**Speech: “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears”**

BY [WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/william-shakespeare)

*(from*Julius Caesar*, spoken by Marc Antony)*

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; 1

I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus 5

Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:

If it were so, it was a grievous fault,

And grievously hath Caesar answer’d it.

Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest.

For Brutus is an honourable man; 10

So are they all, all honourable men–

Come I to speak in Caesar’s funeral.

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:

But Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man. 15

He hath brought many captives home to Rome

Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?

When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff: 20

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And Brutus is an honourable man.

You all did see that on the Lupercal

I thrice presented him a kingly crown,

Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition? 25

Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;

And, sure, he is an honourable man.

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: 30

What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him?

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,

And I must pause till it come back to me. 35

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| Find examples of Rhetorical Devices. Include the line # | Find examples of Stylistic Devices.  Include the line # | Provide an explanation of the devices and the line. How does it work to sway the Plebeians? |
| **Logos**  **Antony showed logical organization of the speech:**  “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears (line 1)”—**exordium**  Line 2-12: the reason for speaking—**narration**  Line 13-27: evidences that Caesar is not ambitious—**confirmation**  Line 28-31: to answer some possible queries that the plebeians may raise—**confutation**  Line 32-35—**conclusion**  **Pathos**  **Word choice**  “grievous” (Line 7)  “love him” (Line 30)  “mourn” (Line 31)  “My heart is in the coffin.” (Line 34)  **Action**  Weeping in front of the crowd  Pausing to let the plebeians rethink (Line 35)  **Ethos**  **Diction**  “Come I to speak…” (Line 12)  **Other authorities**  “Brutus is an honorable man”  Yet he turned against it in the end.  **Reputation**  Antony himself is an honorable man.  **Sufficient evidences** given for proving that Antony is not ambitious. | **Rhetorical questions**  Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?  (Line 48)  “was that ambition?” (Line 25)  **Repetition**  “Brutus is an honorable man”  “Brutus says he is ambitious”  Honorable \* 5  Ambitious \* 7  **Sarcasm**  “Yet Brutus says he was ambitious, and sure he is an honorable man.” (Line 21, 22)  **Hyperbole**  “My heart is in the coffin” (Line 34)  “lend me your ears” (Line 1)  **Alliteration**  “friend, faithful” (Line 13)  “brutish beasts” (Line 32)  **Irony**  “I come to bury Caesar, but not to praise him” (Line 2)  “I speak not to disprove…” (Line 28)  **Parallelism**  “When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept” (Line 19)  **Personification**  “O judgement! thou art fled to brutish beasts” (line 32) | **Rhetorical devices**  Antony uses very strong logos that makes his speech clear and persuasive, and thus helps to sway the plebeians;  Also, by applying word choices that can strongly arouse the mourning inside every plebeian’s heart, as well as actions that deeply move and infect the plebeian, Antony successfully persuade the plebeians because of his use of pathos;  Lastly, by mentioning Brutus again and again and providing all the evidences showing how much Caesar did for the country, Antony not only succeeds in building up ethos but also gradually turns all the words against Brutus in the end.  **Stylistic devices**  By applying various stylistic devices like rhetorical question and sarcasm, Antony forces the plebeian to rethink about what Brutus said and did;  Also, devices like repetition and hyperbole emphasizes the ideas Antony wants to convey: Brutus is not honorable and Caesar is not ambitious;  Lastly, alliteration parallelism and personification help to make the whole speech more contagious and thus serves the role of effectively persuading the plebeians. |