

SUPPLEMENTARY READER ENGLISH

STANDARD

X

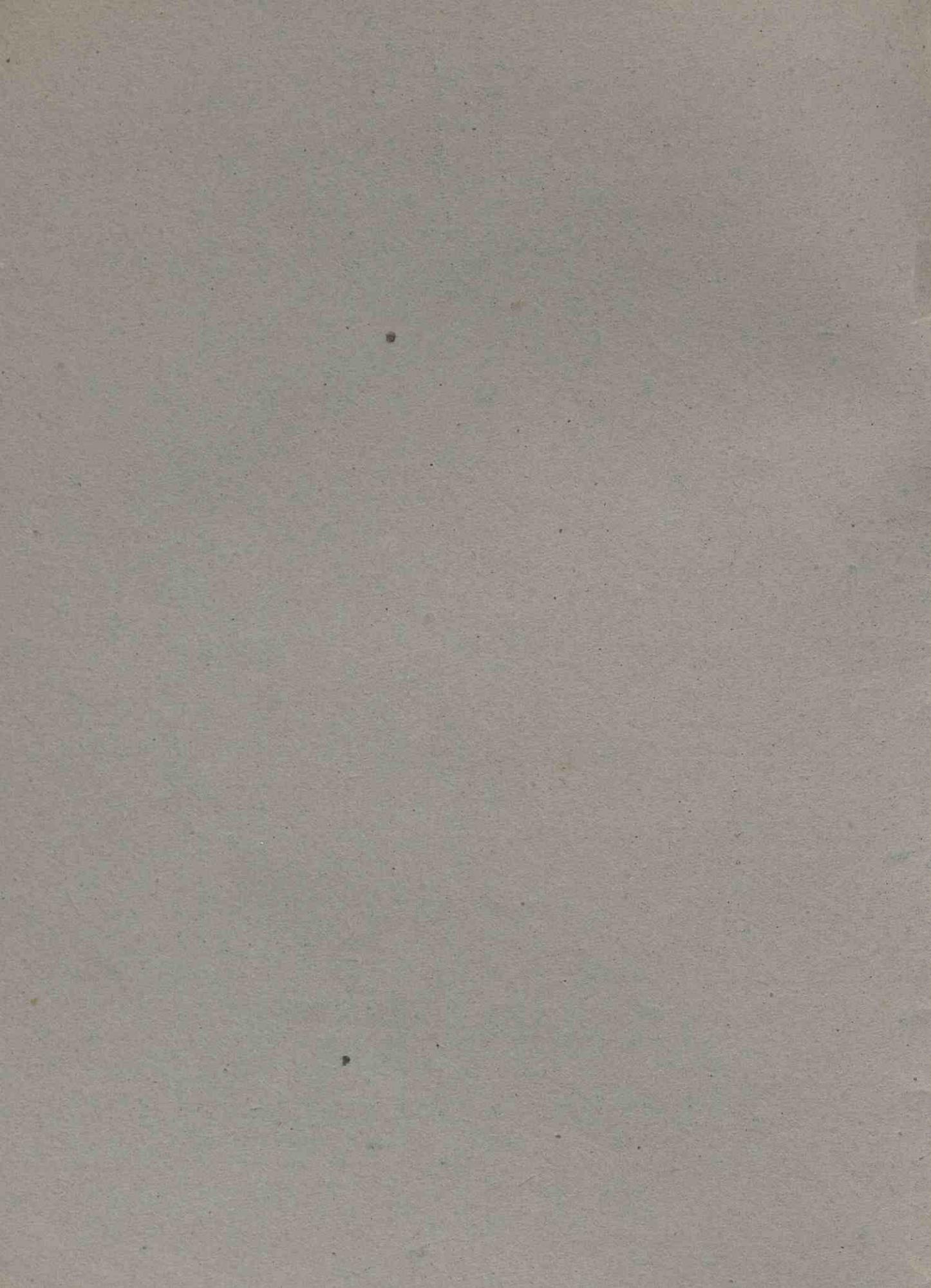
**EVERGREEN  
TALES**

**TB/X/2003/400(ES)**

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

**2003**

Price Rs. 10.00



TB | X | 2003 | 400 (E)



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# EVERGREEN TALES

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## SUPPLEMENTARY READER

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### STANDARD 10

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### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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### 2003

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Rs. 10.00

## PLEDGE

India is my country. All Indians are my brothers and sisters.

I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage.  
I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders respect and treat  
everyone with courtesy.

To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion. In their  
well-being and prosperity alone lies my happiness.

PREPARED BY :

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (SCERT)  
KERALA

(C)

Government of Kerala  
2003

## FOREWORD

**Evergreen Tales** is a selection of four stories from William Shakespeare. The stories are slightly adapted to suit to the needs of pupils of standard ten.

The first three stories namely, 'The Merchant of Venice', 'The Tempest' and 'King Lear' are largely adapted from Lamb and the last one 'Julius Caesar' is an independent version that keeps to the original dramatic sequence of the play.

The stories are divided into convenient units and most of the new words and expressions are glossed for easy comprehension. Some of the archaic expressions in Shakespeare are retained for their original flavour and popularity. Here the needs of the pupils have been kept in mind. Vocabulary and sentence structures have been restricted accordingly. Words and phrases are explained for easy understanding wherever they are likely to prove difficult. It is hoped that the Tales will provide an early opportunity for the pupils to come in touch with Shakespeare the masterplaywright of all time. As a Supplementary Reader, the tales are expected to generate and sustain reading interest in pupils and also help reinforce and supplement the structures and vocabulary they have already learned.

The stories in this book are not expected to be taught in detail in the classroom. They are meant obviously for extensive reading by the pupils. They have to read the stories on their own and do the activities suggested with a minimum of help and guidance from the teacher.

It is hoped that the pupils will find the reading material interesting.

*State Council of Educational  
Research and Training  
Thiruvananthapuram.*

**Dr. P. M. Jaleel**  
DIRECTOR



William Shakespeare

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## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka Jaya He

Bharatha Bhagya Vidhata

Punjab Sindhu Gujarat Maratha

Dravida Utkala Banga

Vindhya Himachala Jamuna Ganga

Uchala Jaladhi Taranga

Tava Subha Name Jage

Tava Subha Ashisa Mage,

Gahe Tava Jaya Gatha

Jana Gana Mangala Dayaka Jaya He

Bharatha Bhagya Vidhata

Jaya He Jaya He Jaya He

Jaya Jaya Jaya Jaya He.

Shylock was a Jew who lived in Venice. He had become very rich by lending money at very high interest to Christian merchants. Shylock was a hard-hearted man. He exacted<sup>1</sup> the payment of the money he lent with such severity that he was much disliked by all good men. He was particularly disliked by Antonio, a young merchant of Venice.

Shylock also hated Antonio because he used to lend money to needy without taking any interest. Therefore there was great enmity between the greedy Jew and the generous merchant. Whenever Antonio met Shylock on the Rialto<sup>2</sup>, he used to abuse<sup>3</sup> him. The Jew would pretend to be patient but he secretly thought of revenge.

Antonio was the kindest man that ever lived. He always came to the help of people in trouble. He was greatly loved by all his fellow-citizens, but Bassanio, a noble Venetian, was the nearest and dearest friend of his. He was not very rich. He had almost spent the little money he had, living in luxury. Whenever Bassanio wanted money, Antonio helped him. It seemed they had but one heart and one purse between them.

One day Bassanio came to Antonio, and told him that he had a plan to improve his fortune. He wanted to marry a wealthy lady whom he dearly loved. Her father had died sometime ago. She was the only heiress to a large estate<sup>4</sup>.

In her father's lifetime Bassanio used to visit her at her house. He had observed this lady sending with her eyes speechless messages. They seemed to say she was in love with him and that he was a welcome suitor<sup>5</sup>. But Bassanio did not have money to dress himself suitably as the lover of so rich an heiress<sup>6</sup>. He asked Antonio to help him. He remembered the many favours Antonio had shown him. Bassanio wanted his friend to lend him three thousand ducats<sup>7</sup>.

Antonio had no money with him then but he expected some of his ships to come home soon laden with<sup>8</sup> merchandise<sup>9</sup>. He said he would go to Shylock, the rich money-lender, and borrow the money.

Antonio and Bassanio went together to Shylock. Antonio asked the Jew to lend him three thousand ducats on any interest. He would pay it out of the merchandise

1 exact : to demand and get by force

2 Rialto : the exchange in Venice where there was business transactions

3 abuse : use bad words against

4 estate : property with a vast area of land and a large house in it.

5 suitor : a man wishing to marry a particular woman

6 heiress : a female heir of great wealth

7 ducats : a gold coin, once used in several countries in Europe

8 laden with : loaded with

9 merchandise (n) : goods for sale

in his ships at sea. Shylock thought deeply. He knew that this would give him a golden opportunity to take revenge on the Venetian who had insulted him many times.

Impatient for the money, Antonio said, "Shylock, do you hear? Will you lend the money?"

To this question the Jew replied, "Signior<sup>10</sup> Antonio, on the Rialto often you have railed<sup>11</sup> at me about my money and my business. I have taken it with a patient shrug<sup>12</sup>. Jews are well-known for their patience. You have also called me nonbeliever, cut-throat dog. You spat upon my Jewish garments, and spurned<sup>13</sup> at me with your foot, as if I were a dog. Well then, it now appears, you need my help and you come to me. You say, Shylock lend me money. Has a dog money? Shall I bend low and say: Fair Sir, you spat upon me on Wednesday last, another time you called me dog, and for these wrongs I am to lend you money!"

Antonio replied, "I am likely to call you so again, to spit on you again, and kick you too. If you will lend me this money, lend it not as to a friend, but rather lend it as to an enemy. If I fail to pay, you may claim the penalty."

"Why, look you", said Shylock, "how you storm at me! I would be friends with you, and have your love. I will forget the shames

you have put upon me. I will lend you the money and take no interest."

This seemingly<sup>14</sup> kind offer greatly surprised Antonio. Shylock still pretended to be kind. He again said he would lend him the three thousand ducats and take no interest for his money. His only condition was that Antonio should go with him to a lawyer and sign a bond in merry sport<sup>15</sup>. If he did not repay the money in time he would forfeit<sup>16</sup> a pound of flesh, to be cut off from any part of his body.

"Right", said Antonio. "I will sign this bond, and say there is much kindness in the Jew."

Bassanio said Antonio should not sign such a bond for his sake. But still Antonio said that he would sign it, for he was sure that his ships would return with enough money before the day of payment.

Hearing this conversation, Shylock exclaimed, "What suspicious people these Christians are! I pray you tell me this, Bassanio, what should I gain by the bond? A pound of man's flesh is not so valuable, not useful as mutton or beef. I offer this friendship if he will take it; if not, adieu<sup>17</sup>."

Against the advice of Bassanio, Antonio signed the bond and got the money.

10 signior (Italian) : / si : njo : (r) / Mr.

11 rail at : express angry disapproval or complaint

12 shrug (n) : an expression of lack of interest

13 spurn at : refuse to accept because of one's pride

14 seemingly (adv) : outward appearance

15 in merry sport : just for fun; playfully

16 forfeit (v) : face the risk of losing; take from one by law as a punishment

17 adieu : good bye

The rich lady that Bassanio wished to marry lived near Venice, at a place called Belmont. Her name was Portia. She was beautiful and gracious<sup>1</sup>. She was accomplished in many ways.

Bassanio set out for Belmont with a splendid train<sup>2</sup>. He was attended by a gentleman called Gratiano.

Portia's father had died recently and had left her a great deal of money. He was a wise man who wanted to protect his daughter from fortune-hunters<sup>3</sup>. He left three caskets with Portia. The first one was made of gold, the second, of silver and the third of lead. One of them had Portia's picture in it. The man who chose the box that contained Portia's picture was to marry her.

