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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 1, Scene 1\_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 7-11\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_2/25\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1.**  **Through the scene, what can we infer about** **Flavius and Murellus and their commons and differences?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1.S1**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  They are both tribunes that think common people’s only value is to work, as we can see from the first few lines, saying that “being mechanical, you ought not walk upon a labouring day without the sign of your profession?”  Also, both of them are extremely disrespected towards the common people and not listening patiently to what they say and what they mean.  Still, both of them are extremely loyal towards Pompey.  Flavius seems to be more aggressive than Murellus, as he is the one to begin the inquiry and the one to disregard the feast of Lupercal and plans to frame Caesar.  **Q 2.**  **What can we know from the common people’s reaction?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1.S1**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  The Roman people once advocated and admired their ruler Pompey. However, once there comes a new ruler, they would come to celebrate his victory regardless of their former king’s downfall. They are thus scolded to be ungrateful and disloyal. They are soon easily persuaded by the two tribunes to go home and pray. This reveals the fickle nature and their lacking of political knowledge of these common people.  **Q 3.**  **What role does the cobbler play in the scene?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1. S1**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  He is one of the mechanicals that are idling on the street. He is continuously using the puns of his profession to satirize and agitate the two tribunes. The figure of the smart cobbler uglifies the two tribunes for their ignorance and disrespect, and reveals how the lower class like him are constantly grinded down by the higher class. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  What does the last few sentences mean?  The last few sentences reveal the two tribune’s real emotion for Caesar and their fear that Caesar may become the king, and thus foreshadow their attempt to murder him later in the play.  All other questions are very similar to what I wrote and the ideas converge. |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  Something really interesting I see from this scene as well as through our class discussion is that initially I thought these common people as fickle and lack of political knowledge, but we can also view this fact from another perspective and interpret it by saying that the portray of these common people is not that intentional, and they will never play an important role in this play on the grounds of their unchangeable social status. They do not receive high education and they are just cheering for whoever’s success aimlessly. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 1, Scene 2\_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 11-21\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_2/27\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1.**  **How are different characters portrayed in this scene? And how are they different from each other?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1.S2 Line 1-190**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Caesar: superstitious yet overconfident; can be seen by the fact that he believes in that a runner’s touch can cure infertile women.  Brutus: abstinent, great sense of responsibility towards his own country.  Cassius: has a gift for persuasion and controlling the overall situation. He naturally puts Brutus in a dilemma between his own loyalty toward his friend and his nation.    **Q 2.**  **What can we know from Caesar’s believe in the effectiveness of curing infertility by a runner’s touch? How does that compare to his ignorance of the soothsayer’s warning?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1.S1. Line 1-10**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  First we can know the superstitious nature of Caesar, also, the mentioning of infertile women can also imply his attempt to be the king as he wants more heirs for him from the women.  However, by ignoring the warning, what we can see is not the rationality of Caesar, but instead is his overconfidence in himself that he will never be beaten, so he chooses not to believe in the soothsayer’s words.  **Q 3.**  **Why Brutus’ reaction is completely different after the two *flourish and shout*?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1. S1, c. Line76, 132**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Because of Cassius’ words. He is a talented persuader that makes use of flattering and concerning, Brutus’ own personality, as well as Brutus’ high responsibility towards the Roman empire. He also defames Caesar before Brutus by calling him “immortal” and hinting his willingness of becoming the king. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  The mentioning of the soothsayer’s use here.  Foreshadowing the death, arrogant.  Why mentioning the similarities  To suggest that Caesar is also common people, and he can never be the king.  Why people don’t like Caesar  Caesar is arrogant and people think Caesar might be the king; not honorable and godly.  Rhetorical devices in Cassius’ speech. |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  There is a lot of information beyond the words in this play. For example, from the detail that Caesar believes a runner’s touch can cure his wife’s infertility can not only show us the superstition of Caesar, but also the fact that people in that time tends to attribute the reason for infertility to women regardless of their husbands’ condition, revealing the low status women have at that time.  Something else that is interesting and worthy looking into is Cassius’ speech, which includes a lot of devices, like simile, hyperbole, etc, all of which make the speech extremely persuasive. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 1, Scene 2\_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 21-27\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_2/28\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1.