

Act II, Scene I

PASSAGE 1

1. Brutus is in his orchard. He is unable to sleep because his mind is disturbed on Caesar becoming a tyrant and the design of the conspirators to kill Caesar.
2. Brutus is speaking about Caesar's death. He fears that Caesar's nature will change once he (Caesar) is crowned because his vast powers will turn his head and he will become tyrannical.
3. Brutus foresees his apprehension that Caesar will be tyrannical if he is crowned. It reveals that Brutus, though Caesar's friend, is a lover of republicanism.
4. First, Brutus compares Caesar to a serpent's egg; if it is hatched it will surely bite. So, it should be killed before it comes out of its egg. Second, an ambitious person like Caesar is humble during his struggle but turns haughty and arrogant once he attains his goal.

5. Lucius enters after this extract. He brings a sealed paper while searching for a flint. He had found it in Brutus' study.

PASSAGE 2

1. Lucius informs Brutus that fifteen days of March are gone, meaning thereby it is the Ides of March. To this Brutus says that it is good the Ides of March has come.
2. The conspirators arrive to meet Brutus disguised. Their hats are pulled down over their ears and their faces are hidden in their cloaks, difficult to be recognised.
3. He says that conspiracy is afraid and ashamed to show its face by night when evil things are all over. His advice is that it should hide its face in smiles and pleasantness.
4. The figure of speech used to describe conspiracy is personification. He gives conspiracy the name of the dangerous night and makes it look alive like the night.
5. Lucius tells Brutus that there is Cassius who is standing at the door, desirous of meeting him. He is accompanied by other persons.

PASSAGE 3

1. Cassius suggests that an oath should be taken before the dangerous enterprise. It shows his foresightedness to ensure that those who are connected with this enterprise remain loyal and committed.
2. According to Brutus, priests, cowards, deceitful persons, old worthless creatures patiently take oaths.
3. Brutus feels that swearing an oath is not necessary when honest persons committed to a great cause are involved in a noble cause.
4. Brutus contradicts, Cassius who suggests that Antony, should also be killed. Sparing the life of Antony later on spells a doom for the conspirators. Brutus has to pay a heavy price for this blunder.
5. Cassius shows his farsightedness regarding the necessity of killing Antony along with Caesar because he knows that Antony is the most trusted and beloved friend of Caesar, and not 'just limb of Caesar. He proves to be correct when Antony became so powerful that he could not be subdued.

PASSAGE 4

1. Cassius suggests that Mark Antony should also be killed along with Caesar. Brutus contradicts him by saying that Antony is just 'a limb' of Caesar and once the head is cut off the limb is of no use.
2. Brutus is against the killing of Mark Antony. He feels that if they kill him, the act will appear to be motivated by jealousy as well as anger. They must present the murder of

Caesar as a sacrificial act at the altar of freedom. Killing of Antony would be a brutal act.

3. Brutus underestimates Mark Antony and his capabilities. His assessment of him proves to be wrong. It is Antony who, after Caesar's death, instigates people against the conspirators. Brutus' irrational advice brings about their downfall.

PASSAGE 5

1. Cassius doubts whether Caesar will come to the Senate because Caesar has grown superstitious lately which is quite contrary to the opinion he once held so strongly in regard to such things. Cassius fears that the advice of his chief advisors will prevent him from going to the Capitol.

Decius promises that he will bring Caesar to the Senate. He knows Caesar's weakness for flattery. He will so flatter him that he will forget all bad omens.

2. He is Caius Ligarius who has strong dislike for Caesar. The proposal to make him a part of the conspiracy against Caesar, though not good, is supported by Brutus. Brutus promises that he will prevail upon him to join their enterprise.
3. Brutus advises the conspirators to look bright and cheerful for they must not betray themselves through their looks but behave as the Roman actors, with tireless spirit and firm determination.
4. Portia, Brutus' wife, enters a little later. She asks Brutus about his strange behaviour of late as he had suddenly left the table, absorbed in his thoughts. She could not understand this sudden change in his behaviour.

PASSAGE 6

1. Portia makes different guesses about Brutus' health. Brutus' changed and abnormal behaviour is beyond her understanding. She cannot find any clue to his annoying behaviour. She thinks that it could be some mental pressure. But what it is she fails to understand.
2. Portia shows her love and submissiveness by reminding Brutus of the vows of marriage that she is his better half and deserves to share his worries, problems or anything that concerns them both.
3. Portia tries to prove to Brutus that she is stronger than any other woman by inflicting a wound on her thigh that she has the endurance of man.
4. This conversation is intruded by the entry of Lucius and Ligarius. Brutus promises Portia that he will prove himself worthy of such a noble wife and share all his secrets with her.

5. Earlier Portia tried to play upon Brutus' emotions by tugging him to let her enter his innermost thoughts if only she had the slightest seat in his heart. If he does not love her, then she ceases to be his wife. This is the most powerful plea that a woman can make and this succeeds invariably. No man can deny this.

Act II, Scene II

PASSAGE 1

1. Caesar and Calpurnia are in a room in Caesar's house. It is night and Caesar is in his night gown.
2. By 'ceremonies' Calpurnia means omens that signal bad occurrences in future. The main cause of her fears is that Caesar has decided to go out at such a time when there is a storm outside.
3. Calpurnia's warnings to Caesar are taken lightly because Caesar believes that what is to happen will happen. Calpurnia should not take omens seriously. Caesar asks his servants to tell him what the priests have said.
4. A lioness gave birth to her young ones in the streets, graves opened to let the dead bodies out. Fierce and angry armed men fought in the clouds. Blood dropped on the capitol in showers.
5. Caesar shows his arrogance that he does not fear death. Only cowards fear death before their death. Valiants like him never fear death because death is inevitable.

PASSAGE 2

1. Caesar says that death is inevitable so men should not fear death. Only the cowards fear death and they die many times in their imagination before their actual death.
2. When the priest offered the sacrifice of an animal and pulled the entrails of the animal, he found that the beast had no heart in it. To this Caesar says that the gods have done so to show that they look down upon cowardice. He means to say that if he shows cowardice and stays at home, it means that he is like the beast without a heart.
3. Caesar says that danger knows well that Caesar is more dangerous than danger itself, because Caesar and danger are two lions born on the same day, and Caesar thinks that he is the elder and therefore the more dreadful of the two.
4. 'She requests Caesar not to go out today, say just on account of her fears, and not because of Caesar's fears. She adds that they will send Mark Antony to the Senate house, and he will inform them that Caesar was not well. She begs of Caesar on her knees to change his decision.