Act 1, Scene 1

The story opens on a street in Rome, where two tribunes, Flavius and Marullus, disperse a crowd that has congregated to celebrate the return of the greatest ruler of the day, Julius Caesar. The tribunes, fearful of Caesar's ever-increasing power, rebuke the assembled crowd for their shortsightedness and fickle loyalties. Marullus reminds the cobblers and carpenters that Caesar has conquered another Roman, the noble Pompey. They succeed in dispersing the crowd by their hate speech. Flavius and Marullus remove the decorations that cover the public statues put in the welcome of Caesar.

Act 1, Scene 2

Caesar passes through a public square to celebrate the Roman festival of Lupercalia 1. Caesar is accompanied with his wife Calpurnia, Mark Antony, senator Cicero, republican sympathizers Brutus, Cassius, Casca, Decius, Flavius, Marullus, and Brutus' wife Portia. Caesar asks Antony to touch Calpurnia in a fertility rite. As the music and merriment begins, Caesar hears someone shout his name. Hushing the crowd, he asks the voice to speak again. A soothsayer comes into view and warns Caesar to "Beware the ides of March", but Caesar ignores his prediction by saying: "He is a dreamer; let us leave him; pass" . Caesar and the adoring crowd move on to the festival, but Brutus and Cassius stay behind. They discuss Caesar's thirst for power and his desire to turn the republic into a dictatorship. Cassius is already prepared to assassinate Caesar to save Rome from tyranny, and he attempts to convince Brutus that the murder 6 would be justified. Although Brutus reveals that he has also been wary of Caesar, but he does not immediately wish to involve himself in Cassius's plot. Rather, Brutus agrees to ponder all that Cassius has said and meet with him again to "answer such high things". Caesar and his entourage return, and Caesar shares with Antony that he mistrusts Cassius. Antony assures Caesar that Cassius is a noble and trustworthy Roman incapable of treachery, but Caesar remains unconvinced. Caesar and his train leave but Casca remains behind. Brutus pulls him by the cloak to converse with him. Casca tells Brutus and Cassius about the festival, and how Antony offered Caesar a crown three times and three times he refused it. But in Casca's opinion, Caesar only refused the crown to please the crowd. In fact, the people so loved the gesture that they "uttered up such a deal of stinking breath ... that it almost choked Caesar; for he swounded and fell down at it". Casca finishes recounting Caesar's actions at the festival and, after declining a dinner invitation from Cassius, bids the men farewell. Cassius feels Casca's report gives them more evidence to suspect Caesar’s desire to become king. Brutus asks to meet Cassius again the next day and leaves him alone. He ponders over the chances that Brutus will agree to join the plot or not. Cassius feels that his arguments have not been thoroughly convincing, and it is apparent that Caesar loves Brutus and would reward his loyalty with great wealth and power. Thus Cassius concludes that he must help his own cause with a little trickery. He will fabricate a petition, pretending, it is from the angry citizens, demanding Caesar's deposition, and he will throw it in Brutus'window.

Act 1, Scene 3

Scene three opens amidst a great storm in the dark night. Thunder shakes the foundations of Rome and lighting slices through the night sky. Casca appears with his sword drawn and sees Cicero coming towards him. Casca speaks of the omens he has witnessed of the stormy night, including wild beasts roaming the Capital and men on fire. Cicero hardly pays much attention to the predictions and hurries home to be out of the wind and rain. Casca next encounters Cassius, who uses the storm as a means to recruit Casca for his plot: . Another conspirator named Cinna arrives and Cassius tells him that Casca is their newest confidant. Then Cassius instructs Cinna to throw the petition into Brutus' window and meet him and the other conspirators at Pompey's theatre