

# 13/14 MARCH 2017



image from <http://www.romanemperors.com/julius-caesar-coin-1a.jpg>

Greetings, Wise Fools—

If you have not done so already, please return some Orwell before reading the rest of the class plan..

Here's how we'll roll today:

**1. WEDGE**—Let's attempt a little empathy with Brutus. In Act 1, Brutus finds himself in a difficult situation: his friends are trying to convince him to do something he is reluctant to do. That's right: Brutus is wrestling with peer pressure. While your friends are probably not members of the Roman aristocracy, they can certainly be influential in your decision-making.

For roughly ten minutes, craft a brief narrative about a moment in which your friends tried to convince something you were reluctant to do. You do not have to write about a time during which your pals tried to convince you to join a conspiracy to murder a political leader. You might even choose to tell a story during which your friends tried to convince you to do a GOOD thing! But write about a moment when you experienced an internal conflict between what your friends wanted you to do and what you wanted to do. As you draft, try to provide specific details of exposition and rich multisensory imagery that would allow an audience of ignorant animals to experience the events vicariously.

**2. Review of Active Reading in Act 1**—In order to calibrate our active reading so we're all attentive to the motifs we're studying, we will divvy up the pages of Act 1 and head back to the text.

**3. Major Moments in Act 1**—We'll dedicate most of today's class meeting to consideration of important moments in Act 1. We may combine this activity with Step 2.

**4. Getting a Jump on the Homework**—Time permitting, of course.

Tappa! Tappa! Tappa!—  
Mr Leo

**Homework:**

1. Read and take notes on *Julius Caesar*, Act 2 in a *new* digital document

While you will not find every motif in every reading assignment, your notes should pay particular attention to the following motifs in the play:

- a. Political Power (who should rule?)
- b. Fate vs Free Will
- c. The Importance of Public Speaking/Effective Rhetoric
- d. The Problem with Mobs
- e. Order vs Chaos
- f. The Private Man/The Public Politician
- g. Gender and Power
- h. Honor vs. Ambition vs. Public Duty
- i. The Metaphor of Illness and Disease
- j. Love and Friendship
- k. Blood and "Spirit"
- l. The Problem of Political Succession (does a political assassination ever end with only one death?)

Each note should have three parts:

Motif + textual evidence (with citation) + your comment

N.B. The convention for citing Shakespeare is to indicate in parentheses the act number, scene number, and line numbers. For example, (2.1.134-136) indicates text derived from Act 2, scene 1, lines 134-136.

2. Upload your Act 2 notes to Turnitin.com prior to the start of class.

3. Find your copy of a novella by George Orwell and bring it to class.