**  **Does Caesar really want to be the king?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1.S2 Line 190-310**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  All the evidence in the play so far shows that Caesar wants to be the king:  First, he is concerned about the people around him. He prefers fat lazy people rather than clever people like Cassius who thinks too much. The intention of this implies that Caesar must want to do something otherwise he won’t be afraid that the smart Cassius might notice.  Second, even though Caesar refuses the crown, the refusion in increasingly gentler, implying that Caesar does w ant that crown but it is but a good time to accept it yet.  Also, Caesar mentions infertility and seems to be worried about that. It could be because he wants to have heirs for himself.  **Q 2.**  **What does the deafness symbolize in this play?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1.S2. Line 213**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Deafness in this play is one of the flaws Caesar has. It makes it hard for Caesar to hear things if people say it from his deaf ear. That can be a symbol for the betrayal of Brutus without Caesar knowing. It is also a contrast to the arrogance and great power Caesar has, and thus becomes ironic. Moreover, the deafness also put an emphasis on the commonness of Caesar and the impossibility to become the king.  Contemptuous.  Don’t want to hear about those things.  **Q 3.**  **What can we know from the end of the story when Cassius attempts to play trick on Brutus by throwing fake letters?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): A1. S2, c. Line 304-311**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  We are now completely confirmed that Cassius’ conspiracy is completely out of his own emotion and jealousy, but not like Brutus who completely devote himself to the country. This action can also tell us the fact that Brutus is under the whole control of Cassius without knowing anything. Thus, it foreshadows the tragedy happened in the end. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  Why three times?  To test if the plebeians really want Caesar to be the king    What is Brutus’ internal struggle  Friendship and responsibility towards his own country.  He is afraid that Roman might fall.  Why does Caesar tell people about his infirmity?  Show his honesty  Why saying “sauce”  Ironic |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  We gained an insight into the inner struggle of Brutus between friendship and country. We also learned the skills and devices used by Cassius. We further discussed the symbolisation of diseases in the play. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 2, Scene 1\_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 41-49\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_3/06\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1.**  **It is ironic that in the end, Brutus becomes the one who first raised that Caesar must be killed. Why do you think that would happen? Why Brutus seems to be more determined than anyone else to kill Caesar?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 10-31**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Because other people’s attempt for conspiracy is out of their own emotion and affection; while all Brutus considers is the benefit of Roman. Thus, he is motivated by morality, and it is something righteous and it is his responsibility to perform this task as an honourable Roman.  Also, Brutus seems to be more sinister than any of the others, as he mentions: “hide it in smiles and affability”, while others only hide their faces with cloaks.  Thus, since Brutus is more determined, sinister and has higher position than any other people, he gradually becomes the leader.  **Q 2.**  **Why Brutus thinks it is unnecessary to have an oath?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 114**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Because Brutus’ only purpose is to save Roman and get rid of Caesar the potential tyrant. He does not need anything redundant like an oath.  Also, he thinks it is unnecessary as he thinks every Roman should feel the obligation to perform this task, as from his perspective, it is righteous and out of mortality to do so, and no oath should be needed for such things.  **Q 3.**  **Why Brutus has not slept for the whole night?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 62**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  He is greatly affected by what Cassius told him during the daytime; he has a presage that other people might come and something special will happen tomorrow; he is a bit excited about what he is going to do tomorrow: to help get rid of a potential tyrant for Roman; his sleeplessness can also symbolize for the unrest of the Roman empire. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  Starting paragraph:  Foreshadowing the conspiracy  Unsettled, worried, anxious.  Hide the smile:  Hide this secret.  Comparison between Caesar and the adder:  Bite back, malicious, evil, sneaky  What mistake might Brutus make when he refused to cooperate with Cicero.  Loose public advocacy. |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**    We reviewed on the scale of hierarchy, and we talked about some of the questions as a whole class. Most of the questions concentrate on “why Brutus has not slept for the whole night?” and “why not an oath?”. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 2, Scene 1\_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 49-59\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_03/07\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1.**  **Why Brutus thinks it is unnecessary to kill Antony?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 155-192**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Firstly, Brutus thinks that Antony will not be a threat for them. Antony is just a limb of Caesar and all he could do after Caesar’s death is to die after him.  Second, Brutus thinks it will be too bloody if Antony is killed.  Also, killing Antony will make this activity sounds malicious, as what they are planning is just to kill Caesar for sake of the safety of Rome.  **Q 2.**  **Why Brutus is reluctant to tell his wife about the conspiracy?