



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Class: X

QUESTION BANK – JULIUS CAESAR (2025-26)

SUMMARY

Caesar prepares to go to the Senate. His wife, Calpurnia, begs him not to go, describing recent nightmares she has had in which a statue of Caesar streamed with blood and smiling men bathed their hands in the blood. Caesar refuses to yield to fear and insists on going about his daily business. Finally, Calpurnia convinces him to stay home—if not out of caution, then as a favor to her. But Decius, one of the conspirators, then arrives and convinces Caesar that Calpurnia has misinterpreted her dreams and the recent omens. Caesar departs for the Senate in the company of the conspirators. At the Senate, the conspirators speak to Caesar, bowing at his feet and encircling him. One by one, they stab him to death. When Caesar sees his dear friend Brutus among his murderers, he gives up his struggle and dies. The murderers bathe their hands and swords in Caesar's blood, thus bringing Calpurnia's premonition to fruition. Antony, having been led away on a false pretext, returns and pledges allegiance to Brutus, but weeps over Caesar's body. He shakes hands with the conspirators, thus marking them all as guilty while appearing to make a gesture of conciliation. When Antony asks why they killed Caesar, Brutus replies that he will explain their purpose in a funeral oration. Antony asks to be allowed to speak over the body as well; Brutus grants his permission, though Cassius remains suspicious of Antony. The conspirators depart, and Antony, alone now, swears that Caesar's death shall be avenged. Brutus and Cassius go to the Forum to speak to the public. Cassius exits to address another part of the crowd. Brutus declares to the masses that though he loved Caesar, he loves Rome more, and Caesar's ambition posed a danger to Roman liberty. The speech placates the crowd. Antony appears with Caesar's body, and Brutus departs after turning the pulpit over to Antony. Repeatedly referring to Brutus as "an honorable man," Antony's speech becomes increasingly sarcastic. Questioning the claims that Caesar acted only out of ambition, Antony points out that Caesar brought much wealth and glory to Rome, and three times turned down offers of the crown. Antony then produces Caesar's will, but announces that he will not read it because it would upset the people inordinately. The crowd nevertheless begs him to read the will, so he descends from the pulpit to stand next to Caesar's body. He describes Caesar's horrible death and shows Caesar's wounded body to the crowd. He then reads Caesar's will, which bequeaths a sum of money to every citizen and orders that his private gardens be made public. The crowd becomes enraged that this generous man lies dead. Calling Brutus and Cassius traitors, the masses set off to drive them from the city.

CHARACTER SKETCH.

JULIUS CAESAR

Julius Caesar is a famous Roman general and husband to Calpurnia. At the beginning of the play, Caesar has just defeated the faction of his rival, Pompey. His followers wish to make him king, though he has rejected Marc Antony's offer of the crown three times. Others do not want this to happen for fear of Caesar enacting tyranny over Rome, prompting Brutus, Cassius, and the other conspirators to kill him before that can happen. Caesar is a complex character. Though Caesar's

ambition is supposedly the reason he is killed (according to both his murderers and to the rules of tragedy), his ambition is not strongly evident in the play. Caesar is arrogant, even to the point of self-delusion (he convinces himself that omens don't apply to him and that he's basically invulnerable to harm), but also displays firm adherence to his principles and is a perceptive judge of character. By the time his assassination is imminent, he seems to accept the likelihood of his death and goes to the Capitol despite Calpurnia's wishes, reasoning that death comes to everyone when it's fated to come.

MARKUS BRUTUS

Brutus is a high-ranking and well-respected Roman, husband to Portia, and one of Caesar's murderers. Brutus is torn between his personal affection for Caesar and his political ideals, which are motivated by his abiding loyalty to Rome. An intelligent and self-possessed Stoic, Brutus is respected by friend and enemy alike—his honourable nature causes Caesar to question, “Et tu, Bruté? ” in disbelief as Brutus kills him. Ironically, it is Brutus's admirable qualities—loyalty, reason, self-control—that cause him to betray Caesar and participate in his murder, once these qualities are manipulated by Cassius. Brutus loves Caesar, but is so opposed to Rome having a king that his reason demands Caesar's death. Brutus's strict moral code also brings about his own undoing, since he honourably allows Marc Antony to give a speech at Caesar's funeral which turns the plebeians against Brutus and the other conspirators. Despite taking up an army against Antony, Brutus refuses to kill Antony as Cassius suggests they should. After being haunted by Caesar's ghost during the army campaign, Brutus commits suicide while on the run from Antony's troops. Even Antony concludes that Brutus was “the noblest Roman of them all.”

