

Name _____



Cassius' Plan

In the city of Rome, Julius Caesar was admired by many, but not everyone trusted him. One of these people was Cassius, a senator who believed that Caesar was becoming too powerful. Cassius feared that if Caesar ruled alone, he would take away the freedoms of the Roman people. But Cassius also had another reason—he was jealous. He thought he was just as important as Caesar and did not want to see him gain more power.

Cassius knew he could not stop Caesar alone, so he needed help. He decided to convince Brutus, one of Caesar's closest friends, to join his plan. Brutus was known as a man of honor, someone who deeply loved Rome. Cassius told Brutus that Caesar was too ambitious and would soon make himself a king. He played on Brutus' love for the republic, saying that true Romans should not bow down to one leader.

At first, Brutus was unsure. He loved Caesar as a friend, but he also cared about Rome. Cassius was clever and used different tactics to persuade him. He reminded Brutus that their ancestor, Lucius Junius Brutus, had helped remove Rome's last king. Would Brutus stand by while a new ruler took power? Cassius even had fake letters sent to Brutus, pretending they were from concerned citizens, begging Brutus to save Rome. Slowly, Cassius' words and actions worked. Brutus became convinced that stopping Caesar was the right thing to do. He agreed to join the conspiracy, believing that he was protecting Rome's freedom. Cassius had achieved his goal—Brutus, the noble and respected friend of Caesar, was now part of the plot.

On the Ides of March, the plan was carried out. Caesar was stabbed in the Senate, and Brutus was among the attackers. When Caesar saw Brutus, he whispered, "Et tu, Brute?" meaning "Even you, Brutus?" With those words, Caesar fell, betrayed by a man he had trusted.

Cassius had gotten what he wanted, but things did not go as planned. After Caesar's death, the people of Rome turned against the conspirators. Mark Antony, one of Caesar's loyal allies, stirred the crowd with a speech, and soon war broke out. Brutus, who had wanted to save Rome, realized too late that he had been manipulated by Cassius. In the end, Cassius' ambition led not to victory, but to chaos and his own downfall.