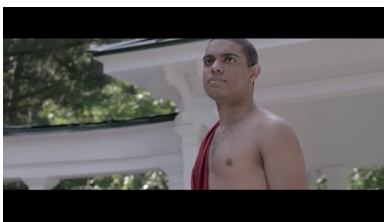


Damian Lewis:

He starts out sounding very sure of himself and in what he is saying, and starts to look like he is reminiscing of the times he had with Caesar as friends. He almost laughs with his eyes when he says "Brutus is an honourable man."

He seems very composed and purposeful in this speech, until he starts to fall apart a little (purposely, as we know) and almost seems angry at Brutus when he repeats the quote from above.

His voice soon shows hints of grief over Caesar when he mentions mourning him. When he says "men have lost their reason", he sounds very raw and like he is pleading with the public. He ends up very overtaken with emotion, as this clip ends on the part where he was taking a small leave to compose himself.



College Students:

He starts out as if he is almost angry (maybe more defiant), and sounds like he is very ready to take up that curse that he uttered in his soliloquy. He makes sure that the people know the momentous choice that lays before them now through his serious tone of voice. He seems very put together and non-emotional at the start, and then his anger seems to devolve into frustrated emotion.



William Shatner:

He starts out very calm and collected, then he looks like he is laughing to himself about the whole situation. Then he starts to change and sound sad and he takes leave to compose himself. He ends up projecting his emotions onto the slaves, and thus seems as if he is riling them up into a fervour.



Marlon Brando:

He starts frustrated and looking quite upset. He changes and becomes overcome with grief as he starts to shout at the audience, and then ends up having to take leave to calm down.



Charlton Heston:

He starts speaking like quite the entertainer, like he is adding as much drama into his words as possible. He then changes to a softer, less forward tone of voice as he expresses his sorrow over Caesar's death, but as we know this only ramps up the drama even more. He ends up back as he was at the start, over dramatising and speaking loudly to get his point across.

- He also is not afraid to get up close and personal with the slaves in this one.

Which performance do you prefer, and why?

My favourite performance was Damian Lewis's, because I thought that it was the one that portrayed emotion the best. Towards the end, he also did not appear to be obviously riling up the audience as much. I liked that because it got across Antony's cunningness better, as I feel like he would not have needed to be loud or forward in his intentions to get them across. In some of the other speeches they sounded more obviously like a challenge directed at the assassins.

Damian Lewis was better at being subtle, which I think is an important component of Antony's speech, because it illustrates that Antony can use his pure intelligence to change the public's opinions without needing to be forceful or straightforward in his true motives. This allows him to conceal his plans while setting them in motion, so he can later step back and take none of the blame.

Which bits of different performances are the most effective and why?

Damian Lewis: As stated above, the most effective things about this speech were the show of emotion and the subtlety in which Antony's true intentions were conveyed.

College Students: This speech was good for making the slaves sympathise with Anthony, because he acted like his grief was getting to him. Although, he also sounded defiant, which was good because it gave the public the notion that he wasn't going to go and cower somewhere as soon as his protector (Caesar) was out of the picture.

William Shatner: I liked the part where he sounds like he is laughing to himself over the whole situation, because it gave the impression that a) he had a superior plan, and it was an inside joke/plot with the public that the assassins were excluded from, or b) his grief was causing him to laugh to hide his sorrow (I have observed friends doing this on multiple occasions). These things make him seem closer to the slaves, which is what Antony was trying to come across as.

Marlon Brando: His frustration is the most effective, because again, it shows the public that he too has human emotions that they can sympathise with.

Charlton Heston: The best bit of this speech is the over dramatising, because in the original speech Antony was using quite a lot of hyperboles and trying to make himself sound very enthusiastic. He was also over exaggerating all of his emotions and projecting them onto the slaves, which I thought this speech showed well.

Write down the three most important lines or short quotes that Antony delivers. What techniques can we see and why do they make things more powerful or interesting? What are the most important / powerful / symbolic words? Why?