CASSIUS

Cassius is the instigator of the conspiracy against Caesar. Cassius served beside Caesar in many wars and even once rescued him from drowning. Unlike Brutus, who loves Caesar but is opposed to the idea of a monarchy, Cassius seems more motivated by jealousy of Caesar than by any political ideology. Indeed, Cassius begins to exhibit many of the bad qualities for which he initially argued Caesar must die, like ambition, dishonesty, and greed. Cassius is skilled at using language and his perceptive nature to steer conversations to his own ends, which is how he wins over Brutus in particular to the conspiracy. At the end of the play, he commits suicide, assisted by Pindarus, when he assumes that his and Brutus's army is about to be defeated.

MARK ANTONY

Antony is Caesar's close friend. He desires to make Caesar king, and he brings about the undoing of the conspirators after Caesar's murder. Described as a passionate man who loves art and music, and teased by Caesar for staying out late at parties, Antony is the opposite of the coldly logical Brutus. While not perceptive enough to suspect the plot against Caesar, his masterful speech to the plebeians at Caesar's funeral stirs up the masses to mutiny. He then takes up an army against Brutus and the other conspirators to avenge Caesar's death. Antony can be devious when necessary, planning to cheat the people by altering Caesar's will, and to eliminate his ally Lepidus. It is the combination of these qualities that make him a better all-around politician—and replacement for Caesar—than either Brutus or Cassius. At the end of the play, his army triumphs over Brutus's, yet he praises Brutus as having been the noblest of Romans.

Calpurnia

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Calpurnia is Caesar's wife. Calpurnia is associated with supernatural omens in the play. She dreams of Caesar's murder and accordingly begs him to stay home from the Capitol, but he refuses on the grounds that not going to the Capitol would appear cowardly.

Reference to Context

1. ANTONY: If you have tears, prepare to shed them now.

**You all do know this mantle : I remember
The first time ever Caesar put it on;
'Twas on a summer's evening, in his tent,
That day he overcame the Nervii :
Look, in this place ran Cassius' dagger through:
See what a rent the envious Casca made:
Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabb'd;
And as he pluck'd his cursed steel away,**

(a) How does Antony use visual imagery to make his point about the assassination of Caesar?

Antony uses vivid and evocative descriptions of the wounds inflicted on Caesar by his assassins, in order to stir up emotions in his audience and to create a sense of horror and outrage.

(b) What is the significance of the mantle that Antony refers to, in his speech?

The mantle represents Caesar's power and authority, and serves as a symbol of the leader's ability to inspire loyalty and devotion in his followers.

(c) Identify the tone of Antony's statement when he says, "If you have tears, prepare to shed them now".

emotive and urgent [as he seeks to move his audience to tears and to evoke a sense of shared grief and loss]

(d) What does Antony's reference to the Nervii suggest about Caesar's military prowess?

Antony's reference to the Nervii, whom Caesar defeated in battle, highlights Caesar's skill as a military leader and his ability to conquer even the most formidable enemies.

2. CAESAR: How foolish your fears seem now, Calpurnia? I am ashamed I did yield to them. Give me my robe, for I will go,

(a) Why did Calpurnia's fears seem foolish to Caesar?

(i) Brutus' explanation made it appear foolish.

(ii) Decius Brutus interpretation made it appear foolish.

(iii) The senators' explanation made it appear foolish.

(iv) The Watchman said that it was foolish.

(b) Who was really fooled?

(i) Calpurnia

(ii) Watchman

(iii) Caesar

(iv) Decius Brutus

(c) The Speaker wants to go to _____

(i) meet Antony

(ii) attend a meeting

(iii) the Senate House

(iv) meet Brutus

3. The dream is all amiss interpreted; It was a vision fair and fortunate

(a) Who is the speaker?