There were many suitors for Portia's hand. One of them was the Prince of Morocco. He was powerful and wealthy. But Portia did not love him. She wished him to choose the wrong box. The Prince chose the gold box on which it was written: "*Whoever chooses me shall have what many men desire.*" He thought what many men desired was Portia. But on opening the box he discovered in it an ugly skull and a piece of paper. It read: "*All that glitters is not gold.*" The prince left disappointed bidding Portia good-bye.

The prince of Arragon came next seeking Portia's hand. He was proud and self-important. He chose the silver casket on which it was written: "*Whoever chooses me shall get as much as he deserves.*" He thought he deserved Portia. The prince found in the box a fool's head and the words: "*Many fools are hidden behind a silver covering so begone<sup>4</sup> sir!*" The prince looked silly in his own eyes and left the place.

It was then that Bassanio and Gratiano arrived there. Before they came, Nerissa who was Portia's maid and close companion had reminded her lady that Portia had many admirers. Among them there was one Bassanio from Venice who had once visited her father. Nerissa told her that he deserved her love more than any one else. Portia was able to recall his name. She had also said that, she was in a helpless situation. She was not sure whether Bassanio would be able to choose the right casket.

On his arrival, Bassanio begged Portia to permit him to try his luck with the three caskets. Portia was very much worried that he might choose the wrong casket. Yet she dared not tell which casket contained her picture. Bassanio did not choose either the gold or silver casket.

1 gracious

: polite, kind and pleasant

2 train

: a group of servants or officers  
(old usage)

3 fortune-hunters : greedy for money; wealth

4 begone : go away (old usage)



He said that things that glittered outside were often ugly inside. He then chose the leaden casket on which it was written: "*Whoever chooses me must risk all that he has.*" It was a moment of joy for everyone. There was the lovely picture of Portia in it.

Thus Bassanio proved successful in his suit and Portia consented to marry him.

Bassanio confessed to Portia that he was not very rich. His high birth and noble ancestry was all that he could boast of<sup>5</sup>.

But she loved him for his worthy qualities. She had enough riches. She wished she was a thousand times more fair, and ten thousand times more rich to be more worthy of him. Portia prettily said she was an unschooled<sup>6</sup> girl. She was willing to be guided by him in all things. She added, "Now I give myself and what is mine to you. Only yesterday, Bassanio, I was the lady of this fair mansion, queen of myself, and mistress over these servants; and now this house, these servants, and myself, are yours, my lord. I give them to you with this ring." So saying she presented a ring to Bassanio.

5 boast of : speak about and be proud of

6 unschooled : not specially trained or taught

Bassanio was so full of gratitude at the gracious manner in which she accepted him. He could not express his joy to the dear lady. He spoke broken words of love and thankfulness. He took the ring and vowed<sup>7</sup> never to part with<sup>8</sup> it.

Gratiano and Nerissa, Portia's waiting-maid, attended upon their lord and lady. When Portia promised to become the obedient wife of Bassanio, Gratiano desired his master's permission to be married at the same time.

"With all my heart, Gratiano", said Bassanio, "if you can get a wife!"

Gratiano then said that he loved Nerissa, Portia's fair waiting gentle woman. She had promised to be his wife, if her lady married Bassanio. Portia asked Nerissa if this was true. Nerissa replied, "Madam, it is so, if you approve of it." Portia gladly consented to it. Bassanio pleasantly said, "Then our wedding-feast shall be much honoured by your marriage, Gratiano."

The happiness of these lovers was sadly spoilt at this moment by a messenger. He brought a letter from Antonio containing bad news. When Bassanio read Antonio's letter, Portia feared it was about the death

of some dear friend. He looked so pale. She inquired what sad the news was.

He replied, "O sweet Portia, here are a few of the most unpleasant words that were ever written. Gentle lady, when I first gave you my love, I freely told you that I was in debt."

Bassanio then told Portia that he had borrowed money from Antonio. Antonio had obtained it from Shylock the Jew who demanded a pound of flesh from Antonio's body, if the money was not repaid in time.

Bassanio read Antonio's letter: "Sweet Bassanio, my ships are all lost. My bond to the Jew is forfeited. In paying it I shall lose my life. I wish to see you at my death; but it is your pleasure<sup>9</sup>."

"O, my dear love", said Portia, "be quick; act. You shall have gold to pay the money twenty times over, before this kind friend Antonio shall lose a hair by my Bassanio's fault. Portia then said she would be married to Bassanio before he set out, in order to give him a legal right to her money."

That same day they were married and Gratiano was also married to Nerissa. Bassanio and Gratiano as soon as they were married, set out in great haste for Venice, where Bassanio found Antonio in prison.

7 vow (v) : swear seriously  
8 part with : lose; give away

9 it's your pleasure : you may choose to come to see me or not, as you please

The day of payment being past, the cruel Jew would not accept the money which Bassanio offered him. He insisted on having a pound of Antonio's flesh. A day was fixed to try<sup>10</sup> this shocking case before the Duke<sup>11</sup> of Venice, and Bassanio awaited in dreadful<sup>12</sup> suspense the result of the trial.

When Portia parted with her husband, she spoke cheerfully to him, and bade<sup>13</sup> him bring his dear friend along with him when he returned. Yet she feared it would be a hard time for Antonio. When she was left alone she began to think over what she could do to

help in saving the life of her dear Bassanio's friend. She had said to him humbly that she would be governed by his superior wisdom; but she did not at all doubt her own powers to help Antonio. At once she decided to go to Venice, and speak in Antonio's defence.

Portia had a relation who was a lawyer by name Bellario. She wrote to him and asked for his advice. She also wanted him to send her the gown worn by a lawyer. When the messenger returned, he brought letters of advice from Bellario.

### III

At the Duke's court when the trial began, Antonio did not ask for mercy, for the vengeful<sup>1</sup> Shylock was unlikely to grant him any. In a way he was willing to accept punishment for not keeping his word. He did not want people to think that merchants of Venice were dishonest men.

At the court, the Duke himself pleaded with Shylock to be merciful. But the Jew bluntly refused saying to the merchant that there was no reason why he should be merciful.

He said, "I do not love Antonio!" Bassanio then angrily asked him, "Do all

men kill the things they do not love?"

"Don't all men want to kill the things they hate?" answered Shylock.

Bassanio offered the Jew twice the sum owed by Antonio. He replied that he would ask for his pound of flesh even if he was offered six thousand times the amount. When the Duke asked Shylock how he could hope for mercy if he himself showed no mercy, the Jew replied he wanted justice and not mercy. So saying he began to sharpen the long knife he had in his hands.

10 try : to examine and judge in a court of law

11 duke : a noble man of the highest rank

12 dreadful : terrible

13 bade : (here) told

1 vengeful : full of revenge

Portia and Nerissa disguised themselves. Portia appeared in a lawyer's gown and Nerissa followed her as her clerk.

Setting out immediately, they arrived in Venice on the very day of the trial. The case was just going to be heard before the Duke and senators of Venice in the Senate-house. Portia entered this High Court of justice and presented a letter from Bellario. In that letter the learned counsellor wrote to the Duke, saying that he would have come himself to plead for Antonio. As he was prevented by sickness, he requested that the learned young lawyer Balthasar (so he called Portia) might be permitted to plead in his place. This the Duke granted, wondering at the youthful appearance of the stranger, who was well disguised in her counsellor's robes and large wig.

And now began the important trial. Portia looked around her and she saw the merciless Jew. She saw Bassanio. But he knew her not in her disguise. He was standing beside Antonio, in an agony of distress and fear for his friend.

The importance of the task Portia had undertaken gave her courage and she boldly proceeded in her duty. She turned towards Shylock and told him that he had a right to his pound of flesh. She then spoke so eloquently of the noble quality of mercy. It would have softened the heart of all except that of Shylock. She said that mercy dropped as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. Mercy was a double blessing. It blessed him that gave; and him that received it. Great kings have always shown mercy. It was an attribute<sup>2</sup> of God himself.

She asked Shylock to remember that as we all pray for mercy from God, we are bound to be merciful to our fellow-beings.

Despite all this, Shylock insisted on getting the penalty stated in the bond.

"Is he not able to pay the money?" asked the young lawyer Balthasar.

Bassanio then offered the Jew the payment of the three thousand ducats as many times over as he should desire. Shylock refused it. He still insisted on having a pound of Antonio's flesh. Bassanio begged the learned young counsellor to try to make the law a little flexible to save Antonio's life. But 'he' gravely answered that laws once established must never be changed.

Hearing Balthasar say that the law must not be altered, Shylock thought that he was pleading in his favour. He said, "A Daniel is come to judgment\*, O wise young judge, how I do honour you! How much elder are you than your looks." Saying so Shylock took out his knife.

The young counsellor now wanted Shylock to let her look at the bond. When she had read it, she said "This bond is forfeited, and by this the Jew may lawfully claim a pound of flesh, to be cut off by him nearest Antonio's heart."

Then she said to Shylock, "Be merciful: take the money, and bid me tear the bond."

But no mercy would the cruel Shylock show. He said, "By my soul I swear, no man can persuade<sup>3</sup> me to change my mind."

2 attribute : quality forming part of the nature  
3 persuade : to make willing

\* a reference to Daniel, a wise judge mentioned in the Bible

"Now Antonio", said Portia, "you must prepare your bosom for the knife."

While Shylock was sharpening the long knife and feeling its sharp edge with great eagerness to cut off the pound of flesh Portia said to Antonio, "Have you anything to say?"

Antonio with a calm resignation<sup>4</sup> replied that he had but little to say. He had prepared his mind for death.

He said to Bassanio, "Give me your hand, Bassanio! Fare you well. Grieve not that I have fallen into this misfortune for your sake. Commend me to your honourable wife and tell her how I have loved you."

In the deepest agony Bassanio replied, "Antonio, I am married to a wife, who is as dear to me as life itself. But life itself, my wife, and all the world, are not considered by me above your life. I am willing to lose all. I would sacrifice all to this devil here, to save you."

Though the kind-hearted lady was not at all offended<sup>5</sup> with her husband for expressing the love he owed to so true a friend as Antonio in these strong terms, Portia said, "Your wife would give you little thanks if she were present, to hear you make this offer." And then Gratiano, who loved to copy what his lord did, thought he must make a speech like Bassanio's.

He said, "I have a wife, whom I love: I wish she were in heaven, if she could only entreat<sup>6</sup> some power there to change the cruel temper of this currish Jew." "It is well you wish this unknown to her: or else you would have but an unquiet house", she said.

Shylock now cried out impatiently, "We waste time. I pray you pronounce the sentence<sup>7</sup>." And now all was expectation in the court, and every heart was full of grief for Antonio.

The young lawyer asked if there were balances to weigh the flesh. Shylock said that he had them ready. The lawyer also asked him if he had called a doctor to stop his wounds in case he bleeds to death. Shylock said no and added that it was not written in the bond.

Portia replied, "It is not so named in the bond, but what of that? It was good if you did so much for the sake of charity." To this Shylock answered, "I cannot find it; it is not in the bond."

"Then", said Portia, "a pound of Antonio's flesh is yours. The law allows it, and the court awards it. And you may cut this flesh from off his breast." "O wise and upright judge!" Shylock exclaimed, "A Daniel is come to judgment!"

He sharpened his long knife again, and looking eagerly on Antonio, said, "Come, prepare."

4 resignation : quiet acceptance

5 offend : upset

6 entreat : to beg seriously

7 sentence (n) : an order given by a judge which fixes a punishment for a crime



"Wait a little, Jew", said Portia, "there is something else. This bond here gives you no drop of blood. The words clearly are 'a pound of flesh'. If in the cutting off the pound of flesh you shed one drop of Christian blood, your land and goods are by the law to be confiscated<sup>8</sup> to the state of Venice."

