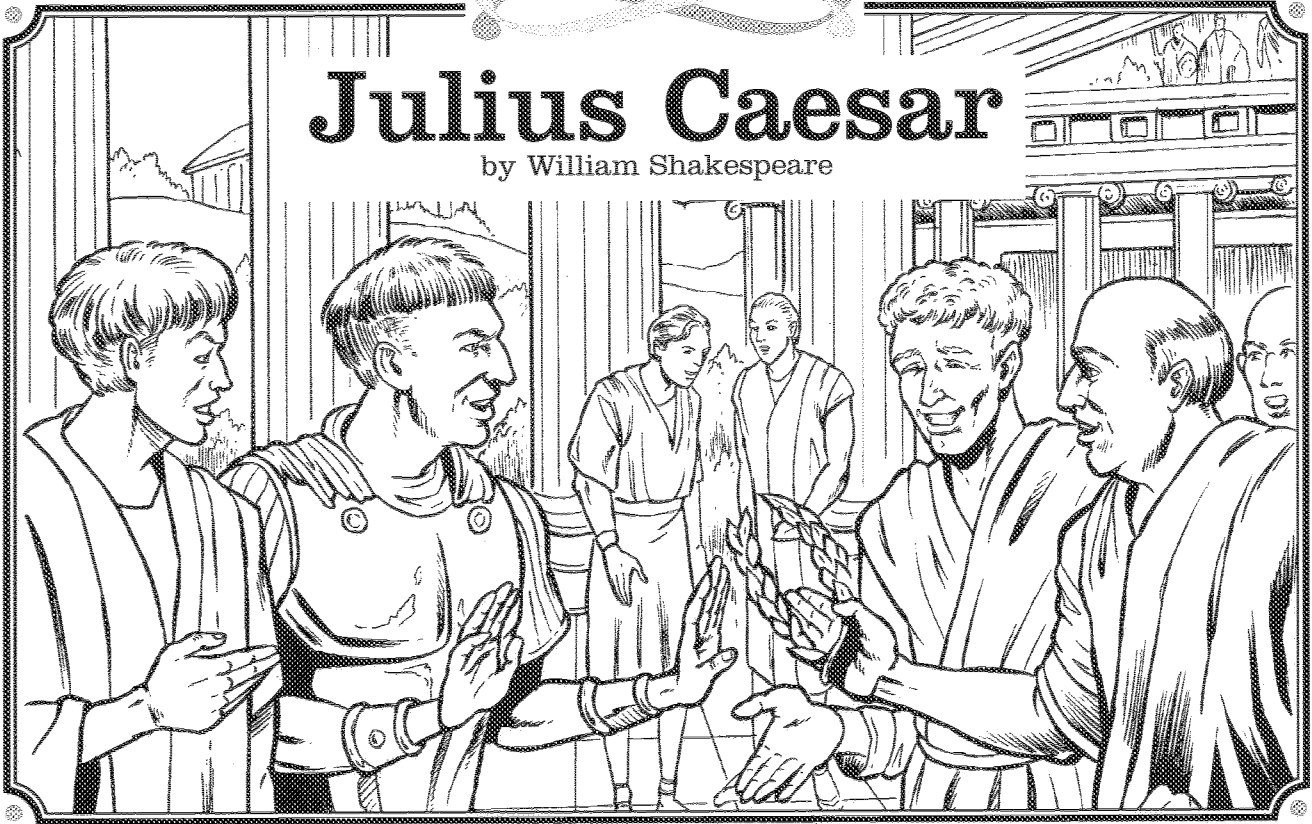


# Julius Caesar

by William Shakespeare



Julius Caesar

Published by Scholastic Teaching Resources

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**C**aesar continued on his way, but Brutus stayed behind to speak with Caius Cassius. Cassius felt that Caesar was unworthy to rule. He hoped Brutus, one of Rome's most respected citizens, would agree with him. While the men spoke, they heard shouts in the distance.



