

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Price of Power

In the city of Rome, power was everything. The people cheered for their leaders, hoping they would bring justice and prosperity. One of these leaders was Julius Caesar, a brave general who won many battles and was loved by the people. However, his rise to power made some of his closest friends uneasy.

Caesar had defeated his enemies and was becoming more powerful than any

Roman before him. He was named "dictator for life," which meant he could rule without limits. Some senators, including Brutus and Cassius, worried that Caesar would become too powerful and turn into a king. Rome had once been ruled by kings, and the people had fought hard to get rid of them. The senators feared that if Caesar took all the power, he would stop listening to others and do whatever he wanted.

Brutus was one of Caesar's closest friends, but he also loved Rome. Cassius convinced Brutus that Caesar was dangerous, and together, they planned to stop him. On the Ides of March, a group of senators gathered around Caesar and ended his rule in a shocking way. Caesar's last words were, "Et tu, Brute?" meaning, "Even you, Brutus?" He could not believe that his own friend had turned against him.

After Caesar's death, Rome did not become more peaceful. Instead, it fell into chaos. The people were angry. Mark Antony, one of Caesar's loyal supporters, gave a powerful speech that turned the people against the senators. Soon, war broke out, and the very people who had tried to save Rome from one ruler found themselves at war with another.

Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar, teaches us about power and corruption. At first, Caesar seemed like a hero, but power changed the way people saw him. The senators believed they were stopping corruption, but their actions led to more problems. The story asks an important question: Is it possible to have power without becoming corrupt? Even today, people wonder if leaders can stay fair and just when they have too much control.