Now as it was utterly impossible for Shylock to cut off the pound of flesh without shedding some of Antonio's blood, this wise discovery of Portia's, that it was flesh and not blood that was named in the bond, saved the life of Antonio.

8 confiscate : to take away something as punishment

All admired the wonderful sagacity<sup>9</sup> of the young counsellor.

Gratiano exclaimed in the words which Shylock had used, "O wise and upright<sup>10</sup> judge: Jew, a Daniel is come to judgment!"

Finding himself defeated in his cruel intent, Shylock said with a disappointed look that he would take the money.

Rejoiced beyond measure at Antonio's unexpected deliverance<sup>11</sup> Bassanio cried out, "Here is the money!" But Portia stopped him saying, "Softly; there is no haste; the Jew shall have nothing but the penalty. Therefore prepare, Shylock, cut off the flesh, but mind you, shed no blood: nor do not cut off more or less than just a pound. If you make a mistake you are condemned by the laws of Venice to die, and all your wealth is forfeited to the State."

"Give me my money, and let me go", said Shylock.

"I have it ready", said Bassanio, "here it is."

Shylock was going to take the money. Portia again stopped him, saying, "Wait Jew: I have yet another hold upon you. By the laws of Venice, your wealth is forfeited to the state, for having conspired<sup>12</sup> against the life of one of its citizens, and your life lies at the mercy of the Duke; therefore, down on your knees, and ask him to pardon you."

The Duke then said to Shylock, "You may see the difference of our Christian spirit, I pardon you your life before you ask it. Half

your wealth belongs to Antonio, the other half comes to the state."

The generous Antonio then said that he would give up his share of Shylock's wealth, if Shylock would sign a deed to transfer it over at his death to his daughter and her husband. Antonio knew that the Jew had an only daughter Jessica who was lately married against his wishes to a young Christian, named Lorenzo, a friend of Antonio. It had so offended Shylock that he had disinherited<sup>13</sup> her.

The Jew agreed to this and being thus disappointed in his revenge, and dispossessed of his riches, he said, "I am ill. Let me go home, send the deed after me, and I will sign over half my riches to my daughter."

"Get thee, gone then", said the Duke, "and sign it. And if you repent your cruelty and turn Christian, the state will forgive you the fine of the other half of your riches."

The Duke now released Antonio, and dismissed the court. He then highly praised the wisdom and ingenuity<sup>14</sup> of the young counsellor, and invited him home to dinner.

Portia, who meant to return to Belmont before her husband, replied, "I humbly thank your grace, but I must go away directly." The Duke said he was sorry that the lawyer had no time to stay and dine with him. Turning to Antonio, he added, "Reward this gentleman, for, I think, you are much indebted to him."

9 sagacity : wisdom

10 upright : honest, fair, responsible

11 deliverance : the act of saving from harm or danger, escape

12 conspire : to plan something bad secretly

13 disinherit : to take away one's legal right

14 ingenuity : skill and cleverness

When the Duke and his senators left the court, Bassanio said to Portia, "Most worthy gentleman, I and my friend Antonio have by your wisdom been this day acquitted of grievous<sup>1</sup> penalties, and I beg you will accept the three thousand ducats due to the Jew."

"And we shall stand indebted to you over and above", said Antonio. "In love and service evermore."

Portia could not be persuaded to accept the money. But Bassanio again pressed her to accept some reward. It came into Portia's mind to play a trick upon her husband.

She said, "Give me your gloves. I will wear them for your sake."

While Bassanio was taking off his gloves, she saw upon his finger the ring which she had given him. Now it was the ring the clever lady wanted to get from him to make a merry jest.

She added, "And for your love, I will take this ring from you." Bassanio was sadly distressed<sup>2</sup> that the counsellor should ask him for the only thing he could not part with. He replied in great confusion that he could not give him that ring because it was his wife's gift. He had vowed never to part with it. On this Portia pretended to be offended, and left the court.

"Dear Bassanio", said Antonio, "let him have the ring. Let my love and the great

service he had done for me be valued against your wife's displeasure."

Ashamed to seem ungrateful, Bassanio yielded and sent Gratiano after Portia with the ring. Then the clerk Nerissa, who had also given Gratiano a ring, begged for his ring. Not choosing to be outdone in generosity by his lord, Gratiano gave it to her. He also had promised never to part with it.

The two ladies laughed to think, how they would tax<sup>3</sup> their husbands with giving away their rings when they got home. They would swear that the two men had given them as a present to some women.

When she returned, Portia was in that happy state of mind for having performed a good action. Her cheerful spirits enjoyed everything she saw. The moon never seemed to shine more brightly than before. When that pleasant moon was hid behind a cloud, then a light which she saw from her house at Belmont well pleased her charmed fancy.

She said to Nerissa, "That light we see is burning in my hall; how far that little candle throws its beams, so shines a good deed in a naughty world", and hearing the sound of music from her house, she said, "I think that music sounds much sweeter than by day."

And now Portia and Nerissa entered the house, and dressing themselves in their own clothes awaited the arrival of their husbands who soon followed them with Antonio.

1 grievous : severe

2 distress : discomfort; suffering

3 tax : to charge with; blame

Bassanio presented his dear friend to Portia. She congratulated and welcomed them. Then they saw Nerissa and her husband quarrelling in a corner of the room.

"A quarrel already?" asked Portia. "What is the matter?"

Gratiano replied, "Lady, it is about a ring that Nerissa gave me", Gratiano explained, "a paltry<sup>4</sup> ring which had the paltry words cut on it; *Love me and leave me not.*"

"What does the value of the ring signify?" asked Nerissa. "You swore to me when I gave it to you, that you would keep it till the hour of death; and now you say you gave it to the lawyer's clerk. I know you gave it to a woman." "By this hand", replied Gratiano, "I gave it to a youth, a kind of boy not taller than you. He was clerk to the young counsellor who by his wise pleading saved Antonio's life. This talkative boy begged it for a fee, and I could not for my life deny him."

Portia said, "You were to blame, Gratiano, to part with your wife's first gift. I gave my lord Bassanio a ring and I am sure he would not part with it for all the world." Gratiano in excuse for his fault, now said, "My lord Bassanio gave his ring away to the counsellor. Then the clerk begged me my ring."

Hearing this Portia looked very angry, and reproached Bassanio. He was very unhappy to offend his dear lady. He said with great earnestness, "No, by my honour, no women had it. A young lawyer who refused three thousand ducats of me begged for the ring. When I denied him that away he went

displeased. What could I do, sweet Portia? I was so full of shame for my ingratitude. I was forced to send the ring after him. Pardon me, good lady. Had you been there I think you would have begged the ring of me to give the worthy lawyer."

"Ah!" said Antonio, "I am the unhappy cause of these quarrels."

Portia bid Antonio not to grieve for he was welcome in spite of all that. Then Antonio said "I once did lend my body for Bassanio's sake. But for him to whom your husband gave the ring, I should have now been dead. I swear your lord will never more break his word with you."

"Then you shall be his surety", said Portia. "Give him this ring, and bid him keep it better than the other."

When Bassanio looked at the ring he was strangely surprised to find it was the same he had given away. Then Portia told him how she was the young counsellor, and Nerissa her clerk. Bassanio found, to his unspeakable wonder and delight, that it was by the noble courage and wisdom of his wife that Antonio's life had been saved.

Portia again welcomed Antonio, and gave him letters which contained an account of Antonio's ships supposed to be lost, safely arriving in the harbour. So the tragical beginnings of this rich merchant's story were all forgotten in the unexpected good fortune which followed. There was leisure to laugh at the comical adventure of the rings and also at the husbands who did not know their own wives.

<sup>4</sup> paltry : worthless

## ACTIVITIES

### PART I

#### A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:

1. Who was Shylock? How did he become immensely rich?
2. "There was great enmity between the Jew and Antonio." Why?
3. What was Bassanio's difficulty in getting married to the wealthy lady?
4. Who did Bassanio go to for help? What was his plan?
5. Why did Bassanio want to borrow money from his friend, Antonio? Why could Antonio not lend him the money?
6. What was Shylock's reply when Antonio went to borrow money from him?
7. What condition did Shylock insist on for lending the money to Antonio?
8. How did Antonio respond to Shylock's condition for lending money?

#### B. Answer the following in a paragraph each:

1. "Antonio was the kindest man that ever lived". Substantiate this statement.
2. Why did Antonio sign the bond, inspite of the hard and cruel conditions laid down by Shylock?

3. Describe the meeting of Antonio with Shylock when he went to him to borrow money?

#### C. Fill in the blanks choosing the appropriate word from those given in brackets:

1. Shylock was a ..... Jew  
(covetous, generous, kind, courteous)
2. Antonio signed the bond thinking that it was executed merely in .....  
(revenge, kindness, sport, pettiness)
3. The property inherited from father or grand father etc. is known as .....  
(heredity, patrimony, inheritance, profit)

### PART II

#### A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:

1. Who was Portia and where did she live?
2. Why did Bassanio go to Belmont?
3. Was Bassanio a rich man? What was the only thing he could boast of?
4. What test did Bassanio have to take in winning over Portia?

5. What were Portia's three boxes made of? Who chose the one containing her picture?
6. When did Portia present a ring to Bassanio? What did she tell him at that time?
7. Who were Gratiano and Nerissa?
8. "Madam, it is so if you approve of it." What was to be approved of?
9. What message did Antonio's letter bring to Bassanio?
10. How did Portia react when Bassanio told her about the letter from Antonio?
11. Where did Bassanio and Gratiano go soon after their marriage ceremony? Why?
12. Why did Portia marry Bassanio before proceeding to see Antonio in prison?
13. "Bassanio awaited in dreadful suspense the event of the trial." Why was he in dreadful suspense?
14. Who was Bellario and how did he expect to help Portia?

1. Portia loved Bassanio for his.....
  - (a) riches (b) worthy qualities
  - (c) beauty (d) fame
2. Taking the ring from Portia, Bassanio vowed never to part with it. This shows that Bassanio was.....
  - (a) fond of gold
  - (b) greedy
  - (c) highly devoted to Portia
  - (d) Full of respect towards portia
3. Portia wanted Bellario to send her the gown of a lawyer because she wanted to.....
  - (a) act as a young lawyer and save the life of Antonio using her wisdom
  - (b) help Shylock against Antonio
  - (c) play a trick on the Duke's court
  - (d) prove her brilliance before the court

**B. Answer the following in a paragraph each:**

1. The casket episode.
2. How did the rich and noble Portia honour her lover Bassanio?
3. Give a brief account of the fearful tidings in the letter from Antonio? How did it affect the lovers?

**C. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct word or phrase from those given in brackets:**

**PART III**

**A. Read the story carefully and answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:**

1. Who appeared before the court with the intention of saving the life of Antonio? How?
2. How did Bassanio appear before the court?
3. What did Antonio beg for from the learned counsellor?

4. Why did Antonio bid farewell to Bassanio?
5. Why did Shylock praise the counsellor as 'Daniel'?
6. What was Shylock doing when the judgment was being pronounced?
7. Why did the Jew finally think of accepting the money at the court?
8. How was Shylock's property to be divided?
9. Who did Antonio offer his share of Shylock's wealth to?

