



JULIUS CAESAR SOUNDTRACK PROJECT

Every good play or film deserves a good soundtrack. Your task is to build one for the play *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare.

1. Form a triumvirate (that's how many people per group?)
2. Write an movie synopsis (see Synopsis Example) **First Draft due before 2/14/2013**
 - a. Synopsis length = 150-200 words typed
 - b. Must include a setting, actors names and basic plot line (typed draft)
3. You must include no less than 3 songs and no more than 5.
 - a. Create a soundtrack/playlist for the play as if it were a major motion picture. Be cognizant of your previously determined setting. The songs should deal with the same themes in the play. If you would like, you may focus on songs or sound bites that you would play for certain scenes.
 - b. You will turn in the following: A typed response telling where in the play your each song fits and why the lyrics appropriately fit the scene to which you are applying them. Focus on theme and mood. (See Alicia Keys/Portia example)

4. Beware the Ides of March – Project due before 3/15/2013.

You will be assessed on the following criteria:

	1=60	2=80	3=100
1. Completeness of the project/ Presentation of the material you submit	1	2	3
2. Movie Synopsis – see Writing Coach TX xiv & xv	1	2	3
3. Music Selection & Analysis – see Writing Coach Rubric TX x & xi	1	2	3

- 20 point deduction for all submissions turned in after the deadline/due date

Project is worth 25% of your grade and a dedicated effort for such a large percentage of points is expected. Take advantage of the treasure trove **Shmoop** and **Sparknotes** can provide. Good luck and don't forget to have fun!

Some Modern-Day Adaptations of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*

Check out these links for inspiration when it comes to developing your synopsis. Remember, you can't really create a soundtrack until you determine your setting and cast. Consider your audience. What demographic are you trying to hit? Everyone goes to the movies, but not everyone sees the same movie.

- <http://splashpage.mtv.com/2009/10/16/law-abiding-citizen-director-f-gary-gray-calls-julius-adaptation-his-peter-jackson-project/>
- <http://www.fairfieldcitizenonline.com/news/article/Fairfield-University-to-present-modern-day-3410721.php>
- <http://bloggingshakespeare.com/year-of-shakespeare-julius-caesar-at-the-rsc>
- <http://artslouisville.blogspot.com/2012/01/theatre-review-julius-caesar.html>
- <http://www.theatrepeople.com.au/reviews/julius-caesar>

Did you know that the movie "Mean Girls" is like a modern-day Julius Caesar?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kO-VghfMuBg> YouTube "Julius Caesar + Mean Girls"

Synopsis Example

In the newest adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, the audience is transported from 44 B.C. to present day 2013 – complete with flat screens and smart phones. Guns take the place of swords; sleek SUVs provide the horsepower and e-readers replace the classic scroll for an entirely modern setting. Julius Caesar (insert actor name) is a highly ambitious political leader in (insert city) and his/her aim is to become dictator. Caesar is warned by a Soothsayer (insert actor name) that he/she must "beware the Ides of March". Even his wife/husband Calphurnia (insert actor name) dreams of Caesar's death, but she/he can't save him/her. The prophecy comes true and Caesar is assassinated due to the plotting of Brutus (insert actor name) and Cassius (insert actor name). The people of Rome are on the conspirators' side (which include insert actor name as Casca and insert actor as Decius) until Mark Antony, (insert actor) Caesar's loyal wingman, makes a moving speech at the funeral. The conspirators are driven out of town and two armies engage in a bloody civil war before Brutus and Cassius meet their inevitable deaths.

Worth Watching:

William Shakespeare's epic tale of conspiracy, loyalty and betrayal

Rome is destroyed, their world has crumbled, but life must go on. Survival drives people in a broken world, where friendships get brutally ripped apart. Caesar leads in the only way he knows how and stands firm in the belief of his leadership – others have different ideas and that's where this classic tale steps up and attacks. Referencing gang culture and questioning the very heart of loyalty and friendship, this film is hard-hitting. The world is Rome; the story is now; the brutality is soul-destroying real. In a dark world, where people are pushed beyond their limits, you find the rawest and darkest souls. Opinions are as divided as loyalties.

<http://britishyouthfilmacademy.com/our-films/julius-caesar/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kn17bLPJtQ>

Music/Literary Analysis Sample

Act 2/Scene 1 – Gender theme

In this scene, Portia, who hails from a “well-reputed” family, is distraught over husband Brutus’ brooding; his decision not to confide in her; and his chauvinistic dismissal that she is a warm-my-vittles/warm-my-bed variety at best and a “harlot” at worst. Songstress Alicia Key’s “A Woman’s Worth” revamps the “behind every good man, stands a good woman” handle in its chorus with “A real woman knows a real man comes first. A real man just can’t deny a woman’s worth” to solicit a feeling that there can be harmonious solidarity between the sexes. Additionally, her lyrics “you will lose her if you choose to refuse to put her first” not only exemplify the happy wife/happy life idea, it also foreshadows Brutus’ discovery of Portia’s suicide in Act 4 and his inevitable swan dive onto to a sword.

HIP HOP/R&B:**“A Woman’s Worth” by Alicia Keys (cut)**

Wanna please, wanna keep, wanna treat your woman right
 Now just don't, better show that she is worth your time
 You will lose if you choose to refuse to put her first
 She will if she can't find a man who knows her worth
 Hold up
 'Cause if you treat me fairly I'll give you all my goods
 Treat you like a real woman should
 Baby I know you're worth it
 If you never play me promise not to blow off
 I'll hold you down when [things] get rough
 'Cause baby I know you're worth it
 'Cause a real man knows a real woman when he sees her
 And a real woman knows a real man ain't afraid to please her
 A real woman knows a real man always comes first
 A real man just can't deny a woman's worth

<http://www.metrolyrics.com/a-womans-worth-lyrics-alicia-keys.html>

Shakespeare:**Portia in *Julius Caesar* 2.1. (cut)**

Within the bond of marriage, tell me, Brutus,
 Is it excepted I should know no secrets
 That appertains to you? Am I yourself
 But, as it were, in sort or limitation,
 To keep with you at meals, comfort your bed,
 And talk to you sometimes? Dwell I but in the suburbs
 Of your good pleasure? If it be no more,
 Portia is Brutus' harlot, not his wife.
 I grant I am a woman, but withal
 A woman that Lord Brutus took to wife.
 I grant I am a woman, but withal
 A woman well-reputed, Cato's daughter.
 Think you I am no stronger than my sex,
 Being so fathered and so husbanded?
 Tell me your counsels; I will not disclose 'em.

Consider the following key points when selecting music/lyrics:

1. What do you **know about the speaker**, based on the information the artist/poet gives?
 - **Hip Hop:** Be good to me and I will be good to you. Behind every good man is a good woman, and she will support her man (making him the best he can be) if he appreciates her and values her happiness.
 - **Shakespeare:** She is upset and irritated that her husband won't confide in her. She wants Brutus to see her as an intellectual partner and not dismiss her as a subordinate leashed to the kitchen and the bedroom.
2. What is **common theme** of the two? Public Self versus Private Self; Gender (Man's World)
3. What **mood** does this song create? I'm here for you if you will let me into your world. A good word for this is “solidarity” which means mutual agreement and support.