(i) Caesar (ii) Marcus Brutus **(iii) Decius Brutus** (iv) Cassius

(b) Whose dream is he/ she talking about?

(i) Brutus **(ii) Calpurnia's** (iii) Caesar's (iv) Cinna

(c) What was seen in the dream.

(i) bleeding body of the Caesar.

(ii) Caesar's victory – the battle

(iii) ghosts running around in the streets

(iv) bodies walking in the street flaming

4. If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's to him I say, that Brutus" love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?

(a) Why according to Brutus, did he kill Caesar?

(i) Brutus wanted to save Rome from slavery.

(ii) Brutus hated Caesar.

(iii) Cassius forced Brutus to kill Caesar.

(iv) Brutus himself wanted to become the king of Rome.

(b) How does Brutus justify the assassination of Caesar?

(i) Brutus said that Caesar was ambitious.

(ii) Brutus said that he would enslave Rome.

(iii) Brutus said that he would become a tyrant.

(iv) All of the above

(c) How did the mob react to the speech given by Brutus ?

(i) The mob revolted against Brutus.

(ii) The mob agreed with Brutus" decision.

(iii) The mob criticized Brutus" decision.

(iv) None of the above.

**5. CAESAR 'Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night:
Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out,
'Help, ho! they murder Caesar!'**

(a) Explain: 'Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace to-night.'

There had been a terrible storm at night and the skies had been raging all night. Calpurnia, too, had a disturbed sleep at night. Three times at night she cried out that Caesar was being murdered.

(b) What did Calpurnia dream of?

Calpurnia dreamt of the murder of Caesar. She saw Caesar's statue run with blood like a fountain, while many smiling Romans bathed their hands in the blood.

(c) In what mood does Calpurnia speak to Caesar about the events of the night?

Calpurnia was frightened by the unnatural occurrences the night before and was very anxious about Caesar's safety. She felt that these portents and omens signify that a major

calamity will befall Caesar as these unnatural sights indicated the death of a great leader.

6. O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth, That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!

- (a) The above lines are spoken by _____
- (i) Mark Antony** (ii) Decius Brutus (iii) Brutus (iv) Cassius
- (b) 'Bleeding piece of earth' stands for _____
- (i) the battlefield from where Caesar returned victorious
- (ii) the spot where Caesar was assassinated**
- (iii) the place where Caesar's body was taken for burial
- (iv) the dead body of Caesar
- (c) The speaker is meek with the 'butchers' because _____
- (i) of his timidity
- (ii) of his diplomatic approach**
- (iii) he is afraid of being killed by them
- (iv) he is ill-armed

7. These couching and these lowly courtesies Might fire the blood of ordinary men, and turn pre-ordinance and first decree into the law of children. Thy brother by decree is banished: If thou dost bend and pray, and fawn, for him, I spurn thee, like a cur, out of my way.

- (a) Who is Caesar speaking to here?
- (i) Brutus (ii) Cassius (iii) Antony **(iv) Metellus Cimber**
- (b) Why was Caesar angry with the person he was speaking to?
- (i) Because he was conspiring against him
- (ii) Because he had joined hands with the enemies of Rome
- (iii) Because he was pleading for his banished brother**
- (iv) Because he didn't render his duties sincerely
- (c) Which figure of speech is used in the last line?
- (i) Metaphor (ii) Personification (iii) Alliteration **(iv) Simile**

**8. This was the most unkindest cut of all;
For when the noble Caesar saw him stab,
Ingratitude, stronger than traitors' arms,
Quite vanquished him.**

- (a) What was the unkindest cut? Who gave it?
- The unkindest cut was the wound caused by Brutus.**
- (b) Whose sight pained Caesar the most?
- The sight of Brutus attacking him.**
- (c) What is ingratitude according to Antony?
- Ingratitude is treachery of the dearest friend, which causes maximum pain.**

**9. "Cowards die many times before their deaths,
The valiant never taste of death but once."**

- (a) What does 'Cowards die many times before their deaths' mean?
- Cowards are so afraid of death that their very fear prevents them from living life to the fullest.**
- (b) What does 'The valiant never taste of death but once' mean?
- The brave are not afraid of death as they know it is inevitable and thus do not fear it.**
- (c) Which trait of the speaker's character is revealed in these lines? **Arrogance.**