**B. Write a paragraph on each of the following:**

1. How did Portia explain the quality of mercy?
2. How did Portia save the life of Antonio?

**C. Choose the correct answer from those given in brackets:**

1. The remark of the counsellor that saved the life of Antonio was the following.
  - (a) The laws once established must never be altered.
  - (b) Shylock must have some surgeon by.
  - (c) The law allows a pound of flesh of Antonio to be cut off.
  - (d) If Shylock sheds one drop of blood when he cuts the flesh off, his land and goods are by the law to be confiscated to the state of Venice.
2. The hearing of the case was done
  - (a) before the Duke and the Senators
  - (b) at the residence of Portia
  - (c) in a public place
  - (d) at Shylock's house

3. Who offered the Jew the payment of three thousand ducats, when the trial was going on?
  - (a) Antonio
  - (b) Portia
  - (c) Nerissa

#### PART IV

**A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences:**

1. Why did Bassanio offer three thousand ducats to Portia after the trial?
2. Why did the young lawyer demand Bassanio's wedding ring?
3. Was the young lawyer really offended when Bassanio refused him the ring he had asked for? Why?
4. What was the cause of the quarrel between Gratiano and Nerissa?
5. What was the happy news which Antonio received from Portia? How did she reveal it?
6. What did Portia and Nerissa accuse their husbands of when the two were back in Belmont without the rings they had given them? Were the two women serious about the accusations they made? Why?

**B. Write a paragraph on each of the following:**

1. How did Portia and Nerissa get their wedding rings from their husbands at the Duke's court?
2. The quarrel of Portia and Nerissa with their husbands.
3. Bring out the element of surprise in Portia and Nerissa revealing their identity and Portia giving some letters to Antonio.

**C. Say whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE:**

1. Gratiano gave his wedding ring to a young boy.

2. Portia could not control her grief when she came to know that her husband had lost his wedding ring.

3. Gratiano wanted to copy his masters ways in many things.

4. Portia was the young counsellor.

5. Antonio welcomed Portia and gave her some letters.

**D. Group work: Dramatization**

Prepare a suitable dialogue and enact the trial scene.



There was a far-away island in the sea with only two inhabitants on it. They were an old man named Prospero, and his daughter Miranda, a very beautiful young lady. She came to this island when she was so young, that she could not remember any other human face than her father's.

They lived in a cave or cell, made out of a rock. It was divided into several parts. Prospero called one of them his study<sup>1</sup>. There he kept his books on magic which in those days learned men studied. The knowledge of this art he found very useful to him.

Prospero was thrown by a strange chance upon this island, which had been enchanted<sup>2</sup> by a witch<sup>3</sup> called Sycorax. She had died there a short time before his arrival. By virtue of his art, Prospero released many good spirits that Sycorax had imprisoned in the hollows of large trees, because they had refused to carry out her wicked commands. These gentle spirits were always obedient to Prospero. Of these Ariel was the chief.

The lively little sprite<sup>4</sup> Ariel had nothing evil in his nature except that he took rather too much pleasure in tormenting an ugly monster called Caliban. He owed Caliban grudge<sup>5</sup> because he was the son of his old enemy Sycorax. Prospero found Caliban a strange misshapen thing in the woods.

He was far less human in form than an ape<sup>6</sup>. Prospero took him home to his cell, and taught him to speak. Prospero would have been very kind to him, but for his bad nature.

Caliban inherited his bad nature from his mother Sycorax. His nature would not let him learn anything good or useful. Therefore he was employed like a slave to fetch wood and do the most laborious tasks and Ariel had the charge of compelling him to do these services.

When Caliban was lazy and neglected his work, Ariel (who was invisible to all eyes but Prospero's) would come slyly<sup>7</sup> and pinch him, and sometimes throw him down in the mud. Then Ariel, in the likeness of an ape, would make faces at him. Swiftly changing his shape in the likeness of a hedgehog<sup>8</sup>, he would lie tumbling in Caliban's way, who feared the hedgehog's sharp quills prickling his bare feet. With a variety of such vexatious<sup>9</sup> tricks Ariel would often torment him whenever Caliban neglected his work, which Prospero had commanded him to do.

Having these powerful spirits obedient to his will, Prospero could by their means command the winds and the waves of the sea. By his orders they raised a violent storm.

1 study (n) : a room especially for reading and writing

2 enchanted : held under the power of magic

3 witch (n) : a woman who has magic powers and makes bad things happen

4 sprite : a small playful imaginary creature with magic powers.

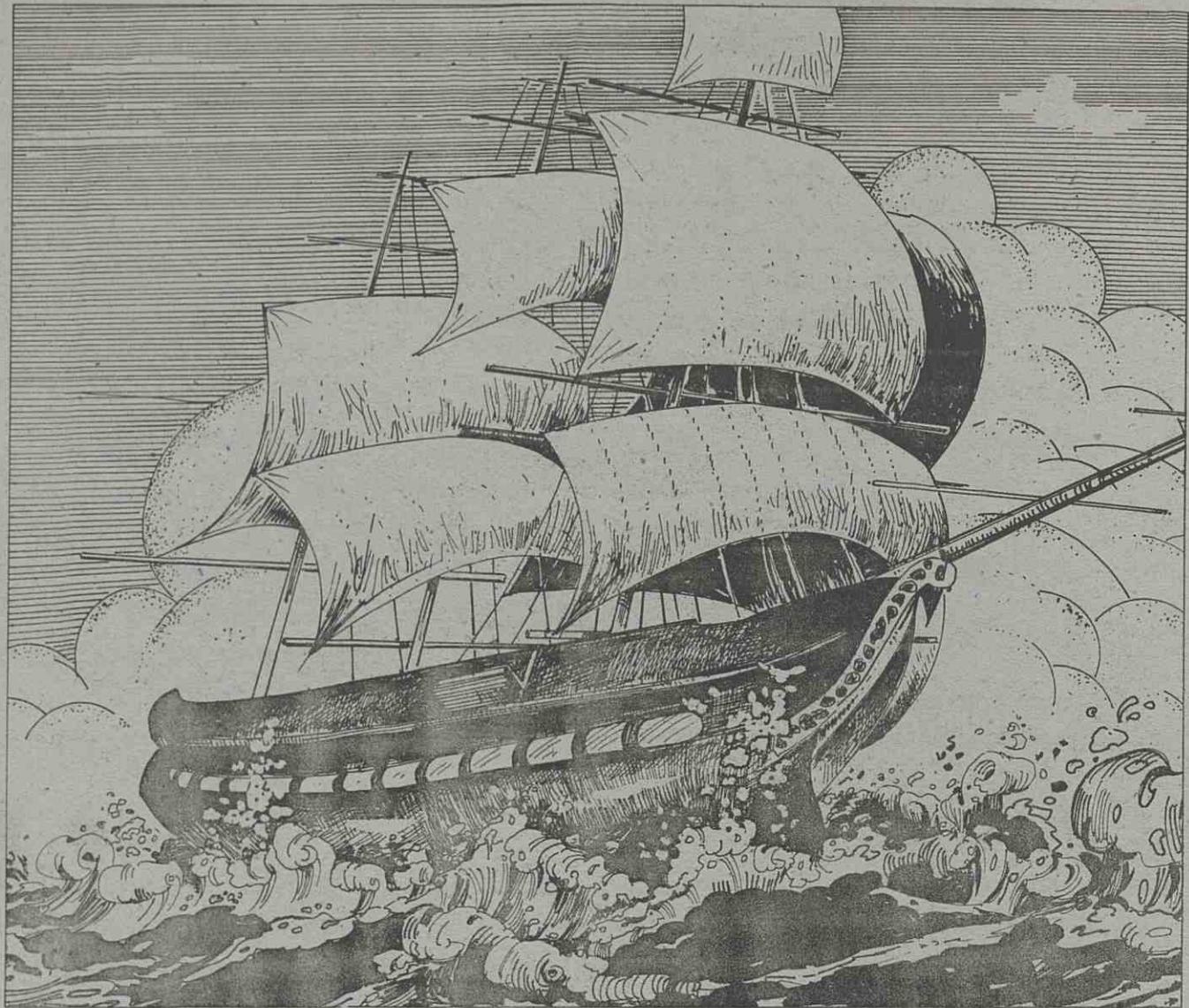
5 grudge (n) : a feeling of anger and dislike

6 ape : a large monkey without tail

7 slyly : in a clever and tricky way

8 hedgehog : a small animal whose body is round and covered with sharp spines.

9 vexatious : troublesome



In the midst of it and struggling with the wild sea-waves he showed his daughter Miranda a fine large ship. He told her it was full of living beings like themselves.

"O my dear father", said she, "if by your art you have raised this dreadful storm, have pity on them. See! The vessel will be dashed to pieces. Poor souls! they will all perish<sup>10</sup>. If I had power, I would sink the sea beneath the earth, rather than see the good ship destroyed, with all the precious souls within her."

"Be not so amazed, daughter Miranda", said Prospero, "there is no harm done. I

have so ordered it, that no person in the ship shall receive any hurt. What I have done has been for your sake, my dear child. You are ignorant<sup>11</sup> of who you are, or where you came from, and you know no more of me, but that I am your father, and live in this poor cave. Can you remember a time before you came to this cell? I think you cannot, for you were not then three years of age."

"Certainly I can, Sir", replied Miranda.

"What?" asked Prospero, "by any other house or person? Tell me; what you can remember, my child?"

10 perish : die

11 ignorant : lack of knowledge, unaware

Miranda said, "It seems to me like the recollection of a dream. But had I not once four or five women who attended upon me?"

Prospero answered, "You had, and more. How is it that this still lives in your mind? Do you remember how you came here?"

"No, Sir", said Miranda, "I remember nothing more."

"Twelve years ago, Miranda", continued Prospero, "I was the Duke of Milan, and you were a princess, my only heir. I had a

younger brother, whose name was Antonio, to whom I trusted everything. As I was fond of retirement<sup>12</sup> and deep study, I commonly left the management of my state affairs to your uncle, my false brother (for so indeed he proved). Neglecting all worldly ends, I read my books. I dedicated my whole time to the bettering of my mind. In possession of my power, my brother Antonio began to think himself the duke indeed. The opportunity I gave him of making himself popular among my subjects<sup>13</sup> awakened in his bad nature a proud ambition to deprive<sup>14</sup> me of



12 fond of  
retirement : keen to be free from active work

13 subjects : people in a country ruled by a king

14 deprive of : left without; to take away

my dukedom. This he soon effected with the aid of the king of Naples, a powerful prince, who was my enemy."

"Why?", said she, "did they not, that hour, destroy us?"

"My child", answered her father, "they dared not, so dear was the love that my people bore me. Antonio carried us on board a ship, and when we were some leagues out at sea, he forced us into a small boat, without either oars, tackle<sup>15</sup>, sail<sup>16</sup> or mast<sup>17</sup>. There he left us to perish. But a kind lord of my court named Gonzalo, had privately placed in the boat, water, provisions<sup>18</sup>, apparel<sup>19</sup>, and some books which I prized above my dukedom."

"O my father", said Miranda, "what a trouble must I have been to you then!"

"No, my love", said Prospero, "you were a little cherub<sup>20</sup> that did preserve me. Your innocent smiles made me bear up against my misfortunes. Our food lasted till we landed on this desert island, since when my chief delight has been in teaching you, Miranda, and well have you profited by my instructions."

"Heaven thank you, my dear father", said Miranda.

"Now pray tell me, sir, your reason for raising this sea storm?"

"Know then", said her father, "that by means of this storm, my enemies, the king of Naples, and my cruel brother, are cast ashore upon this island."

Having so said, Prospero gently touched his daughter with his magic wand<sup>21</sup>, and she fell fast asleep.

The spirit Ariel just then presented himself before his master, to give an account of the tempest<sup>22</sup> and how he had disposed of the ship's company. Though the spirits were always invisible to Miranda, Prospero did not want her to hear him talk to them. It would have seemed to her that her father was conversing with the empty air.