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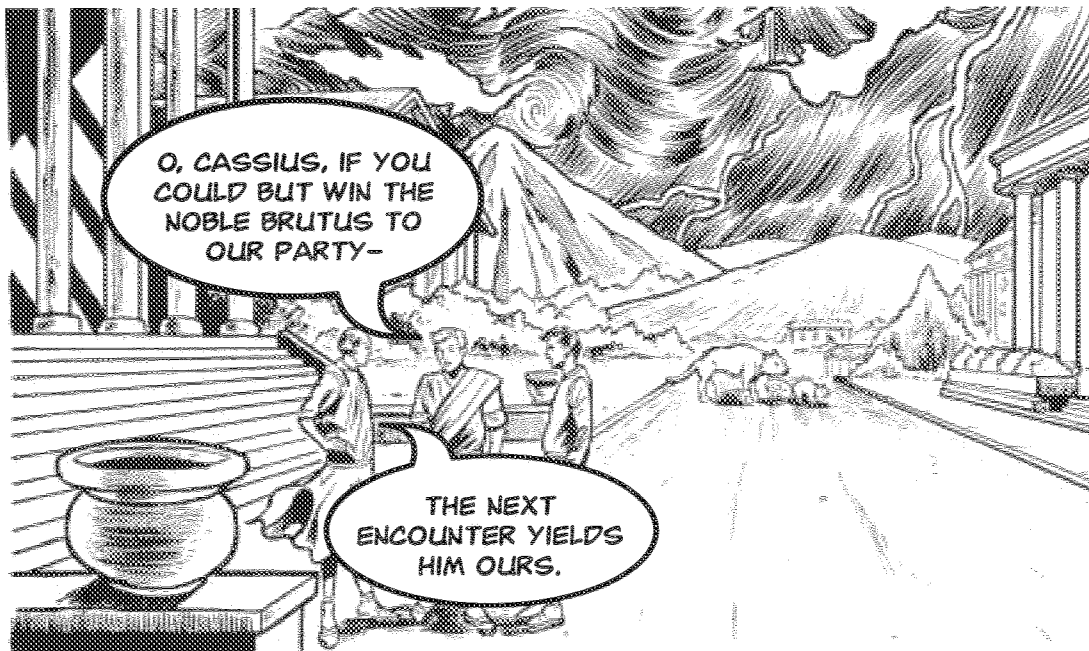
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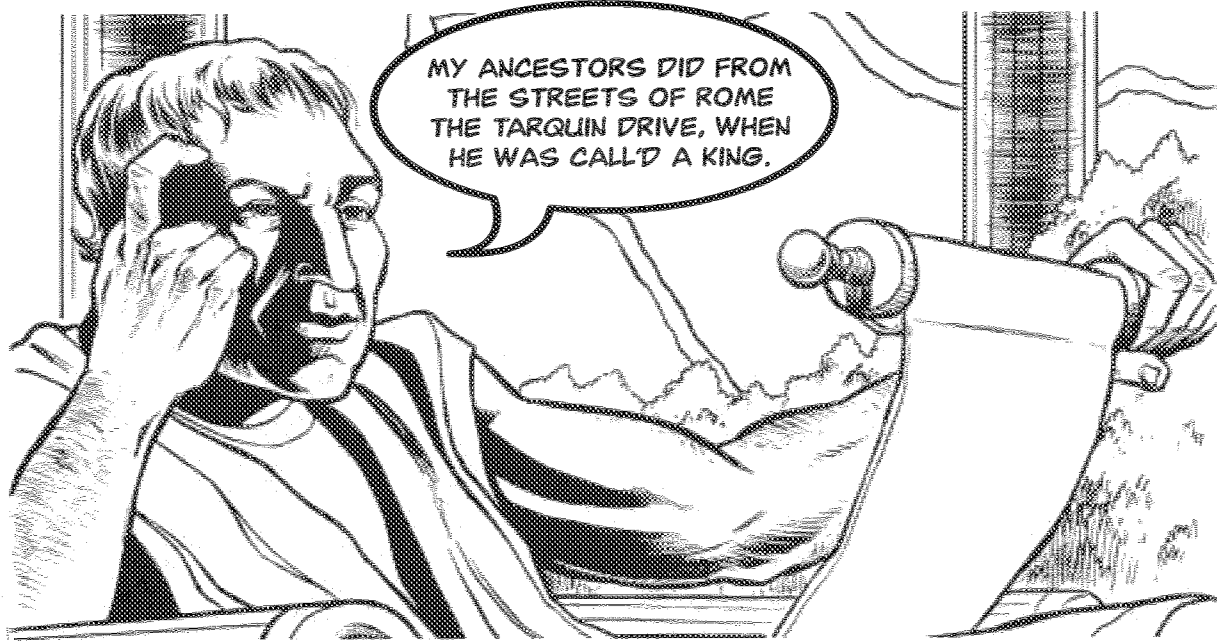
**J**ulius Caesar paraded through the streets of Rome, celebrating yet another military victory. With him were his wife, Calpurnia, and his friends and fellow soldiers, Mark Antony and Marcus Brutus. The crowd pressed upon them, and one man called out to Caesar.