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- 1. Analyze Brutus's reasoning for joining the conspiracy against Julius Caesar in the excerpt of Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar.**

His decision is rooted in his belief that Caesar's ambition could threaten the Roman Republic's democratic principles. Brutus fears that Caesar's rise to power might lead to tyranny. His decision is driven by a sense of duty to protect Rome from despotism, illustrating the complexity of his character as he balances loyalty to a friend with loyalty to the republic. However, this reasoning also reveals Brutus's vulnerability to manipulation by others in the conspiracy.

- 2. What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?**

Antony says that the Romans will pay for the sin they have committed by murdering Caesar. Numerous awful things will befall to the Romans. The nation will experience a violent civil war that will result in death and damage. Many cruel acts will be carried out. Mothers shall go mad and smile when they'll see their children slaughtered. Caesar's spirit shall roam about for revenge and his spirit will be accompanied by Ate, the goddess of strife, who would come from hell. The earth shall be covered with dead bodies lying for burial.

- 3. Why is Antony's speech more effective?**

Antony's speech is more effective because it is genuine and full of emotions and feelings for Caesar. He appeals to the basic sentiments of the common people. i.e. the mob. He very skilfully informs the audience that Caesar was not ambitious but rather had turned down the crown three times. He enhanced the glory of Rome with his victories. He very cleverly directs his speech towards Caesar's greatness as a human being. He, in that way, arouses their basic instinct of revenge against the conspirators. He does so by stating from will that Caesar's has left everything to them. He specified in his testament that each Roman would get 75 drachmas. He gave his property and gardens to the general public for use. He tries to gain the sympathy of the people through displaying Caesar's injured body. After Antony's speech, the mob gets furious and rushes to murder the conspirators.

- 4. What does Calpurnia dream about Caesar? How does Decius Brutus interpret the dream?**

Calpurnia dreamt that statue had a hundred spouts and pure blood ran from them. Many strong Romans came smiling. They bathed their hands into it. She meant this as an ill-omen. So, she asked Caesar not to go the senate-house that day. But Decius Brutus interpreted the dream saying that the Romans bathing their hands in his blood that Caesar's blood was his 'spirit of influence'. It should be treated as a great thing, it shall serve as colours added to a coat of arms, an object of reverence, mementos and a badge of service.

- 5. What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators? How does Caesar respond to it?**

The conspirators put a petition before Caesar to repeal the banishment of Metellus Cimber's brother, who had been banished by Caesar on valid grounds. Caesar responds to it by

refusing to do so because this will undermine his authority and also make laws made earlier meaningless.

6. Conspirators decide to assassinate Caesar on the presumption of his turning into a dictator and harming the public. Is it justified? Why/Why not?

No, it is not justified at all. The conspirators had no concrete evidence of tyranny. Their decision was solely on the bases of vague presumptions and fears leading to chaos and moral and ethical ambiguity.

7. Caesar's murder is rightly avenged by Antony. Comment.

Casca, Decius Brutus, Brutus and conspirators killed Caesar on the pretext of him being ambitious. All the conspirators were actually jealous of his growing popularity. Only Brutus was the one who was actually concerned about the betterment of Rome. When Antony came to the Senate, he saw Caesar's body lying in a pool of blood. He told Brutus to kill him also and with the same weapon with which he had killed Caesar. Brutus told him to join hands with them and agreed to be their friend but at heart he was full of anger and wanted to take revenge for Caesar's murder. He requested Brutus to allow him to give a funeral speech to the people of Rome. Brutus allowed him to do so. Antony revealed to the mob how Caesar loved them and that he had given everything to the people of Rome in his will. His scathing and sarcastic speech drove the mob crazy. It enraged them and the masses set the houses of conspirators on fire.

8. Why did Cassius tell Brutus not to allow Antony to speak on Caesar's funeral?

Cassius knew it well that Marks Antony was a great diplomat and orator. Using his oratory, he might win the hearts of the people in his favour. At that point of time, Cassius and other conspirators were quite near the crown after assassinating Caesar. Moreover, the Romans were very emotionally charged at that time. Cassius did not want to take any risk at that time. Hence, he told Brutus not to allow Antony to speak on Caesar's funeral.