"My brave spirit!" said Prospero to Ariel, "how have you performed your task?"

Ariel gave a lively description of the storm, and of the terrors of the mariners<sup>23</sup> and how the king's son, Ferdinand, was the first who leaped into the sea, and his father thought he saw his dear son swallowed up by the waves and lost.

"But he is safe", said Ariel, "in a corner of the isle<sup>24</sup>, sitting with his arms folded, sadly lamenting<sup>25</sup> the loss of the king, his father, whom he concludes drowned. Not a hair of his head is injured, and his princely garments, though drenched<sup>26</sup> in the sea-waves, look fresher than before."

15 tackle (n) : ropes and pulleys controlling a ship's sails

16 sail (n) : a long piece of cloth fixed onto a boat to make it move with the wind

17 mast : a long pole on which the sail is hung

18 provisions : food supplies: especially for a journey

19 apparel : formal clothes

20 cherub : a small pretty child

21 magic wand : a thin stick carried by magicians to perform magics

22 tempest : violent storm

23 mariners : sailors

24 isle : island

25 lament : weep for

26 drench : extremely wet

"That's my delicate Ariel", said Prospero. "Bring him hither: my daughter must see this young prince. Where is the king, and my brother?"

"I left them", answered Ariel, "searching for Ferdinand, whom they have little hope of finding, thinking they saw him perish. Of the ship's crew not one is missing, though each one thinks himself the only one saved: and the ship, though invisible to them, is safe in the harbour."

"Ariel", said Prospero, "thy charge is faithfully performed; but there is more work yet."

"Is there more work?" asked Ariel. "Let me remind you, master, you have promised me my liberty. I pray remember, I have done you worthy service, told you no lies, made no mistakes, served you without grudge or grumbling<sup>27</sup>."

"How now", said Prospero, "you do not recollect what a torment I freed you from. Have you forgotten the wicked witch Sycorax, who with age and envy was almost bent double? Where was she born? Speak: tell me."

"Sir, in Algiers", said Ariel.

"O was she so?" said Prospero. "I must recount<sup>28</sup> what you have been, which I find you do not remember. This bad witch, Sycorax, for her witchcrafts was banished<sup>29</sup> from

Algiers, and here left by the sailors: and because you were a spirit too delicate to execute<sup>30</sup> her wicked commands, she shut you up in a tree, where I found you howling. This torment, remember, I did free you from."

"Pardon me, dear master", said Ariel, ashamed to seem ungrateful, "I will obey your commands."

"Do so", said Prospero, "and I will set you free."

He then gave further orders, and away went Ariel, first to where he had left Ferdinand. He found him still sitting on the grass in the same melancholy<sup>31</sup> posture.

"O my young gentlemen," said Ariel when he saw him, "I will soon move you. You must be brought for the Lady Miranda to have a sight of your pretty person. Come, Sir, follow me." He then began singing :

Full fathom five thy father lies;  
Of his bones are coral made;  
These are pearls that were his eyes:  
Nothing of him that doth fade.  
But doth suffer a sea-change  
Into something rich and strange  
Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:  
Hark! now I hear them, Ding-dong, bell."

27 grumbling : to keep complaining in an unhappy way

28 recount : to tell someone something

29 banish : send away from one's country

30 execute : carry out

31 melancholy : sad

## II

This strange news of his lost father soon roused the prince from the stupor<sup>1</sup> into which he had fallen. He followed in amazement the sound of Ariel's voice, till it led him to Prospero and Miranda, who were sitting under the shade of a large tree. Miranda had never seen a man before, except her own father.

"Miranda," said Prospero, "tell me what you are looking at yonder<sup>2</sup>."

"O father", said Miranda, in a strange surprise, "surely that is a spirit. Lord! How it looks about! Believe me, Sir, it is a beautiful creature. Is it not a spirit?"

"No, girl", answered her father, "it eats, and sleeps, and has senses such as we have. This young man you see was in the ship. He is somewhat altered by grief, or you might call him a handsome person. He has lost his companions, and is wandering about to find them."

Miranda, who thought all men had grave faces and grey beards like her father, was delighted with the appearance of this handsome young prince.

Ferdinand saw such a lovely lady in this desert place and from the strange sounds he had heard, expected nothing but wonders. He thought he was upon an enchanted island, and that Miranda was the goddess of the place, and as such he began to address her.

She timidly answered that she was no goddess, but a simple maid, and was going to give him an account of herself, when Prospero interrupted her.

Prospero was well pleased to find they admired each other, for he plainly perceived<sup>3</sup> they had fallen in love at first sight. But to try Ferdinand's constancy<sup>4</sup>, he resolved to throw some difficulties in their way. Therefore advancing forward, he addressed the prince with a stern air, telling him, he had come to the island as a spy, to take it from him.

"Follow me", said he, "I will tie your neck and feet together. You shall drink sea water, shell-fish, withered<sup>5</sup> roots, and husks of acorns<sup>6</sup> shall be your food."

"No", said Ferdinand, "I will resist such entertainment till I see a more powerful enemy", and drew his sword. But Prospero waving his magic wand, fixed him to the spot where he stood, so that he had no power to move.

Miranda knelt before her father saying, "Why are you so ungentle<sup>7</sup>? Have pity, Sir, I will be his surety. This is the second man I ever saw, and to me he seems a true one."

"Silence", said the father. "One word more will make me chide<sup>8</sup> you, girl! What! an advocate for an impostor!<sup>9</sup> You think

1 stupor : a state in which one cannot think or use one's senses

2 yonder : over there

3 perceive : understand

4 constancy : (here) loyalty

5 withered : dried and useless

6 acorns : the nut of oak tree

7 ungentle : unkind

8 chide : scold; speak angrily

9 impostor : a person pretending to be somebody else

there are no more such fine men, having seen only him and Caliban. I tell you, foolish girl, most men far excel this, as he does Caliban."

He said this to prove his daughter's constancy.

She replied, "My affections are most humble. I have no wish to see a goodlier<sup>10</sup> man."

"Come on, young man", said Prospero to the prince. "You have no power to disobey me."

"I have not indeed," answered Ferdinand.

He did not know that it was by magic he was deprived of all power of resistance. He was astonished to find himself so strangely compelled to follow Prospero looking back on Miranda as long as he could see her. As he went after Prospero into the cave he said, "My spirits are all bound up as if I were in a dream, but this man's threats, and the weakness which I feel, would seem light to me if from my prison I might once a day behold this fair maid."

Prospero kept Ferdinand not long confined within the cell. He soon brought out his prisoner, and set him a severe task to perform, taking care to let his daughter know the hard labour he had imposed on him, then pretending to go into his study he secretly watched them both.

Prospero had commanded Ferdinand to pile<sup>11</sup> up some heavy logs of wood. Kings' sons not being much used to laborious work,

Miranda soon after found her lover almost dying with fatigue.

"Alas!" said Miranda, "do not work so hard, my father is at his studies; we are safe for these three hours; pray rest yourself."

"O my dear lady", said Ferdinand, "I dare not. I must finish my task before I take my rest."

"If you will sit down", said Miranda, "I will carry your logs the while." But this Ferdinand would by no means agree to. Instead of a help Miranda became a hindrance, for they began a long conversation. So the business of log carrying went on very slowly.

Prospero, who had imposed this task on Ferdinand, merely as a trial of his love, was not at his books, as his daughter supposed. He was standing by them invisible to overhear<sup>12</sup> what they said.

Ferdinand inquired her name which she told him. She said it was against her father's express command that she did so. Prospero only smiled at this first instance of his daughter's disobedience, for, having by his magic art, caused his daughter to fall in love so suddenly: He was not angry that she showed her love by forgetting to obey his commands. And he listened well pleased to a long speech of Ferdinand's, in which he professed he loved her above all the ladies he ever saw.

In answer to his praises of her beauty, which he said, surpassed<sup>13</sup> that of all the women in the world, she replied, "I do not

10 goodlier : handsome

11 pile up : gather up, accumulate

12 overhear : hear without the knowledge of the speaker

13 surpass : exceed

remember the face of any woman, nor have I seen any more men than you; my good friend, and my dear father. How people look like in other places, I know not; but believe me, Sir, I would not wish any companion in the world but you, nor can my imagination form any shape but yours that I could like. But, Sir, I fear I talk to you too freely, and my father's precepts I forget."

At this Prospero smiled, and nodded his head, as much as to say, "This goes on exactly as I could wish. My girl will be queen of Naples."

And then Ferdinand, in another fine long speech (for young princess speak in courtly phrases<sup>14</sup>) told the innocent Miranda he was heir to the crown of Naples, and that she should be his queen.

"Ah! Sir", said she, "I am a fool to weep at what I am glad of. I will answer you in plain and holy innocence. I am your wife if you will marry me."

Prospero prevented Ferdinand's thanks by appearing visible before them.

"Fear nothing, my child", said he, "I have overheard, and approve of all you have said. And, Ferdinand, if I have too severely treated you, I will make you rich compensation, by giving you my daughter. All your

vexations<sup>15</sup> were but trials of your love, and you have nobly stood the test. Then as my gift, which your true love has worthily purchased, take my daughter, and do not smile that I boast she is above all praise."

He then, telling them that he had business which required his presence, desired they would sit down and talk together till he returned; and this command Miranda seemed not at all disposed to disobey.

When Prospero left them, he called his spirit Ariel who quickly appeared before him, eager to tell what he had done with Prospero's brother and the King of Naples. Ariel said he left them almost out of their senses with fear, at the strange things he had caused them to see and hear. When fatigued with wandering about, and famished<sup>16</sup> for want of food, he had suddenly set before them a delicious banquet<sup>17</sup>. Just as they were going to eat, he appeared before them in the shape of a harpy<sup>18</sup>, a voracious monster with wings, and the feast vanished away. Then, to their utter amazement, this seeming harpy spoke to them reminding them of their cruelty in driving Prospero from his dukedom, and leaving him and his infant daughter to perish in the sea saying, that for this cause these terrors were allowed to afflict them.

14 courtly  
phrases : polite words

15 vexation : difficulties

16 famish : very hungry

17 banquet : formal dinner for

18 harpy : an evil creature (old stories) with the head of a woman and body of a bird

### III

The king of Naples, and Antonio the false brother, repented<sup>1</sup> the injustice they had done to Prospero. Ariel told his master, he was certain their penitence<sup>2</sup> was sincere. Though a spirit he could not but pity them.

"Then bring them here Ariel", said Prospero, "if you who are but a spirit, feel for their distress, shall not I, who am a human being like themselves, have compassion on them? Bring them, quickly, my dainty<sup>3</sup> Ariel."

Ariel soon returned with the king Antonio, and old Gonzalo in their train, who had followed him, wondering at the wild music he played in the air to draw them into his master's presence. This Gonzalo was the same who had so kindly provided Prospero formerly with books and provisions, when his wicked brother left him as he thought, to perish in an open boat in the sea.

Grief and terror had so stupefied<sup>4</sup> their senses, that they did not know Prospero. He first discovered himself to the good old Gonzalo, calling him the preserver of his life; and then his brother and the king knew that he was the injured Prospero.

With tears and sad words of sorrow and true repentance Antonio implored his brother's forgiveness, and the king expressed his sincere remorse<sup>5</sup> for having assisted Antonio to depose his brother.

Prospero forgave them and in return for his dukedom, he said to the king of Naples, "I have a gift in store for you too", and opening a door, showed him his son Ferdinand playing chess with Miranda.

Nothing could exceed the joy of the father and the son at this unexpected meeting, for each thought the other had drowned in the storm.

"O wonder!" said Miranda, "what noble creatures these are! It must surely be a brave world that has such people in it."

The king of Naples was almost as much astonished at the beauty and excellent graces of the young Miranda, as his son had been.

