

The Tragedy of Julius Caesar

William Shakespeare



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Julius Caesar: Setting

The setting of this play is ancient **Rome**.



Shakespeare creates a world full of **political** intrigue, **magical** occurrences, and **military** conquest.

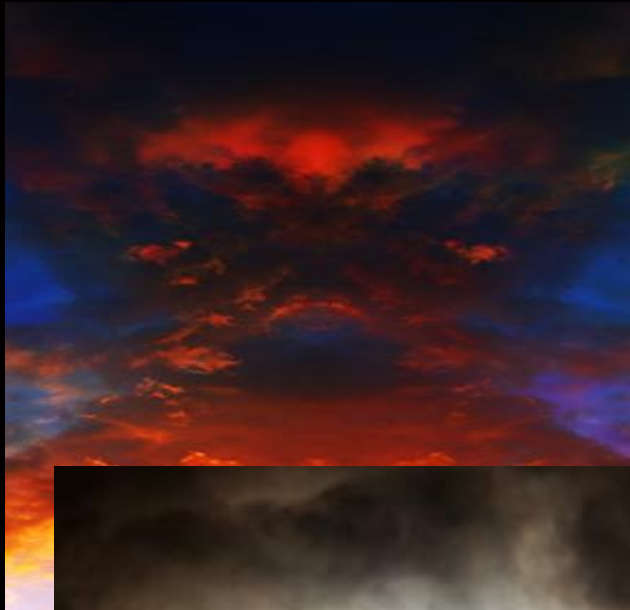
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Julius Caesar : Setting



Shakespeare uses Roman customs and **superstition** to create spooky conditions that mirror the dangerous **plot** of the play.



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Julius Caesar : Setting

The Romans believed that **omens** could reveal the **future**.



These omens could take the form of unusual **weather**, flights of **birds**, or other **natural** phenomena.



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Julius Caesar: Setting

Animals were also seen as indicators of the future. ▼

The Romans often sacrificed animals to the **gods**

They then had their entrails (guts) examined by an official called a **haruspex**.

Any abnormalities or imperfections indicated the **anger** of a god or a **bad event** about to happen.



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Julius Caesar: Setting

Unusual **astronomical** and meteorological occurrences were also seen as signs of future events. ▼

Solar eclipses were believed to foreshadow **doom**, as was **thunder and lightning**



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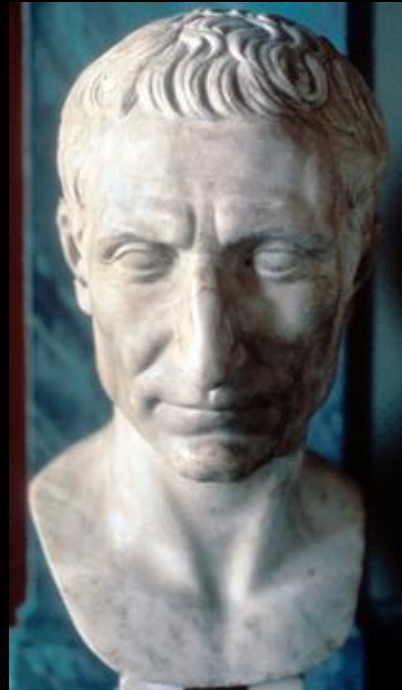
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Julius Caesar: Background

Caesar, the most **powerful** man in Rome, has recently returned to the city after months of **fighting** abroad.



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Julius Caesar: Background

Caesar was fighting **Pompey**, another powerful Roman, and his army.

Pompey, as well as others in the Roman **senate**, were disturbed by Caesar's growing **ambition**.



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Julius Caesar: Background

Their fears seem to be valid when Caesar refuses to enter Rome as an **ordinary citizen** after the war.

Instead, he marches his army on Rome and takes over the **government**.



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Julius Caesar: Caesar

But the people don't mind—in fact, they **love** him.

Caesar is made ***dictator***, or ruler, for the rest of his life.



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Julius Caesar: Caesar

Many **senators**, however, resent Caesar for having so much **power**.



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Julius Caesar: Conflict



Some senators begin to **conspire** against Caesar:

Brutus, Caesar's friend who believes that he must act against Caesar for the good of **Rome**

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Julius Caesar: Conflict



Casca, who hates the ordinary citizens of Rome, yet is **jealous** because they love Caesar and not him

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Julius Caesar: Conflict



Cassius, a greedy and jealous man who wants to take **drastic** measures to keep Caesar from winning any more **power**—and to take away any power that Caesar previously had!

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