**N**either heaven nor earth was at peace that night. Graves opened, fiery warriors fought upon the clouds, and a lioness whelped in the streets. Cassius, Casca, and Cinna met to plan how to overthrow Caesar, whom the senators intended to crown as king in the morning.



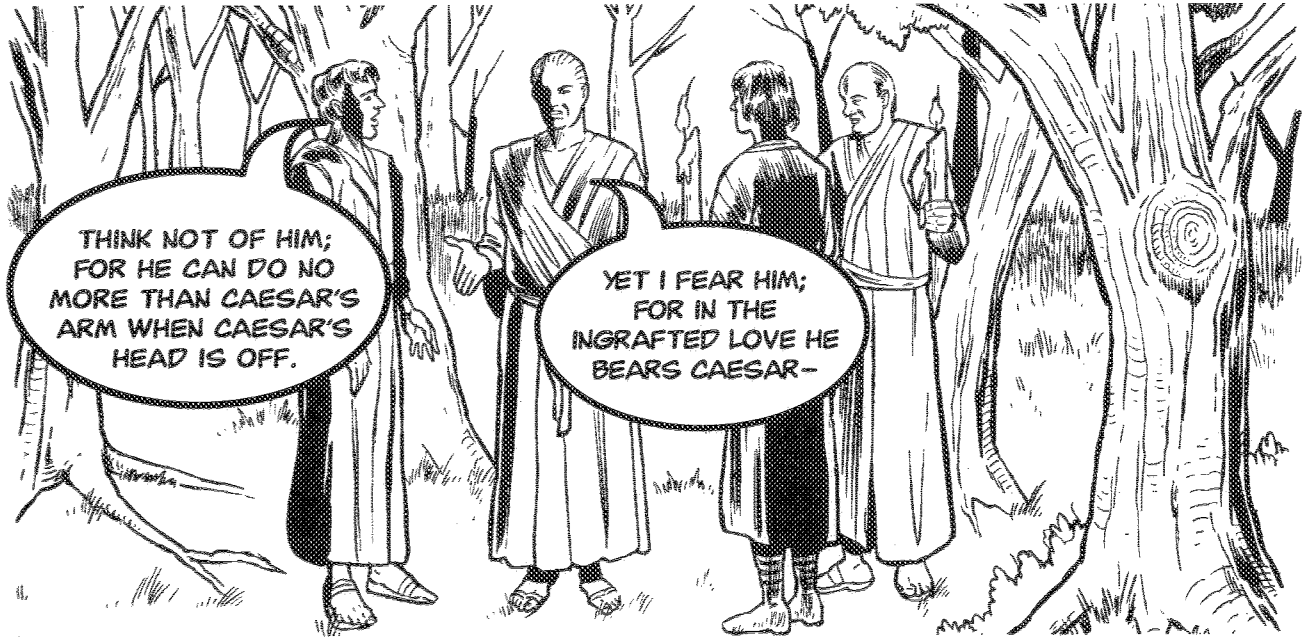
**B**rutus, at home, was disturbed over papers he found at his house. The papers urged him to "Speak, strike, and redress." Brutus thought the papers came from ordinary citizens. In fact, they were from Cassius, who wanted to convince Brutus that it was his duty to strike Caesar to save Rome.



