

1. Why are the tribunes, Flavius and Marcellus, disgusted with the commoners in Scene 1?

The tribunes are disgusted with the commoners for switching loyalties so easily. The same commoners who are now celebrating Caesar's victory over Pompey once filled the streets to cheer for Pompey's victories in battle. In reality, while the tribunes resent the defeat of their former leader, the commoners are glad to have a day off work and don't care whose victory they are celebrating.

2. In Scene 2, Cassius tells Brutus of a swimming race he once had with Caesar. Describe the outcome of the race.

As they swam, Caesar became weak and asked Cassius to save him. Cassius had to drag him from the water.

3. What strange thing happened to Caesar after he was offered a crown three times by Antony?

Caesar had a seizure in front of the crowd and fell to the ground. Brutus and Cassius assume that he has "the falling sickness," a term for epilepsy in Elizabethan times. This term is ironic because Caesar will shortly "fall" literally and figuratively when he is assassinated.

4. Describe two of the unnatural occurrences that Casca describes to Cicero at the beginning of Scene 3.

Casca says he saw a man whose hands were on fire yet his flesh did not burn and a lion near the Capitol that ignored him and passed by him. Others have seen men on fire and an owl, a nocturnal animal, in the marketplace during the day.

5. What is Cassius's plan to convince Brutus to join the conspiracy, and how does he enlist Cinna to help him at the end of Act I?

He plans to forge letters from Roman citizens stating their support for Brutus and their fear of Caesar's increased power. Cassius gives Cinna the letters to place in Brutus's chair in the Senate, and others to throw through Brutus's window and place on Brutus's statue.

Who said it and what is he/she talking about?**6. "Beware the Ides of March!"**

The soothsayer greets Caesar with this warning as he crosses the public square to enter the Capitol building. Caesar dismisses him as "a dreamer."

The Ides of March is the name for March 15 in the Roman calendar, the day Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C.

7. "And this man

**Is now become a god, and Cassius is
A wretched creature, and must bend his body
If Caesar carelessly but nod at him."**

Cassius resents Caesar's godlike status among Romans and his own subservience to Caesar, especially since he has seen evidence of Caesar's physical weakness first hand. He tells of saving Caesar from drowning after he had grown weak during a swimming race and describes him as behaving like a "sick girl" when he came down with a fever in Spain.

8. "Men at some time are masters of their fates:

**The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings."**

After sarcastically describing Caesar as a "Colossus" and themselves (Brutus and Cassius) as "petty men," Cassius tries to convince Brutus that they are Caesar's equals, and they must take control of events, rather than leave them to fate. Cassius is making the first move to get Brutus to join the conspiracy to assassinate Caesar.

**9. "Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look;
He thinks too much: such men are dangerous."**

Caesar makes this comment to Antony as they pass through the square after the ceremony. Antony dismisses Cassius as harmless, but Caesar prefers to avoid him and judges him as a man who is envious of his superiors. Ironically, Caesar says that such men are to be feared, but only by others. Since he is Caesar, he fears no one.