

LESSON 5

From **Julius Caesar** (drama)
by William Shakespeare
(retold by Wim Coleman)

BRUTUS: These meteors whizzing through the air give so much light, I can read this letter by them.

He opens the letter and reads it.

Brutus, you are asleep; wake up and look at yourself. Must Rome, et cetera. Speak, strike, set things right!

“Brutus, you are asleep. Wake up!” **Provocative** letters like these have often been dropped where I could pick them up.

“Must Rome, et cetera.” Here’s how I must fill in the meaning: Must Rome stand in **awe** of one man? What—Rome? My ancestors drove Tarquin from the streets of Rome when he was a king.

“Speak, strike, set things right!” Am I being asked to speak and strike? Oh, Rome, I make you this promise: if it will set things right, you will receive all that you ask for from Brutus’s hands.

Lucius enters.

LUCIUS: Sir, fifteen days have already passed in March.

Knocking offstage.

BRUTUS: That’s good. Go to the gate; somebody is knocking. (**Lucius exits.**) Ever since Cassius first **incited** me against Caesar, I haven’t slept. Between the first proposal of a dreadful thing and the actual doing of it, all the **interim** is like a

shade or a hideous dream. A man’s guiding spirit and the limbs of his body become locked in a fierce debate; and then the individual, like a little kingdom, suffers from a sort of **insurrection**.

Lucius enters.

LUCIUS: Sir, your brother-in-law Cassius is at the door and wants to see you.

BRUTUS: Is he alone?

LUCIUS: No, sir—there are others with him.

BRUTUS: Do you know them?

LUCIUS: No, sir. Their hats are pulled down around their ears, and their faces are half covered by their cloaks, so there is no way for me to recognize them by any of their features.

BRUTUS: Let them come in. (**Lucius exits.**) It is the **faction** that opposes Caesar. Oh, **conspiracy**, are you ashamed to show your dangerous face even by night, when evils are most free? Well then, by day, where will you find a cavern dark enough to hide your monstrous **visage**? Don’t look for a cavern, conspiracy. Hide yourself in smiles and **affability**, for if you go walking undisguised, not even Erebus is dark enough to hide you from being stopped.

Exercise 1: Context Clues

Read the passage above, paying special attention to the words in dark type. These are the Master Words you will study in this lesson. As you read, look for context clues in the sentences and paragraphs around each Master Word. Circle any words and phrases that give clues to the meaning of the Master Words.

Master Words

Place a check by words you feel you know; underline words you don’t know.

affability

conspiracy

incite

interim

shade

awe

faction

insurrection

provocative

visage

• Exercise 2: Using Context Clues

Fill in the form for each of the Master Words listed below with context clues (if any), your definition, and the dictionary definition. If you have difficulty writing a definition, try using the word in a sentence instead.

1. **affability** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
2. **awe** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
3. **conspiracy** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
4. **faction** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
5. **incite** Part of Speech: *v.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
6. **insurrection** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
7. **interim** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
8. **provocative** Part of Speech: *adj.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
9. **shade** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____
10. **visage** Part of Speech: *n.* Context Clues: _____
Your Definition: _____
Dictionary Definition: _____

Exercise 3: Synonyms and Antonyms

Use the synonyms and antonyms in the word list to fill in the blanks except where you see an X.

	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word List	
1. incite	_____	_____	agitate	ghost
2. shade	_____	X	amazement	hostility
3. faction	_____	_____	amiability	obedience
4. provocative	_____	_____	band	period
5. awe	_____	_____	boring	plot
6. conspiracy	_____	X	coolness	rebellion
7. interim	_____	X	disturbing	soothe
8. visage	_____	X	face	whole
9. affability	_____	_____		
10. insurrection	_____	_____		

Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

- Two members of the city council formed (a, an) ...?... against the mayor.
- Her teammates decided they would stage (a, an) ...?... if their coach didn't put Amelia in the game.
- We used voice-over and mist to represent the ...?...(s, es) of famous actors.
- His ...?... was haggard and showed signs that he had not slept much in the past few days.
- Rowina is known for her ...?...; she gets along with just about everyone.
- Raul thinks there is (a, an) ...?... against him.
- The team members are in ...?... of their coach because she was on the Olympic team.
- The group wanted to make a point with their march, not to ...?... a riot.
- Our English teacher encourages us to express ...?... ideas in our essays as long as we support them with facts and evidence.
- In the ...?... between semesters, we took a class trip to Washington D.C.

• Exercise 5: Using Words with Multiple Meanings

The word *shade* has different meanings depending on how it is used in a sentence. Choose the number of the correct definition for *shade* for each of the following sentences.

<i>shade</i>	
1.	<i>n.</i> a degree of a color
2.	<i>v.</i> to block from view
3.	<i>v.</i> to create light and dark areas in a drawing
4.	<i>n.</i> a ghost or apparition
5.	<i>n.</i> a shadow

- The workmen parked their trucks in the **shade** of a row of trees. _____
- We **shade** our kitchen window with Venetian blinds. _____
- Shade** your drawing here and here to create the illusion of depth. _____
- Randy likes this **shade** of green. _____
- In the comedy, I play the **shade** of a pirate who died while hunting treasure. _____

• Exercise 6: Personification

In the passage, Brutus uses a special kind of personification called an *apostrophe*, which is a figure of speech in which an abstract idea, inanimate object, or a person not present is directly addressed. In the organizer below, cite an example of an apostrophe from the passage. Then explain the figure in the second column. An example has been done for you.

Text of Personification	Explanation
Brutus address conspiracy: "Oh, conspiracy, are you ashamed. . . ?"	Conspiracy is an abstract concept and cannot hear or understand human speech.

Write About It: Character Through Drama

Re-read the passage from *Julius Caesar*, paying special attention to the way Shakespeare reveals Brutus's mental state through his speeches. Then **write the beginning of a scene** of a play in which you use the speech of your character to reveal his or her inner state. Use at least five Master Words or words related to the Master Words in your scene.