**T**he next day was the ides of March. Caesar's wife begged him not to leave the house, believing that the events of the night before were bad omens. She had also dreamed that his statue had one hundred holes, spouting blood. But Decius Brutus, whom Caesar wrongly believed to be his friend, arrived and convinced him otherwise.



**W**hen Cassius and the other conspirators arrived at Brutus's house, he readily agreed to join them. As the men planned Caesar's murder for the next morning, Cassius suggested they should kill Caesar's good friend, Mark Antony, as well. But Brutus refused.



**C**aesar walked the streets of Rome accompanied by Decius, Brutus, and others. Someone thrust a scroll at him that warned of the conspiracy, but Caesar did not read it. Then he saw the soothsayer and jeered at him.



Once in the Capitol, a conspirator took Mark Antony aside to get him out of the way. Then another conspirator approached Caesar with a petition. The others gathered around as if to second his petition. As Caesar refused it, they stabbed him 23 times.



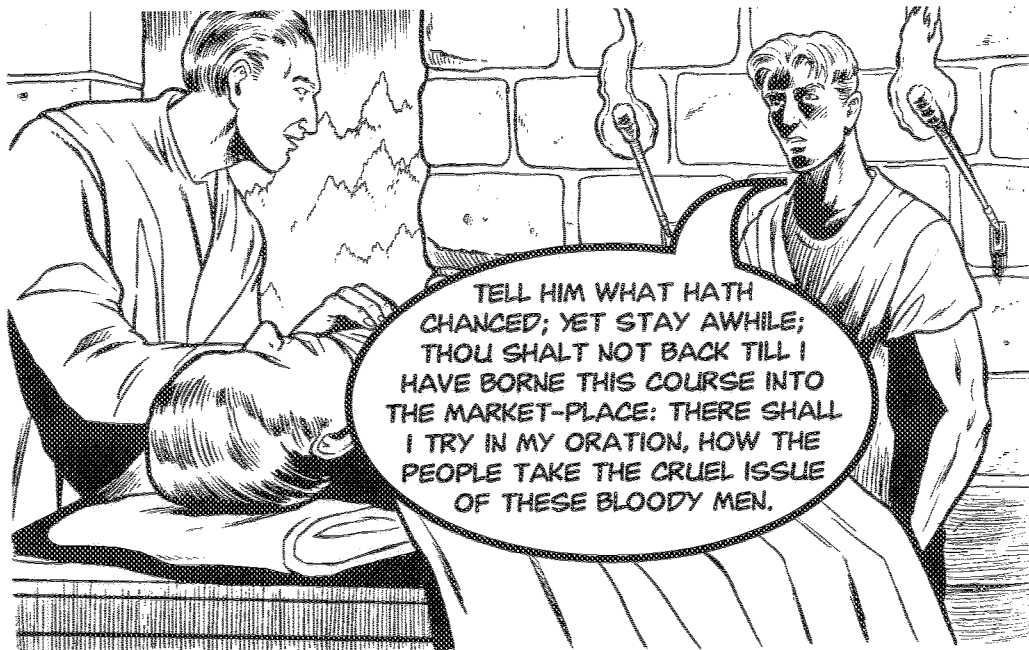
Mark Antony returned to the Capitol. He assured Brutus that he was no enemy, and asked why they had thought Caesar was dangerous. Brutus said he would answer that question when he spoke at Caesar's funeral. Antony asked to be allowed to speak also. Brutus agreed.