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 233-303**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Because, regardless of the seemingly determined attitude towards this conspiracy, deep in his heart, Brutus still feels guilty for killing his own friend. And showing that this is his responsibility to others may relieve his guilt.  Portia here can be the most intimate people around Brutus, yet he doesn’t want to worries to his wife shows that Brutus’s rationality outweighs his sensibility, which is what his wife represents.  The conversation reveals Brutus’ inner struggle for this conspiracy, that even himself may be unaware of.  **Q 3.**  **What can we know about Lucius?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): the whole scene**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Lucius is a servant of Brutus. He is also a character in the play that drive the development of the plot. It is he who shows Brutus the letter and tells Brutus about everything like the date, the visitors, etc.  However, Lucius seems to be never worried about these conspiracies. He is the opposite of Brutus. He sleeps soundly while Brutus has trouble getting asleep; he is innocent and loyal; while Brutus is the opposite. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  Adding to Q2:  Also, this shows that women were not supposed to get involved in politics.  Why different reactions towards Lucius?  Initially he was bad-tempered, as he did not know what to do; unsettled.  In the end, he got the alliance and felt settled down.  The character of Casca:  Sophisticated, timeserving  Protia:  Self-destructive  OR  Self-dependent, different from other women at that time.  Character of Caesar:  Enjoys flattering around him. |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**    We went over a presentation on the analysis of plays. The notes are pasted here.  Conflicting viewpoints exist among our group about the action of Portia. Some thought it is an act of self-destructing, while others believe this shows that Portia is brave and self-dependent enough that she does in this way to show that she is different from other women, and she will never keep silent. I initially thought of the former one, but I do believe that both interpretations can be correct. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 3, Scene 1 (1) \_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 75-83\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_03/11\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1. What can we know from the brief conversation between Caesar and the soothsayer?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 1-2**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  By mentioning the data of the idle of march, Caesar wants to imply that what the soothsayer prophesied was untrue and he, Caesar, was invincible; while by saying that the day was not over yet, the soothsayer showed his confidence in his prediction and his gloating for Caesar’s disbelieve.  **Q 2.**  **What can we know from Caesar’s two metaphors for himself?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 72, 73**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  The two metaphors both emphasize on the fact that he is constant and his position can never be shaken. We can see, again, his arrogance and stubbornness.  There is a paradox here: Caesar believes that he is the only constant star, the Olympus, so that he is unique and the most powerful one in the world, which can only be the king; however, if he is constant, or stubborn, as we know Caesar should firmly believe that he shall not be the king.  **Q 3.**  **Why Caesar said the famous line “Et to, Brute?” before his death?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 78**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  It was the last line Caesar said before his death. It is filled with shock and desperation for his friendship. And he said “then fall, Caesar” afterwards, which shows that he has no faith in living any longer as he had just suffered from the betrayal from one of his closest and most reliable friends. The fall may also allude to the fall of the Roman empire. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  Each has a specific role in the conspiracy:  Trebonius is the one to draw away Antony’s attention; Metellus is the one to cause the conflict and thus find a good reason for the murder.  Line 8  Haughty  Why kneeling:  Get closer |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  We discussed the significance of Caesar’s last line “Et tu, Brute?” in the literary cycle, and that it is one of the most famous Latin lines in Shakespeare’s plays.  We also explored the reason why the seven people all stabbed Caesar: since all of them are officials and they have no idea how to kill people, so they stabbed Caesar so many times. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 3, Scene 1 (2) \_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 83-91\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_03/12\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1. Why Antony shake hands with each of the conspirators?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 184-189**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Just like committed himself, he is a coward, a flatterer. However, if he did not behave like that, very likely, he will also be stabbed to death. He had to act as if he was in alliance with the conspirators so that he could live and thus revenge for Caesar. We can see how clever and thoughtful he is through this seemingly weird detail.  **Q 2.**  **Why Brutus believed in Antony at once, but Cassius didn’t?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 230-243**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Brutus believed in Antony at once because he himself is a rational person who never pretend. Also, he believes that he is the most honourable one in the world and he shall never afraid and forgive and accept Antony generously, and the common people shall believe in him.  However, Cassius, as Caesar once mentioned, were very good at seeing through other people and their attempts, because he himself was such a fickle person. He knew that Antony was extremely loyal to Caesar and he might do harm to all of the conspirators.  **Q 3.**  **Why Antony told Octavius not to come?