1) *"I thrice presented him a kingly crown, which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition? Yet Brutus says he was ambitious."*

- This quote is Antony's way of subtly calling out Brutus for having questionable motives for killing Caesar. The rhetorical question ("*was this ambition?*") is also a very manipulative and persuasive device, because it makes the slaves automatically leap to the answer that Antony wants. The last line places Brutus in the eye of the public as someone who should be doubted, because he is trying to argue against all of the good points Antony is making with not much to back himself up. This quote gives the slaves evidence ("*I thrice presented him a kingly crown, which he did thrice refuse*") and contrasts it with what Brutus thinks. This makes the slaves realise that Brutus does not have any solid reasoning or motives behind killing Caesar, but Antony does and is the logical figure in this situation (and therefore the one they should trust). The "*he was ambitious*" is also repetition, and has been repeated several times by now. This has caused it to sound sarcastic, as if Antony is mocking Brutus's status and moral integrity.

2) *"Men have lost their reason."*

- This quote could be referring to the slaves, as if Antony is challenging them to find a reason to abandon Caesar without evidence. In this case, the quote is showing that Antony is forcing the slaves to choose whether to follow the reasonable path or not, and is suggesting that he could provide such a path. The quote could also be referring to the

assassins, however. This would mean that Antony is despairing over how Brutus could find reason in killing his friend, which makes the public realise that that was not the logical thing to do, and makes them less likely to want to follow Brutus if he can not make the correct decision when it is important to do so.

3) *“Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest.”*

- This quote is Antony proving a point to Brutus that he does not need to say anything bad about him or do anything outside their agreement to topple him from his short lived position of power. If Brutus was to pick up on this, it would be insulting, because it suggests that he was too ignorant to see the loopholes in his plan. This quote also influences the slaves' view of the assassins, because it makes the latter sound dictator like if they have to 'allow' Antony to speak at his friend's funeral. Therefore, making Antony state that he was there under their permission did the opposite of their intentions, and made them look stupid in the process.

What is Shakespeare telling us about through these quotes: eg about friendship, politicians, power, the public?

1) This is telling us that opinions should be very carefully thought out and backed up with evidence before they are expressed, because they can be influenced very easily by an outside source. It also tells us that our actions should not be changed by our emotions, because that is not a good enough reason to justify your action if it goes bad.

2) This is telling us that logic should be applied to every decision, and although emotions do play a part, we need to trust our brains first. It shows that in the absence of logic and reason emotion takes over, and sometimes that ends up in you trusting the first person that argues that you should.

3) This shows that you should not give someone free reign to pick at loopholes, because there will usually always be some. You should always consider the outcomes of a situation, and if you have the higher ground, don't give it away through stupid mistakes. Also, if you have an intuitive worried feeling, you probably should be worried (like Cassius was worried about Brutus' decision to let Antony speak), because intuition is usually well placed.

Next, read the pdf file 'Trumpian Julius Caesar Dropped by Sponsors' on the Google Classroom task.

- **Write down what the for / against arguments are for staging it in this way.**
- **Complete the 'You Decide' activity on page 2.**

1) The against arguments include:

- That it crosses a line when depicting the assassination of the president, and is purposely provocative and offensive.

- That art shouldn't be political to such an extent.

2) The for arguments include:

- That the play is not supposed to advocate violence, in its original form or the Trumpian form.
- Asking bold questions about politics is a good thing to have in the arts, because that is the purpose of art, to question.

You Decide:

1) No, because the whole point of the play is to portray that what the assassins thought they would gain by killing Caesar was not what they actually ended up wanting to happen, and if anything would discourage the assassination of Trump, because we all know what happened after Caesar's death.

The whole idea that Shakespeare had when he was writing his original plays was to subtly take a sideswipe at those in power, so it would be insincere to censor the values that the play inherently has. The only difference between the new and old versions of the play is that the character representations have been updated to be current and relevant to political situations nowadays.

The whole issue is rather ironic, because by people protesting so heavily against this play, its morals become ever clearer. Why are people so upset if not for fear that the play has hit an accurate mark and prediction of the future?

2) I think history does repeat itself, although probably not exactly. It does get pretty close though, when you think of the parallels that can be drawn between the Cold War and the current hostility between America and North Korea. The values and innate behaviour of humanity ensures that we will always screw up our own systems repeatedly.

Find a photograph of an actor you think would be the ideal choice to play Marc Antony on stage.