"Who is this maid?" said he, "she seems the goddess that has parted us and brought us thus together."

"No, Sir," answered Ferdinand, smiling to find his father had fallen into the same mistake that he had done when he first saw Miranda, "she is a mortal but by immortal providence she is mine. I chose her when I could not ask you, my father, for your consent. I thought you were not alive. She is the daughter to this Prospero, who is the famous duke of Milan. His renown<sup>6</sup> I have heard so much but never saw him till now. Thanks to him; I have received a new life. He has made himself to me a second father, giving me this dear lady."

"Then I must be her father", said the king, "but oh! how oddly will it sound, that I must ask my child forgiveness."

"No more of that" said Prospero, "let us not remember past troubles since they so happily have ended."

Prospero embraced his brother, and again assured him of his forgiveness. He

1 repent : feel sorry for; regret

2 penitence : repentance

3 dainty : pretty and delicate

4 stupefied : surprised greatly

5 remorse : feeling of guilt for having done wrong

6 renown : fame

said that a wise overruling providence had permitted that he should be driven from his poor dukedom of Milan so that his daughter might inherit the crown of Naples. "Thus we met in this desert island and the king's son had loved Miranda."

These kind words of Prospero filled Antonio with shame and remorse. He wept and was unable to speak.

The kind old Gonzalo wept to see this joyful reconciliation<sup>7</sup>, and prayed for blessings on the young couple.

Prospero now told them that their ship was safe in the harbour. The sailors were all on board her. He and his daughter would accompany them home the next morning. "In the meantime", he said, "partake<sup>8</sup> of such refreshments as my poor cave affords. For your evening's entertainment I will relate the history of my life from my first landing in this desert island."

He then called for Caliban to prepare some food, and set the cave in order. The company were astonished at the uncouth<sup>9</sup> form and savage appearance of this ugly monster. He was the only attendant he had, to wait upon him.

Before Prospero left the island, he let Ariel go from his service, to the great joy of that lively little spirit. Though he had been a faithful servant to his master he was always longing to enjoy his liberty, to wander uncontrolled in the air, like a wild bird, under green trees, among pleasant fruits, and sweet smelling flowers.

"My quaint Ariel" said Prospero to the little sprite when he made him free, "I shall miss you; yet you shall have your freedom."

"Thank you, my dear master," said Ariel, "but give me leave to attend your ship home with prosperous gales before you bid farewell to the assistance of your faithful spirit; and then, master, when I am free, how merrily I shall live!" Here Ariel sung this pretty song:

'Where the bee sucks, there suck I;  
In a cowslip's bell I lie,  
There I couch when owls do cry.  
On the bat's back I do fly  
After summer merrily.  
Merrily, merrily shall I live now  
Under the blossom that hangs on the  
bough.'

---

bee : a sting insect which sucks the sweetness out of flowers

cowslip : a yellow flower

couch : a kind of bed

there I couch : there I lie down to sleep

owl bat : both fly at night

blossom : flowers

bough : a branch of a tree

---

Prospero then buried deep in the earth his magical books and wand, for he was resolved never more to make use of the magic art. Having thus overcome his enemies, and being reconciled to his brother and the king of Naples, nothing now remained to complete his happiness, but to revisit his native land, to take possession of his dukedom. He also wished to witness the happy nuptials<sup>10</sup> of his daughter and Prince Ferdinand, which the king said should be instantly celebrated with great splendour on their return to Naples.

Under the safe convoy of the Spirit Ariel, after a pleasant voyage, they soon arrived home.

---

7 reconciliation : becoming friendly

8 partake : participate

9 uncouth : awkward

10 nuptial : the marriage ceremony

## ACTIVITIES

### PART I

**A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:**

1. Where did Prospero and Miranda live in the island? What kind of a residence was it?
2. Who was Sycorax? Why had she imprisoned the other spirits in the island?
3. What did Prospero do with the spirits imprisoned by Sycorax?
4. Where did Prospero find Caliban? What did he do with him?
5. How did Ariel annoy Caliban whenever he neglected his work?
6. What did Prospero do in the wild sea, with the help of his obedient spirits?
7. What did Miranda request her father, when she saw the wild storm?
8. How did Antonio become the Duke of Milan?
9. How did Sycorax happen to be banished from Algiers?
10. Who was Gonzalo? What help did he provide in the boat for Prospero and Miranda?

**B. Say whether the following statements are TRUE/FALSE:**

1. Ariel was a lively spirit who loved Caliban very much.
2. Prospero was always interested in books and magic.
3. Caliban changed his shape to a hedgehog to frighten Ariel.

4. Miranda felt pity over the people in the sinking ship.
5. Miranda remembers four or five women who attended her in her childhood.
6. Prospero and Miranda willingly got into a small boat without any tackle, sail or mast.
7. Sycorax was a spirit born in Algiers.
8. Prospero had helped Antonio to become popular among his subjects.
9. Whenever Caliban neglected his work, Ariel troubled him.
10. Sycorax had released many good spirits from the hollows of trees.

**C. Answer each of the following questions in a paragraph:**

1. Describe in detail the wild storm raised by Prospero's obedient spirits.
2. Describe how Ariel treated the lazy Caliban at work?
3. Describe how Prospero and Miranda happened to be in the island?

### PART II

**A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:**

1. Why did Miranda think that Ferdinand was a spirit?
2. Why did Ferdinand think that Miranda was a goddess?

3. Why did Prospero get "angry" towards Ferdinand?
4. When did Miranda request her father take pity on Ferdinand?
5. Why did Prospero scold his daughter?
6. "You have no power to disobey me." Why couldn't Ferdinand disobey Prospero?
7. "My spirits are all bound up as if I were in a dream." What made Ferdinand say this?
8. What did Prospero order Ferdinand after releasing him. Why?
9. What did Prospero do after giving a severe task to Ferdinand?
10. Why did Miranda ask Ferdinand to stop pulling up the logs?
11. What was the first instance of disobedience from Miranda? Why did Prospero smile at this?
12. "This goes on exactly as I could wish." What made Prospero say this?
13. How did Prospero compensate for his harsh behaviour towards Ferdinand?
14. Why did Prospero call Ariel soon after giving his daughter to Ferdinand as a gift? What did Ariel tell him?

**B. Answer the following in a paragraph each:**

1. How did Prospero test the constancy of love between his daughter Miranda and Ferdinand?
2. What was Prospero's attitude to Ferdinand at first? How did it change later?
3. Describe Ferdinand as a prisoner of Prospero?

**C. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative from those given below:**

1. As soon as Ferdinand and Miranda saw each other, they.....  
  - (a) fell in love.
  - (b) got frightened.
  - (c) began to scold each other.
  - (d) began to run away.
2. The expression "till I see a more powerful enemy" means  
  - (a) till you become more powerful than me
  - (b) till you become as powerful as I am
  - (c) till my enemy proves that he is more powerful than me
  - (d) till I become more powerful than you
3. Prospero, after giving a difficult task to Ferdinand went to his study room because.....  
  - (a) he wanted to study more about magic.
  - (b) he wanted to overhear the conversation between Ferdinand and Miranda.
  - (c) he did not like to be present in the presence of Ferdinand.
  - (d) he disliked the company of Ferdinand and Miranda.
4. Ferdinand thought that Miranda was a goddess because.....  
  - (a) she appeared strangely beautiful in that desert place.
  - (b) he thought that the island was inhabited by gods and goddesses.
  - (c) he saw Ariel bowing before her.
  - (d) he saw Miranda doing wonders.

5. The king and his men could not have the dinner because.....

- (a) the harpy had frightened them.
- (b) they were not hungry.
- (c) the dinner disappeared suddenly.
- (d) Ariel ate it up.

### PART III

#### A. Answer each of the following questions in two or three sentences:

1. How did Gonzalo show his kindness to Prospero when his wicked brother left him in the sea?
2. What was the gift of Prospero to the king of Naples? How was it helpful to restore the dukedom?
3. What noble creatures these are! Who expressed this feeling and when?
4. What made the king of Naples think that the young maid was a goddess?
5. How did Ferdinand introduce Prospero to his father?
6. How did Prospero console his brother when he expressed his repentance?
7. Why did Antonio weep before Prospero?
8. How did Ariel express his gratitude towards Prospero?

#### B. Answer the following in a paragraph each:

1. Explain the feelings of Ariel when his master announced his release?

2. How did Ariel serve Prospero?

#### C. Choose the correct answer for each question from those given below:

1. "The uncouth form and savage appearance of this ugly monster." Who is referred to here?
  - (a) Ariel
  - (b) Antonio
  - (c) Caliban
  - (d) Gonzalo
2. Who made the return voyage of Prospero and others safe?
  - (a) Caliban
  - (b) Ariel
  - (c) The Spirits
  - (d) Gonzalo.
3. Prospero buried his magical books and wand deep in the earth. Why?
  - (a) he did not like the art of magic
  - (b) he was afraid of spirits
  - (c) he overcame his enemies and got reconciled with them
  - (d) he let Ariel free.
4. When Prospero dismissed Ariel from his service, the spirit became.....
  - (a) happy
  - (b) angry
  - (c) disappointed
  - (d) envious

Lear was the King of Britain. He had three daughters. Goneril, the eldest was wife to the Duke of Albany. Regan, the second was wife to the Duke of Cornwall, Cordelia, a young maid was the youngest. For Cordelia's love the King of France and Duke of Burgundy were suitors<sup>1</sup>. They were at this time staying in the court of Lear in order to win her love.

When the king became old and weak he decided to leave the management of his kingdom in younger hands, so that he might spend the rest of his life in peace. He called his three daughters to him, to know from their own lips, which of them loved him best, so that he might divide his kingdom among them in proportion to their affection for him.

Goneril said that she loved her father more than words could say. He was dearer to her than the light of her own eyes, dearer than life and liberty. Weak and foolish in his old age, Lear did not realize the insincerity of her words. Lear was delighted to hear from her own mouth this assurance of her love. He thought truly that her heart went with it. With fatherly fondness<sup>2</sup> the king bestowed<sup>3</sup> upon her and her husband one-third of his large kingdom.

Calling to him his second daughter, he then asked her what she had to say. Regan was equally sweet and insincere as her sister. Regan said her love for her father was greater. She found all other joys less than the pleasure which she took in the love of her dear father.

Lear blessed himself in having such loving children, as he thought, and bestowed a third of his kingdom upon Regan and her husband. It was equal in size to what he had already given away to Goneril.

Turning to his youngest daughter Cordelia, whom he called his joy, he asked her what she had to say. He expected that she would please his ears with loving speeches. He thought her love would be so much stronger than that of her sisters. She had always been his darling, and favoured by him above either of them. But Cordelia was disgusted with<sup>4</sup> the flattery of her sisters. She knew that they and their husbands only wanted to satisfy their selfishness. So she only said that she loved his majesty<sup>5</sup> according to her duty, neither more nor less.

The king was shocked with this seeming ingratitude in his favourite child. He asked her to consider her words, and to mend<sup>6</sup> her speech if she did not want to lose her fortune.

1 suitor : one who seeks the love of a woman to marry her

2 fondness : love

3 bestowed upon : gave to

4 disgusted with : feel strong dislike for

5 majesty : (here) the king

6 mend : (here) correct a mistake



Cordelia then told her father that he had brought her up properly and loved her. She added that she returned her duties fully. She did obey him, love him, and most honour him. But she could not speak as her sisters had done, or promise to love nothing else in the world. If ever she married she had to give half of her love, half of her care and duty to her husband. She should never marry like her sisters, only to love her father all.

Cordelia loved her old father very much.