**M**ark Antony, who fled at Caesar's murder, sent his servant back to the Capitol. He asked to return and speak to Brutus, to learn the reason for Caesar's death. Brutus sent the servant to tell his master that he should come to him, and that his safety was guaranteed.



**B**rutus told Antony to prepare the body and meet them at the Forum. After the conspirators left, Antony vowed to avenge Caesar's murder. A servant of Octavius Caesar, grandnephew of the dead ruler, arrived to say that his master, unaware of Caesar's death, was on his way to Rome.



**B**rutus spoke first at Caesar's funeral, saying that he rose against Caesar not because he loved Caesar less, but that he loved Rome more. Would the people rather have Caesar alive and they all die slaves, or have Caesar dead and they all live free men? The crowd cheered Brutus.



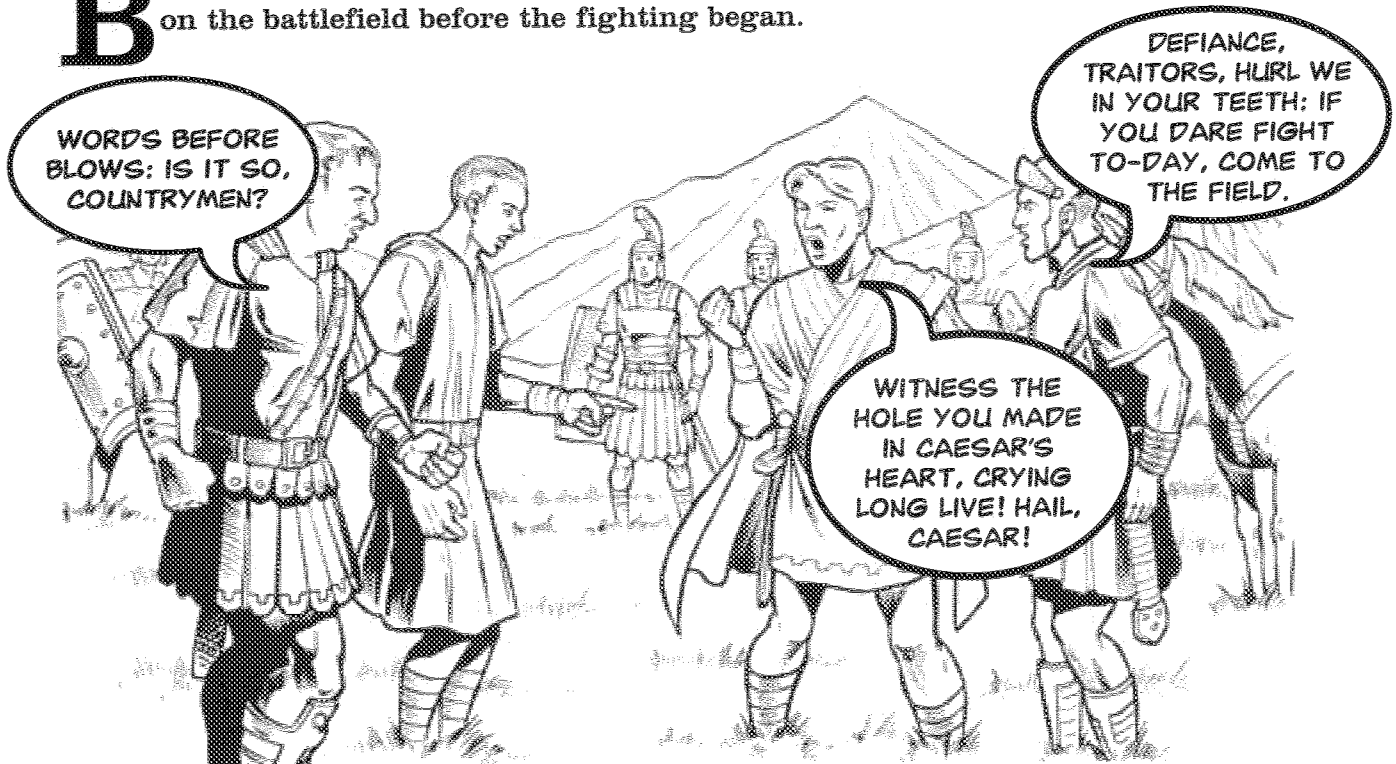
**T**he people divided into two camps. One supported Mark Antony and Octavius Caesar; the other followed Brutus and Cassius. The latter had fled and set up camp in Sardis. Antony and Octavius gathered their forces and began marching toward them. The night before the two armies met on the plains of Philippi, Caesar's ghost visited Brutus.