- **Briefly explain why you think they are suitable.**
- **What kind of costume would you give them and why (eg historically Roman, Shakespearian, formal army uniform, battle fatigues, gang clothes, other).**
- **Where / When would you set it and why?**
- **What kind of ideas would your choice of costume and setting give the audience?**



Benedict Cumberbatch

- I think that he is suitable because he has played several roles that I think are similar personalities. An example of this is the following > (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnZJNjMg98>). I think that this is a good example of how I would like Antony to give his speech, slowly and purposefully but not without emotion.
- I would give them formal army uniform (modern style to go with the setting), because I quite like the idea of the play being set in modern times. Because most of the scenes are at the senate and not at war I would choose formal uniform over battle fatigues.
- I would set it in modern times, because then you can draw interesting parallels between situations in Julius Caesar and situations nowadays. It also provides a different view of the play that might make people think a little more, because it is closer to home and more relatable. I would probably set it in America, because that is where the center of a lot of things is, and it is a very important world superpower.
- My costuming and setting would give the idea that Shakespeare's morals are not so dead and irrelevant as they might seem, and that history often repeats and therefore needs to be analysed to prevent the same mistakes from being made twice.

Write some DEVELOPED director's notes about how you would want them to deliver your chosen lines.

- **How should they use their voice, emotion, body language, position on the stage?**
- **Who he / she is looking at / talking to at key points and why?**
- **What language or techniques are most important to them in these lines and why?**

Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:

- *Emphasise "he was my friend" and make it sound emotional, as if you are upset over a friend's death.*
- *Make eye contact with the slaves when you say "he was my friend" so that they realise that you are not just a politician but a human, too.*

But Brutus says he was ambitious;

- *Say this part loudly, as if you are covering up what you had previously said.*
- *Make a gesture towards Brutus at this point to draw the public's attention to him.*

And Brutus is an honourable man.

- *Sound resigned and sad at this part, as if honour no longer means anything. To complement this get a bit quieter.*

He hath brought many captives home to Rome

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?

- *Get louder at this part, because you want to make the public realise that there is solid evidence that Caesar was not, in fact, ambitious.*
- *Make eye contact with the public.*

- *This is a very important rhetorical question (manipulative / persuasive device) so emphasise it.*

When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:

- *Emphasise Caesar's name.*
- *Gesture towards the body.*

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

- *Sound lighthearted about the whole thing, because that makes it seem like you are trying to put on a front and gains you more public sympathy.*
- *This repetition is a very important device, because used again and again it makes the phrase seem sarcastic and mocking. Emphasise this.*

You all did see that on the Lupercal

I thrice presented him a kingly crown,

Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?

- *Another important rhetorical question.*
- *Make more eye contact with the slaves.*

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And, sure, he is an honourable man.

- *Emphasise the "sure", because that is the word that lets the audience know for sure that he is mocking the assassin's credibility.*
- *Perhaps hold eye contact with Brutus to let him know that you are winning, because the public will not know if your gaze is neutral.*

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?

- *Sound emotional and pleading at this part.*
- *Walk over to the body and stand behind it, so the slaves are forced to look at it.*

O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts,

And men have lost their reason. Bear with me;

My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,

- *Gesture towards the body.*

And I must pause till it come back to me.

- *Look at the body mournfully, do not look at the public so that they think you are trying to be strong by hiding your emotions, when you are in fact doing the opposite.*

Explain how you would want your actor to engage the audience and get them to take the part of the Roman Plebeians. How will your actor 'work the crowd' and how do you hope the audience will respond?

LANGUAGE

The actor needs to overdramatise his words like Antony does, because that is a very useful persuasive and manipulative device. He needs to exaggerate his emotion over Caesar's death, and seem like someone who is grieving. This will draw sympathy from the audience.

He also needs to use language persuasive devices such as rhetorical questions, which manipulate the audience into thinking a certain way.

He needs to be assertive but pleading, as if he knows what he wants but won't force it on the slaves. This means they feel like they have made their own decision and Antony can take no responsibility for their actions, which is what he wants because then he won't be prosecuted.

He needs to talk to the slaves as if they are higher up than him, because that will make them more willing to believe him.

Most importantly, he needs to be subtle in his true intentions, because that is the most critical element of how Antony gets the slaves to revolt without taking the blame for it at all.

PHYSICAL

The actor needs to use hand gestures to emphasise his points and emotions where he wants them to be emphasised, but needs to seem timid and fragile when he is grieving for Caesar.

He needs to make eye contact with the people, but maybe look away as if he is hiding his emotions when he is upset over Caesar.

He needs his voice to carry and to sound sure of himself.

Again, he should be subtle in his true intentions, but project what he wants the slaves to think.