She would have plainly told him so at some other time. The crafty flattering speeches of her sisters had brought them big rewards. She thought the best thing for her to do was to love her father and be silent. This showed that she loved but not for gain, and that her words had so much more of truth and sincerity than those of her sisters.

This simplicity of speech Lear called pride. It angered the old monarch. His old

age had so clouded his reason that he could not tell truth from flattery nor false speech from words that came from the heart.

In a fury of resentment<sup>7</sup>, he took away the third part of his kingdom, which he had reserved for Cordelia. Dividing it equally between her two sisters, he gave it to them. He then called them to him, and in the presence of all his courtiers, gave them jointly all the power, revenue and the responsibility of running the government. He only retained to himself the name of king. All the rest of

royal privileges he gave up with the condition that himself, with a hundred attendant knights was to be looked after, in turn in each of his daughter's palaces for a month at a time.

So preposterous<sup>8</sup> a disposal of his kingdom, so little guided by reason and so much by passion, filled all his courtiers with astonishment<sup>9</sup> and sorrow. But none of them had the courage to speak up to the angry king except the Earl<sup>10</sup> of



7 resentment : anger

9 astonishment : surprise

8 preposterous : thoughtless; foolish, absurd

10 Earl : British nobility of high rank  
governs a region (eg : Earl of Warwick)

Kent. He was about to speak a good word for Cordelia, when the furious Lear commanded him on pain of death to keep quiet, but the good Kent was not so to be stopped. He had always been loyal to Lear. He had honoured him as a king, loved him as a father, followed him as a faithful servant. He bravely opposed Lear only to do him good. He was disobedient only because Lear was mad. He had been a most faithful counsellor in the past to the king. It was rashness on the part of the king that he thought his youngest daughter did not love him the least.

The honest words of the Earl of Kent only stirred up<sup>11</sup> the king's wrath<sup>12</sup> the more. Like a mad patient who kills his physician, and loves his deadly disease, he banished<sup>13</sup> this true servant, the Earl of Kent, and allowed him only five days to prepare for his departure. But if he was found within the kingdom of Britain, he would be put to death. Kent said farewell to the king, and recommended Cordelia to the protection of the Gods. He only wished that her sisters' sweet speeches might be followed with deeds of love and then he went away.

The King of France and Duke of

Burgundy were now called in to hear the decision of Lear about his youngest daughter. The king wanted to know whether they would continue their courtship to Cordelia. She was under her father's displeasure, and had no fortune. She had only herself to recommend her. The Duke of Burgundy declined<sup>14</sup> the match, and would not accept her. But the King of France took the young maid saying that her virtues<sup>15</sup> were a dowry above a kingdom. He told Cordelia to take farewell of her sisters and of her father. He wanted her to join him, and be his queen and the Queen of fair France. He called the Duke of Burgundy a waterish duke because his love for this young maid had, in a moment, run all away like water.

Then Cordelia, with weeping eyes, took leave of her sisters. She prayed them to love their father well, and prove their word. They sullenly<sup>16</sup> told her not to prescribe<sup>17</sup> to them, for they knew their duty. They reminded her to do her best to please her husband.

With a heavy heart Cordelia departed, for she knew the cunning of her sisters. She wished her father were in better hands.

## II

No sooner did Cordelia go, than the devilish nature of her sisters began to show their true colour. Even before the end of the first month, with his eldest daughter

Goneril, the old king began to find out the difference between words and deeds. She had taken away everything she could from him including his crown. She hated to see

11 stirred up : provoked; caused

12 wrath : anger

13 banish : send away out of the country (as a punishment)

14 decline : refuse (politely) to do something

15 virtue : good quality

16 sullenly : silently showing anger and dislike

17 prescribe : give advice (as to how to do something)

him please his fancy with the idea of being still a king. She could not bear to see him and his hundred knights. Every time she met her father, she put on a frowning countenance<sup>1</sup>. When the old man wanted to speak with her, she would pretend to be sick. She wanted to get rid of the sight of him, for it was plain that she took him for a useless burden, and his attendants an unnecessary expense. Not only did she ignore her duty to the king, but she let her very servants follow her example. They would either refuse to obey his orders, or pretend not to hear them.

Lear noticed this change in the behaviour of his daughter. But he shut his eyes against it as long as he could. He was unwilling to believe that his own mistakes and obstinacy<sup>2</sup> had brought it all upon him.

Full of true love and loyalty the good Earl of Kent offered his services to the king, in the guise of a sewing man. Not knowing him to be Kent, Lear took him into his service by the name of Caius. That is what he called himself. He never suspected him to be his once great favourite, the high and mighty earl. The king was pleased with his plainness<sup>3</sup>.

Caius quickly found means to show his faithfulness and love to his royal master.

Goneril's steward<sup>4</sup> one day behaved in a disrespectful manner to Lear. He gave the king saucy<sup>5</sup> looks and language, encouraged by his mistress. Not enduring<sup>6</sup> to hear so open an insult put upon his majesty, Caius tripped up<sup>7</sup> his heels, and laid him in the kennel. For his friendly service Lear became more and more attached to him.

Kent was not the only friend Lear had. His fool, the court jester<sup>8</sup>, clung to Lear after he had given away his crown. By his witty sayings he would keep him in good humour. He sometimes also jeered<sup>9</sup> at his master for his folly in giving away his crown and his kingdom to his daughters.

This pleasant honest fool poured out<sup>10</sup> his heart even in the presence of Goneril herself. He compared the king to the hedge-sparrow, who feeds the young of the cuckoo till they grow old enough, and then has its beak bit off for its pains<sup>11</sup>. He said Lear was no longer Lear; but the shadow of Lear. For his free speeches he was once or twice threatened to be whipped.

The want<sup>12</sup> of respect was not the only thing the foolish fond father was to suffer from his unworthy daughter. She now plainly told him that his staying in her palace was inconvenient so long as

1 'put on a frowning

countenance' : show displeasure

2 obstinacy

: stubbornness

3 plainness

: simplicity; straight forwardness

4 steward

: servant (of a royal household)

5 saucy

: disrespectful

6 endure

: accept, permit, tolerate

7 trip up

: cause to slip or tumble (by catching the feet)

8 jester

: a clown

9 jeer

: mock, laugh rudely

10 poured out

: (here) said freely what he wanted to say

11 pains

: trouble one takes, services

12 want

: absence; lack

he insisted upon keeping a hundred knights; that this establishment<sup>13</sup> was useless and expensive, and only served to fill her court with riot and feasting<sup>14</sup>. She prayed him to lessen their number, and keep only a few old men with him.

Lear at first could not believe his eyes or ears, nor that it was his daughter who spoke so unkindly. He could not believe that she, who had received a crown from him could seek to cut off his train, and deny<sup>15</sup> him the respect due to his old age. But she persisted<sup>16</sup> in her undutiful demand.

The old man was so angry that he called her a detested<sup>17</sup> kite, and said that her complaint was baseless. The hundred knights were all men of choice<sup>18</sup> behaviour and sober<sup>19</sup> manners, skilled in duty and not given to rioting or feasting, as she said.

He ordered his horses to be prepared, for he and his hundred knights would go

to his other daughter, Regan. He spoke of ingratitude, and said Goneril was a 'marble-hearted devil.' He cursed his eldest daughter in terrible words, praying that she might never have a child. If she had one, it might live to return that scorn and contempt upon her which she had shown to him. Then she might feel how sharper than a serpent's tooth it was to have a thankless child.

Goneril's husband, the Duke of Albany wanted to excuse himself for any unkindness on his part. Lear would not hear him out but in a rage ordered his horses to be saddled<sup>20</sup>, and set out with his followers for the palace of Regan, his other daughter.

Lear thought to himself how small the fault of Cordelia now appeared, in comparison with her sisters', and he wept; and then he was ashamed that such a creature as Goneril, should have made him weep.

### III

Regan and her husband were keeping their court in great pomp and state<sup>1</sup> at their palace. Lear sent his servant Caius with letters to his daughter. He wanted her to be prepared for his reception. He and his train followed.

Goneril also had sent letters to Regan, accusing her father of waywardness<sup>2</sup> and bad temper. She advised her not to receive so great a train as he was bringing with him. Her messenger arrived at the same time with Caius. It was Caius's old enemy,

13 establishment : staff or equipment of an organisation

14 riot and feasting : merry making and eating a great deal

15 deny : not to give; withhold

16 persist in : (here) continue to make

17 detest : hate

18 choice : best

19 sober : serious; sensible

20 saddle : get a horse ready for riding

1 pomp and state : show of splendour

2 waywardness : childish behaviour; changeable ways

the steward whom he had formerly tripped by the heels, for his saucy<sup>3</sup> behaviour to Lear. Not liking the fellow's look, and suspecting his intentions, Caius began to revile him and challenged him to fight. The fellow refused to fight. In a fit of anger Caius beat him soundly, as he deserved. When they heard it, Regan and her husband ordered Caius to be put in the stocks<sup>4</sup>, though he was a messenger from the king, her father, and because of that demanded the highest respect. So the first thing the king saw when he entered the castle, was his faithful servant Caius sitting in that disgraceful situation.

This was but a bad omen<sup>5</sup> of the reception Lear was to expect. But a worse thing followed. When asked about his daughter and her husband, Lear was told they were weary<sup>6</sup> with travelling all night, and could not see him. Only when he angrily demanded to see them, did they come to greet him. He also saw in their company the hated Goneril, who had come to tell her own story, and to set her sister against the king, her father.

This sight moved the old man very much. He was more pained to see Regan take her by the hand. Regan advised him to go home again with Goneril, and live with her peaceably, dismissing half of his attendants. He was told to ask her forgiveness for he was old and indiscreet<sup>7</sup>. Lear thought how preposterous<sup>8</sup> that would be, if he were to go

down on his knees, and beg of his own daughter for food and clothes. He argued against such an unnatural dependence, declaring his resolution<sup>9</sup> never to return to her, but to stay with Regan, with his hundred knights. He said that she should not forget the half of the kingdom which he had given her, and that her eyes were not fierce like Goneril's but mild and kind. And he said that rather than return to Goneril, with half his train cut off, he would go over to France, and beg a wretched pension from the King there, who had married his youngest daughter without a portion<sup>10</sup>.

But he was mistaken in expecting kinder treatment of Regan, than he had experienced from her sister Goneril. As if willing to outdo her sister in unfilial<sup>11</sup> behaviour, she declared that she thought fifty knights were too many to wait upon him; that five and twenty were enough.

Heart-broken Lear then turned to Goneril and said that he would go back with her, for, her fifty doubled five and twenty, and so her love was twice as much as Regan's. But Goneril excused herself, and said that there was not any need of so many as five-and-twenty or even ten or five. He might be waited upon by her servants, or her sister's servants. So these two wicked daughters tried to exceed each other in cruelty to their old father. He had been so good to them. By little and little, they

3 saucy : shameless, impudent

4 stocks : wooden frame in which a man's feet were locked as a punishment

5 omen : something supposed to indicate a coming event

6 weary : tired

7 indiscreet : not careful about what one says or does; foolish

8 preposterous : laughably foolish; unreasonable

9 resolution : a decision

10 portion : (here) dowry

11 unfilial : unfit for a son or daughter

would have cut down all his train and respect (little enough for him that once ruled a kingdom), which he had, to show that he had once been a king. But from a king to a beggar is a hard change, from commanding millions to be without one attendant; and it was the ingratitude in his daughters that pierced this poor king to the heart. With this double ill-treatment his wits<sup>12</sup> began to fail. He vowed revenge against those unnatural hags<sup>13</sup>, and to make examples of them.