**B**rutus asked the crowd to stay and listen to Antony, then left. Antony spoke of how Brutus said Caesar was ambitious, and reminded the people that Caesar had refused the crown. He said that Caesar loved them so much, that he had remembered every Roman citizen in his will.

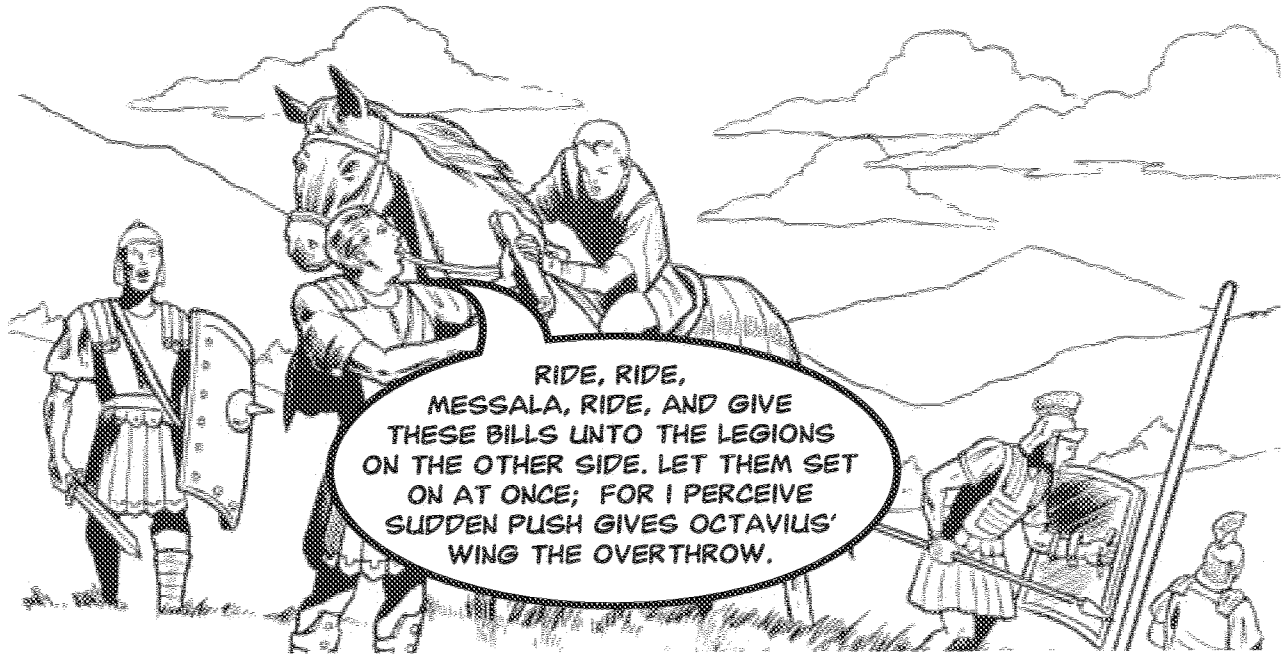


**B**rutus and Cassius left Sardis for Philippi. They met Antony and Octavius on the battlefield before the fighting began.