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 287-297**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Because Antony is perspicacious enough to see that Rome must be a mess without a leader and he was not sure about the common people’s attitude, which is pivotal to the life and death of an heir of the murdered leader. Thus, he needed to first win people’s heart and then let Octavius come. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  How is Caesar’s death ironic?  Caesar defeated Pompey, yet he died beside Pompey’ statue like a dust.  Why did Antony showed his willingness to die with Caesar?  Otherwise that is too fake.  “Thy heart is big”  Loyalty  Wise and thoughtful  Why Brutus was not allowed to speak in the funeral?  In case he instigates the common people  What mistakes Brutus made in the Act?  Did not kill Brutus  Metaphors:  Caesar—hart  The conspirators—princes—butchers |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  We watched the scene of Caesar’s death.  It is notable that there are a great many metaphors used in the play, and how these metaphors each signifies different characteristics about different roles in the play. For instance, Caesar was said to be the hart, and the conspirators were described as princes at first but after they left, they were said to be butchers. The metaphor of hart shows the bravery of Caesar, and by calling the conspirators princes, Antony wanted to show friendliness to them and speak at the funeral. However, as soon as the conspirators were gone, he yelled out what he really thought: that the conspirators were all butchers. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 3, Scene 2 and 3 \_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 91-109\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_03/18\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1. Analyse the sentence by a plebeian, “Let him be Caesar.”**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 43**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  The sentence was said when the plebeians got to know that Brutus killed Caesar out of his deep love for Rome. They were moved by Brutus and easily persuaded. However, the first and most direct way they thought of in order to show their respect to him was to let him be Caesar. What that implies is that Caesar should be the most honourable one in the world, and it is great honour to replace Caesar, which implies the unconscious respect to Caesar from the plebeians. And also, subconsciously, they still want a king to rule them all like what Caesar used to do, and they don’t really care about whether Caesar is ambitious or not.  Also, this also reflects the impact of Rome’s centralization over the history on common people. They are used to be ruled by other people and don’t have their own individual thoughts.  **Q 2.**  **Antony’s speech continuously pointed out “Brutus is an honourable man”, but succeeded in persuading commons to be on Caesars’ side. How did he do this?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 65-116**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  At first, Antony was speaking completely of the opposite of his true intention. He did this because he knew the commons were largely influenced by Brutus speech at this stage, and they shall not believe in him; However, as Antony proceeded to praise Brutus of his great honour, the tone became a little ironic. Even though he was speaking all the good things of Caesar and how nice he used to be, he still praised Brutus and other conspirators, making the conspirators more sinister.  Also, there was a pause during his speech at line 99. And during the pause, the commons started to express their thoughts, and they started to turn to Caesar again and thought him of innocent and the most honourable.  Finally, another tactic Antony used was to stop the plebeians when they wanted to revenge for the first time. It might serve the purpose to show the innocence of Antony himself and that he was not intended to incite them for revenge, which can even agitate the plebeians further that they should kill all the conspirators and burn their houses.  **Q 3.**  **What can we say about the common people?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): the whole scene**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  They were fickle all the time. As soon as they heard about Brutus words, they immediately forgot Caesar who they initially respected for most. And more ironically, when they again listened to Antony’s speech, they changed their mind once again.  They are also very extreme, as they immediately thought of killing and burning when they wanted to revenge. They also killed the innocent poet Cinna regardless of his explanation.  However, it is Rome’s centralized rule over time that made the people to become that fickle and blind, believing whoever sounds right and following whoever kills the other.  They are also ignorant. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  What can we infer about the plebeians from Line101?  The fickle nature  “what does he say of Brutus?”  The plebeians thought highly of honourable Brutus and only thought about Brutus. They even listened to Antony simply because of Brutus.  “we would all go to grave like slaves”  The thought Caesar would be a tyrant that rules and enslaves them all.  Brutus left  To persuade people that he is innocent, wise, democratic.  Why Antony mentioned that “Brutus was Caesar’s angel.”?  Because he wanted the plebeian to see how great and generous a ruler Caesar was and it was a great pity for all that Caesar was dead; Also, it showed how sinister Brutus was, and thus irritate the crowd and make them revenge for Caesar all together.  Why does Antony ask the crowd to form a circle and what does that circle represent?  Why did he descend from the platform?  To get close to the people; lowering his status; being equal  Circle: to unit people; to protect himself from the conspirators.  Why Brutus let Antony speak?  Because Antony shake all conspirators to speak; they wanted Antony to be on their side.  Brutus thinks that if he speaks first, and only let Antony speaks after him with their permission. So that Antony is only a follower of him.  