9. Why did Caesar's will infuriate the Romans?

Caesar's will was the most powerful weapon in the hands of Antony against the conspirators who were saying that they had assassinated Caesar as he was ambitious. The revelation of the contents of the will proved to be a turning point in the entire episode. According to the will, all the Romans were to get seventy-five silver coins from the property of Caesar and the private arbours of Caesar were to become a national property. Additionally, the will bequeathed his extensive gardens on the Tiber to the Roman people for public use. So the Romans held the conspirators guilty of assassinating a great patriot of Rome.

10. Why did Calpurnia try to stop Caesar from going to the senate?

Calpurnia had a very bad dream the previous night. She was also informed by the watchman that in his dream he had seen many unnatural things. A lioness had given birth to her little ones in the streets. Dead bodies were coming out of graveyards. A fierce war was going in air and blood was falling upon the capital. Calpurnia saw that blood was coming out of the

statue of Caesar and lusty Romans were bathing their hands in it with smiling faces. All these were ominous and Calpurnia thought that the life of Caesar was in danger.

11. How did Brutus win the heart of the Roman mob?

Brutus tells the Roman that Caesar made himself very ambitious. He also says that Caesar was his friend and he had many good qualities. He was worshipper of the courage of Caesar. But he had to join his hands with the conspirators when he came to know that the growing power of Caesar would be dangerous to the democracy of Rome.

12. Under what condition does Brutus allow Mark Antony to make the funeral speech?

After the assassination of Caesar, Brutus wanted to justify the act of the conspirators. After delivering his speech he wanted Antony to address the Romans. But certain conditions were imposed on Antony. He was not allowed to blame any conspirator though he was allowed to praise Caesar. He had to disclose the Romans in his funeral speech that he was speaking by the permission of the conspirators. Antony had to accept all the conditions as his position was weak at that moment.

13. Why did Metellus Cimber kneel before Caesar?

The brother of Metellus Cimber had been given the punishment of banishment by Caesar. So, the conspirators asked Metellus Cimber to request Caesar to forgive his brother. They knew it well that Caesar would not forgive Publius Cimber. Then the conspirators would also make request and if it was turned down by Caesar, they would get proper excuse to attack and assassinate Caesar.

14. What offer did the conspirators make to Antony after Caesar's assassination?

The conspirators were well aware of the power of oratory of Antony. They also knew that Antony was a great diplomat. So, they thought it was better to win the favour of Antony. Therefore, they offered Antony a place in the commonwealth. Actually, the conspirators wanted to pacify the chaotic situation caused by the assassination of Caesar.

15. How did Decius Brutus interpret Calpurnia's dream?

The misinterpretation of Calpurnia's dream by Decius Brutus proved fatal for Caesar. Otherwise, Caesar had made up his mind to remain at home on that unfortunate day. Decius Brutus said that Calpurnia's dream that blood was coming out of Caesar's statue signified that the Romans would get reviving blood. It would be preserved as an object of reverence by the Romans. It would serve as colours added to a coat of arms. So, Decius Brutus succeeded in persuading Caesar to go the senate-house where his death was waiting for him in the daggers of the conspirators.

16. How did Caesar make the Roman his heirs?

Antony brought the will of Caesar and read it to the people of Rome. According to the will,

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all the Romans had to get seventy-five silver coins from the property of Caesar. The private harbours of Caesar were to become the national property and every Roman would be enjoying there. These were the sufficient proofs to prove that Caesar was not ambitious.

17. What prophesy did Antony make after Caesar's death?

Antony was a great diplomat and a close friend of Caesar. So, he made prophesy to infuriate the Roman to take revenge. He said that Romans would witness civil war. He further said that blood and destruction would be common and dreadful objects would be so familiar that mothers would smile to see the dead bodies of their children. The spirit of Caesar would come with God of death and take revenge on the Romans.

18. 'Let him be Caesar'. What does this line tell us about the attitude of the Roman mob?