**T**he generals split up. Brutus fought against Octavius; Cassius against Antony. Brutus's forces were winning the battle against Caesar's nephew. Brutus sent Messala with orders for Cassius to come and help finish off this portion of the battle.



RIDE, RIDE,  
MESSALA, RIDE, AND GIVE  
THESE BILLS UNTO THE LEGIONS  
ON THE OTHER SIDE. LET THEM SET  
ON AT ONCE; FOR I PERCEIVE  
SUDDEN PUSH GIVES OCTAVIUS'  
WING THE OVERTHROW.

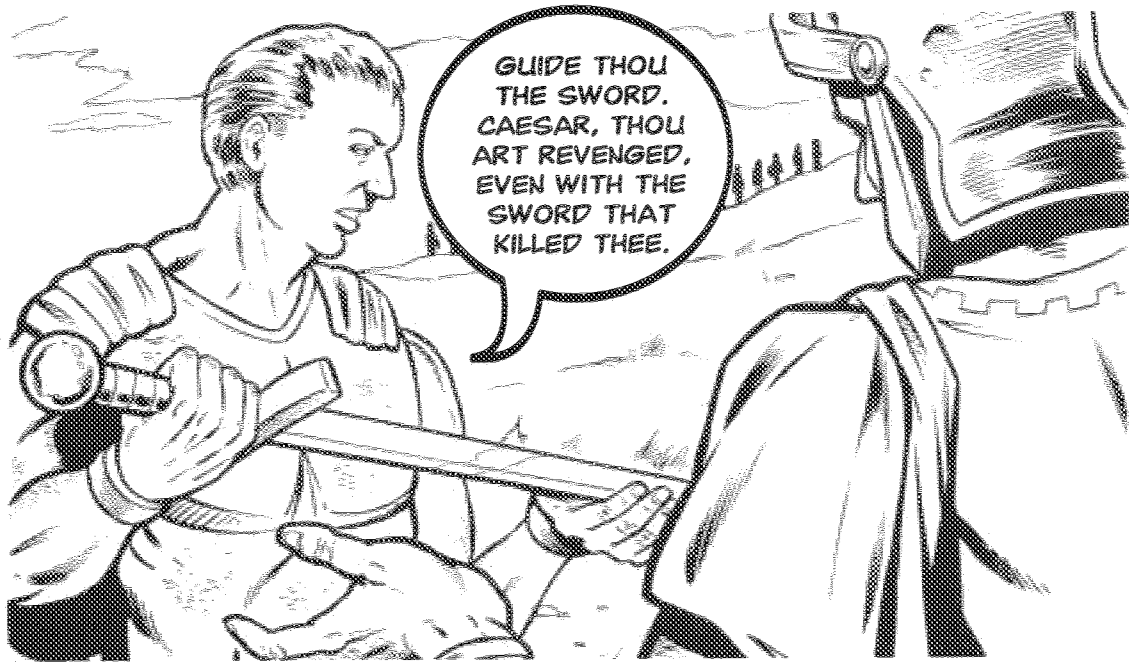
**W**hen Brutus learned of Cassius's death, his spirits fell, and the battle turned against him. Faced with defeat, Brutus ordered his servant Strato to hold his sword and turn his face away while Brutus fell upon it.



FAREWELL, GOOD  
STRATO. CAESAR,  
NOW BE STILL.

GIVE ME YOUR HAND  
FIRST. FARE YOU  
WELL, MY LORD.

**O**n the other side of the battlefield, Cassius was losing to Antony. When he saw Messala and his men riding toward him, he thought they were foes, not friends. Believing all was lost, Cassius ordered his servant Pindarus to kill him.



**W**hen Antony and Octavius reached where Brutus had stood, they found him dead.