Antony calls friends, first the people, and then Italy. |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  We had different views on Brutus. From my perspective, he was innocent and trust every word from everyone; however, one group member thought that Brutus did this in front of the plebeians because he wanted to show that he was generous, wise and democratic. |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 4, Scene 3 \_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 119-129\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_03/20\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1. What is the cause of Brutus and Cassius’ conflict? Discuss both the direct and root cause.**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 1-8**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  The most direct reason that triggers this conflict is that Cassius wishes Brutus could release a man and has sent several letters to Brutus because of this; however, Brutus thinks that Cassius did so driven by money and thus humiliated Cassius.  However, the root cause of the conflict is because of their distinct personalities, which has already been implies by Shakespeare many times before: different reasons for killing Caesar; whether or not kill Antony, etc. Now the conflict broke out, because of the contrast between Brutus’ idealism and Cassius’ pragmatism.  **Q 2.**  **Why the two keep mentioning Caesar during the argument?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 19, 58, 100**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  The first time is Brutus who mentions Caesar because he wants to remind Cassius of the reason why they killed Caesar and tell him do not repeat Caesar’s fault again and that he should learn that lesson.  For the second time Caesar is mentioned by Cassius. He is comparing Caesar with Brutus and implying that Caesar used to treat him better than Brutus does.  Also, both of them reflect some traits of Caesar: for Brutus, his integrity is similar to Caesar’s, who refused to release Cicero’s brother; for Cassius, his actions of giving the dagger to Brutus and baring his breast is similar to what Caesar did once.  All this implies that they all started to cherish the memory of Caesar and they actually assemble Caesar in some certain aspects.  **Q 3.**  **Why there is a poet on the scene?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 124-138**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  The poet coming to the tent to comfort the two arguing men, and he says that he is older than two of them. However, he was immediately driven away and was laughed at by Brutus and Cassius.  The poet is right that they should be friendly to each other and they do almost kill each other before. However, the two would not listen. The poet here can be a symbol for scholars that have more knowledge than the politicians yet they are always ignored. Shakespeare is using a poet here to imply the importance of poets like him and politicians should listen to their suggestions on politics. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**    what can we know about the conversation?  the turning point of the relationship between Brutus and Cassius.  She was afraid that people might kill him;  She thought that Brutus did not love him any more. |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  We also discussed about Scene 1 and 2, which help bedding for the argument in the scene we read.  There are also different interpretations for Portia’s death |

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| **(text / chapter(s) assigned): \_\_Act 4, Scene 3 (II) \_\_ Pages: \_\_\_\_pp. 129-137\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date *DUE*: \_\_\_\_\_03/21\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Before class, write at least three questions for discussion and analysis. For each question, write down at least 1 passage that enables you to explore the question with your classmates. For each passage, include the page # and bullet point notes about the context and how it enables you to explore the question.**  **Q 1. Why Brutus replies “Nothing, Messala.” When he was asked about his wife’s news when he actually knows it?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 182**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  Maybe Brutus was hiding something, hiding the real reason for Portia’s death;  confirming the death of Portia;  to reflect Brutus’ indifference towards his wife;  Brutus’ different attitude towards his private affairs and public issues;  Just as what he did for Caesar;  He is unwilling to show his weakness before others;  Just like Act 4 Scene 2, he goes to the tent for arguing.  **Q 2. How did Cassius argue with Brutus that they should not go to Philippi?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 198**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  First, by the time Antony and Octavius’ soldiers go to Philippi, they mush be tired out and have no more strength to fight;  Also, if they stay where they are, they can have more time to plan an ambush against them.  **Q 3. Why Shakespeare let Brutus see the ghost while he was reading?**  **Relevant passage(s) (with page #): Line 272**  **Notes on passage (context and explanation of how this passage relates to the question):**  The book Brutus is reading here symbolizes literature and poems;  Shakespeare might want to complain that people are only indulged in playing politics but ignored the importance of literature;  However, Brutus cannot continue to read after seeing the ghost of Caesar, meaning that after Caesar’s death, there are too many turbulences and it is hard for people to read and the life for writers became harder.  Reading can also represent merits here; After Caesar’s death, Brutus lost it. |
| **Class notes (these notes may be based on the teacher’s lecture, whole class discussion, or small group discussions with your peers):**  **“there is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood…” metaphor Line 218-223**  **It is comparing tide with fortune, opportunity; life and ocean.**  **We need to act.**  **Take an opportunity when it comes to you, when the tide is high, you can fly out of the harbour; otherwise you will be restrained in the harbour and experience a shallow life.**  **Take the momentum and we will win.**  **What is Brutus trying to conceal when he woke people up?** |
| **Reflection: significant ideas emerging from your notes (*What Have I Learned? What further questions have emerged from the class discussion?*)**  **The scene, the conflict between different people.** |