RAISING ACHIEVEMENT · JULIUS CAESAR · DRILL 1

Young ambition’s ladder

Brutus

Today: how Brutus argues himself into murder

25 minutes

Do Now

Know

1. Which friend of Brutus works on him to join a plot against Caesar?
2. What is a soliloquy?
3. What is a metaphor?
4. What did Caesar refuse three times at the Lupercal?
5. On which date did the real Caesar die?

Do Now: answers

Know

1. Which friend of Brutus works on him to join a plot against Caesar?
   Cassius.

2. What is a soliloquy?
   A speech in which a character alone on stage speaks their thoughts aloud.

3. What is a metaphor?
   A way of describing one thing as if it were another.

4. What did Caesar refuse three times at the Lupercal?
   A crown, held out to him by Antony.

5. On which date did the real Caesar die?
   The Ides of March, 15 March, 44 BC.

Focus reminder

Know

What a plan for the Julius Caesar question looks like

Thesis first: one sentence that answers the question with an idea, not a retelling.

Three points: one from the extract, two from other moments in the play.

Each point gets a short quotation and the method Shakespeare uses.

Add context: Rome as a republic, or England’s fear of civil war in 1599.

Brutus in his orchard, at night

Read

William Shakespeare · 1599 · Act 2 Scene 1

BRUTUS.
The abuse of greatness is, when it disjoins
Remorse from power: and, to speak truth of Caesar,
I have not known when his affections sway'd
More than his reason. But 'tis a common proof,
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder,
Whereto the climber-upward turns his face;
But when he once attains the upmost round,
He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees
By which he did ascend. So Caesar may.
Then, lest he may, prevent. And, since the quarrel
Will bear no colour for the thing he is,
Fashion it thus; that what he is, augmented,
Would run to these and these extremities:
And therefore think him as a serpent's egg
Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,
And kill him in the shell.