The Roman mob is very emotional and fickle minded. The citizens are credulous and docile. Only a few sentences of Brutus impress them so greatly that they forget all the contributions of great Caesar. They are also quick in taking decision. Without going deep into the matter, they are going to hand over the bridle of the reins of Rome in the hands of the conspirators and the murderers.

19. What was the effect of Antony's speech on the Roman citizens?

Antony's speech revolutionized the Roman mob. He had become successful in making the Romans realize that Caesar was not ambitious and the conspirators were guilty. So, the mob became vindictive. They became ready to die with Antony. They said that they would burn the house of Brutus. They became ready to seek the conspirators. They also said that they would burn the dead body of Caesar at a holy place and using the brands they would burn the houses of the traitors.

20. What are the arguments put forward by Decius Brutus to convince Caesar to go to Capitol?

Decius Brutus says that the dream of Calpurnia has been wrongly interpreted. Actually, the Romans will get a reviving blood from Caesar's blood. They will get their handkerchiefs drenched in his blood and the same will be worshipped by the future generations. He also tries to entice Caesar by saying that the senators have decided to offer him the crown that day. If he does not go, they may change their decision.

21. Why did Cassius object to Antony's speech at Caesar's funeral?

Cassius knew it well that Mark Antony was a great diplomat and orator. Using his oratory skill, he might win the hearts of the people in his favour. At that point of time, Cassius and other conspirators were quite near the crown after assassinating Caesar. Moreover, the Romans were very emotionally charged at that time. Cassius did not want to take any risk at that time. Hence, he told Brutus not to allow Antony to speak on Caesar's funeral.

22. How does Brutus convince the Roman mob that he was justified in murdering Caesar?

The shrewd, cunning and manipulating Cassius had been successful in poisoning the ears of noble Brutus. After Caesar's assassination, Brutus told the Romans that he loved Caesar more than any Romans. But he loved the democracy of Rome more than anyone and anything. So, he assassinated Caesar when he felt that the growing ambition of Caesar would be perilous to Roman democracy and he was not ready to accept it at any rate as he was a great patriot.

23. How did Antony convince the Roman mob that Caesar was not ambitious?

Antony being a great diplomat and orator proved Caesar's innocence very meticulously. He informed the Romans that Caesar refused to accept the crown thrice when it was offered to him on the eve of Lupercal. If he had been ambitious, he must have accepted it. He also told the Romans that Caesar had brought many captives from the battlefield. Whatsoever amount, he got as ransom to set the captives free, he put it in the national treasure. When the poor wept, Caesar also wept. Reading the will of Caesar, Antony disclosed to the Romans that Caesar had left seventy-five silver coins for every citizen and his personal arbours were to become national property. These evidences were adequate to prove that Caesar was not ambitious.

24. How was Mark Antony successful in setting mischief afoot?

Mark Antony was indeed a great orator and diplomat. After the assassination of Caesar, he reached the site and made his plan how to take revenge on the conspirators and get advantage of the situation. He warned the Romans that Rome would face natural calamities if they didn't take revenge for the assassination. Further, he said that Caesar's spirit would come with the God of death and cause a great loss of life. Very systematically, he proved that Caesar was not ambitious. As long as his position was weak, he pointed out the guilts of the conspirators ironically. Later, he told the Romans that Caesar had neither accepted the crown nor kept the ransom in his personal treasure. He made the mob emotional by saying that Caesar used to weep for the poor and for the sake of Romans he left his entire property. Showing the cuts to the mob and deliberate delay in reading the will were the effective endeavours of Antony to instigate the Romans against the conspirators. Thus, the oratory of Antony altered the entire scene. The conspirators, though appeared to be successful in the beginning, were badly defeated.

25. The crowd in Julius Caesar is fickle minded. Comment.

The crowd in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is indeed fickle-minded, as they are easily swayed by rhetoric and shift their loyalties rapidly, celebrating Caesar's triumphs, then turning against him after his assassination, and finally becoming enraged at the conspirators following Mark Antony's speech. This fickleness is shown in several key moments, such as their quick shift from cheering Caesar to now being swayed by Brutus and then later by Antony's funeral oration.