

Act IV Study Questions

Answer on your own paper using complete sentences.

Summary

1. As Act IV begins, what does Antony want to do about Caesar's will?
2. What difference in opinion develops between Antony and Octavius over Lepidus?
3. Why does Antony say he is a better judge than Octavius?
4. Why is Cassius angry with Brutus in Scene ii?
5. In Scene iii, what specific charges does Brutus say have been raised against Cassius?
6. What does Cassius say in his own defense?
7. According to Cassius, why is he better suited than Brutus to govern the conduct of his men?
8. What grievance does Brutus bring up in Scene iii, lines 69-83? What is Cassius's answer?
9. What news has Brutus received about Portia? How does Cassius respond to this information?
10. What contrast does Cassius draw between himself and Brutus regarding Stoicism?
11. Explain the differing strategies of Brutus and Cassius for the coming battle against Octavius and Antony? What do they decide to do?
12. What does Caesar's ghost tell Brutus?
13. Describe Brutus's reaction to the ghost.
14. What new qualities does Antony reveal in Scene i?
15. In what ways do Antony and Octavius differ as persons? Which dominates the triumvirate? Which seems to be the abler leader?
16. What does the appearance of Caesar's ghost add to the mood of Scene iii?
17. In Act IV Shakespeare presents two parallel meetings, one among the triumvirs and the other between Brutus and Cassius. What similarities and differences can you find between these two meetings? Which group seems more fit to rule Rome? Explain your answer.
18. What do the activities of the triumvirs show about the negative consequences of removing a strong leader like Caesar?

Analysis

19. In the portrayal of Mark Antony in Act IV, Scene i, what point does Shakespeare make about the effect of political power on those who hold it?