While he was thus idly threatening what his weak arm could never carry out, there came on night and a loud storm of thunder and lightning with rain. His daughters still refused to admit his followers. So he called for his horses, and chose rather to face the utmost fury of the storm outside, than stay under the same roof with these ungrateful daughters. They allowed him to go out saying that the trouble which wilful<sup>14</sup> men get into are their just punishment. They shut their doors upon him.

## IV

The winds were high, and the rain had increased. The old man sallied forth to fight the elements<sup>1</sup> less sharp than his daughters' unkindness. For many miles around there was not a bush. There, upon a heath<sup>2</sup>, exposed to the fury of the storm in a dark night, did king Lear wander out and defy<sup>3</sup> the winds and the thunder. He bid the winds to blow the earth into the sea or swell<sup>4</sup> the waves of the sea till they drowned the earth, that no proof might remain of any such ungrateful animal as man.

The old king was now left with no other companion than the poor fool, who still stayed with him with his merry witticisms<sup>5</sup> to

outjest<sup>6</sup> misfortune. He said it was but a naughty night to swim in. He added that the king had better go in and ask his daughter's blessing.

Thus poorly accompanied, this once great monarch was found by his ever-faithful servant the good Earl of Kent, now transformed to Caius. He always followed his master close at his side. He thought the king did not know him to be the earl; and he said, "Alas! Sir, are you here? Creatures that love night, love no such nights as these. This dreadful storm had driven the beasts to their hiding places. Man's nature cannot endure<sup>7</sup> this kind of suffering."

12 wits : ability to reason intelligence

13 hag : ugly, unpleasant or evil woman

14 wilful : (of people) doing what one liked; not willing to listen to or obey others

1 the elements : (here) the thunder storm

2 heath : open land where grass bushes and other small plants grow

3 defy : challenge; oppose

4 swell : grow in size

5 witticism : a clever humorous saying

6 outjest : laugh at; ridicule

7 endure : tolerate; suffer

Lear rebuked<sup>8</sup> him and said one would not feel lesser evils when one suffered a greater malady<sup>9</sup>. When the mind is free the body can be attended to; but the temper<sup>10</sup> in his mind cut into his heart. He spoke of filial ingratitude, and said it was as if the mouth should tear the hand for lifting food to it: for parents were hands and food and everything to children.

But the good Caius at last persuaded the king to enter a little wretched hovel<sup>11</sup> which stood upon the heath. The fool first entered it but suddenly ran back terrified, saying that he had seen a spirit. But upon examination this spirit proved to be nothing more than a poor Bedlam beggar, who had crept into this deserted hovel for shelter. With his talk about devils the beggar frightened the fool. He was one of those poor

lunatics<sup>12</sup> who are either mad, or pretend to be so, so that they can extort charity from the compassionate<sup>13</sup> country people. They go about the country, calling themselves Poor Tom and Poor Turlygood saying, "Who gives anything to poor Tom?" They stick pins and nails and sprigs<sup>14</sup> of rosemary into their arms to make them bleed. With such horrible action and partly by prayers and partly with lunatic courses, they move to pity or terrify the ignorant country-folks into giving them alms<sup>15</sup>. This poor fellow was such a one; seeing him in so wretched a plight<sup>16</sup>, with nothing but a blanket about his loins to cover his nakedness, the king could not but think that the fellow was like him; some father who had given all away to his daughters. Nothing could bring a man to such wretchedness but having unkind daughters, thought the king.

## V

The good Caius plainly perceived that Lear was not in his straight mind. His daughters' ill treatment had really made him go mad. And now the loyalty of this worthy Earl of Kent showed itself in more essential services than before. With the assistance of some of the king's attendants who

remained loyal, he removed his royal master at day break to the castle of Dover<sup>1</sup>. Embarking<sup>2</sup> for France he himself hastened to the Court of Cordelia. In moving terms he reported the pitiful condition of her royal father, and described the inhumanity of her sisters. A good and loving child, Cordelia

<sup>8</sup> rebuke : scold

<sup>9</sup> malady : illness; terrible disease

<sup>10</sup> temper : angry, impatient state

<sup>11</sup> hovel : a small dirty hut

<sup>12</sup> lunatic : a mad man

<sup>13</sup> compassionate : feeling or showing pity or sympathy

<sup>14</sup> sprigs : a small twig or branch

<sup>15</sup> alms : money, food, cloths etc given to beggar

<sup>16</sup> plight : sad condition

<sup>1</sup> Dover : a British port

<sup>2</sup> embarking : starting on a trip



in tears asked her husband the king to embark for England, with a sufficient army to subdue<sup>3</sup> the cruel daughters and their husbands and restore<sup>4</sup> the old king, her father to his throne<sup>5</sup>. The king granted her wish. She set forth with a royal army and landed at Dover.

By some chance Lear escaped from his guardians whom the good Earl of Kent had put over him to take care of him in his lunacy. He was found by some of Cordelia's train, wandering about in the fields near Dover, in a pitiable condition. He was singing aloud to himself with a crown upon his head which he had made of straw, and nettles<sup>6</sup>,

and other wild weeds that he had picked up in the corn-fields. Cordelia was earnestly desirous of seeing her father. She was told, by the physicians, to put off<sup>7</sup> the meeting, till by sleep, and with the help of the herbs which they gave him, he should be restored to better health. Cordelia promised all her gold and jewels to the physicians who worked for the recovery of the old king. By the aid of the skilful physicians Lear was soon in a condition to see his daughter.

A tender sight it was to see the meeting between the father and the daughter, to see the struggles between the joy of

3 subdue : (here) defeat

6 nettles : a wild plant with hairy leaves which may sting

4 restore : put back (into the original position)

7 put off : postpone

5 throne : seat of king

the poor old king at beholding<sup>8</sup> again his once darling child, and the shame at receiving such filial kindness from her. He had cast her off for no fault of hers. His half crazed brain sometimes made him forget where he was, or who it was that so kindly kissed him and spoke to him; and then he would beg the bystanders not to laugh at him, if he were mistaken in thinking this lady to be his daughter Cordelia! He then fell on his knees to beg pardon of his child! She was kneeling all the while to ask a blessing of him and telling him that it did not become him<sup>9</sup> to kneel but it was her duty, for she was his child, his true and very child Cordelia! She kissed him (as she said) to kiss away all her sister's unkindness. She said that they might be ashamed of themselves, to turn their old kind father with his white beard, out into the cold air, while they enjoyed the fruits of his generosity, like a dog that bit a man but stayed by his fire to warm itself. Cordelia told her father how she had come from France to bring him assistance. Lear said that she must forget and forgive, for he was old and foolish, and did not know what he had done. She had great cause not to love him; but her sisters had none. Cordelia replied that she had no cause, no more than they had, to hate him.

So we will leave this old king in the protection of his dutiful and loving child. By the help of sleep and medicine, she and her physicians succeeded in bringing him

some peace which the cruelty of his other daughters had so violently shaken. Let us return to those cruel daughters.

Those monsters<sup>10</sup> of ingratitude, who had been so false to their old father, could not be expected to prove more faithful to their own husbands. They soon grew tired of paying even the appearance of duty and affection, and in an open way showed they had fixed their loves upon another man. The object of their guilty love was one and the same person. It was Edmund, a natural<sup>11</sup> son of the late Earl of Gloucester. By his treacheries<sup>12</sup> he had succeeded in disinheriting<sup>13</sup> his brother Edger, the lawful heir, from his earldom. By his wicked practices he was now earl himself. He was a wicked man, and a fit object for the love of such wicked creatures as Goneril and Regan. It so happened that the Duke of Cornwall, Regan's husband, died. Regan immediately declared her intention of wedding this Earl of Gloucester. This roused the jealousy of her sister to whom as well as to Regan, this wicked earl had many times professed love. Goneril found means to murder her sister by poison, but she was detected in the act, and imprisoned by her husband, the Duke of Albany.

For her guilty passion for the earl, Goneril in a fit<sup>14</sup> of disappointed love and rage, shortly put an end to her own life. Thus the justice of Heaven at last overtook these wicked daughters.

8 behold : to see

9 become him : be proper for him

10 monster : ugly, unnatural creature

11 natural : (here) born outside wedlock, ie. without the parents getting married; illegitimate.

12 treacheries : deceitful actions

13 disinherit : take away the right to receive property (from a parent)

14 fit : a sudden brief attack (of an emotion, illness etc)

All men wondered at the justice in their deserved death. The mysterious ways of the same power sadly brought about the unhappy fate of the young and virtuous daughter, the lady Cordelia. Her good deeds did seem to deserve a more fortunate end, but it is an awful truth, that innocence and piety<sup>15</sup> are not always successful in this world. The forces which Goneril and Regan had sent out commanded by the bad Earl of Gloucester were victorious. Cordelia, by the treachery of this wicked Earl who did not want any one to stand between him and the throne, ended her life in prison. Thus, Heaven took this innocent lady to itself in her young years, after showing her to the world as an illustrious<sup>16</sup> example of filial duty. Lear did not live for long after the death of his kind daughter.

The good Earl of Kent still attended on

15 piety : showing and feeling of great respect for God and religion

16 illustrious : brilliant, famous

his old master. He tried to make Lear understand that it was he who had followed him under the name of Caius; but Lear's crazy brain could not comprehend how that could be or how Kent and Caius could be the same person. So Kent thought it needless to trouble him with explanations at such a time; and Lear died soon after. His faithful servant followed him.

The judgment of Heaven overtook the bad Earl of Gloucester. His treasons<sup>17</sup> were discovered. He was slain<sup>18</sup> in single combat<sup>19</sup> with his brother, the lawful Earl. Goneril's husband, the Duke of Albany, was not guilty of the death of Cordelia. He had never encouraged his lady in her wicked acts against her father. The Duke ascended the throne of Britain.

17 treason : great disloyalty

18 slay : to kill

19 combat (n) : fight

## ACTIVITIES

### PART I

A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each :

1. Why did the King of France and the Duke of Burgundy stay in the court of Lear?

2. How did Goneril describe her love for her father?

3. How did Regan describe her love for her father?

4. Did Cordelia follow the example of her sisters in talking about her love for her father? Why?
5. What did Cordelia say to her father when Lear asked her to speak about her love for him?
6. Why was Cordelia disgusted with the speeches of her sisters?
7. What had clouded the king's reason? What were the consequences?
8. What condition did Lear set for his own maintenance? Did he think it was acceptable to his daughters?
9. How did the courtiers react to Lear's giving away of his kingdom?
10. Was the king's decision to give away his kingdom a wise one? Why?
11. Why did the Earl of Kent speak up to the king against his decision?
12. Why did Lear banish the Earl of Kent? Why did the king threaten him with death?
13. What did the Earl of Kent wish when he went away from the court?
14. Why did the King of France accept Cordelia's hand?
15. Why was the Duke of Burgundy called a 'waterish Duke'?

**B. Answer the following in a paragraph each:**

1. How did King Lear divide his kingdom among his daughters? For what reasons did he do so?
2. Was Cordelia dutiful to her father or was she unkind to him? How do you know?

3. Why was Lear shocked to hear Cordelia's words describing her love for her father? Why did he ask her to mend her speech? What warning did he give her?
4. Cordelia's parting words and her sisters' reaction to them.

**C. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative given :**

1. Lear was the king of
  - (a) Britain
  - (b) France
  - (c) Spain
  - (d) Italy
2. Lear decided to take no part in governing his kingdom because
  - (a) he wanted to live an idle life
  - (b) he was going on a pilgrimage
  - (c) he was old and weak
  - (d) he did not want to meet people
3. The king wanted to know which one of his daughters loved him best from
  - (a) reports of his courtiers
  - (b) their own words
  - (c) his own guesswork
  - (d) their actions
4. The old king decided to divide his kingdom among his daughters
  - (a) by drawing lots
  - (b) according to his love for them
  - (c) in proportion to their love for him
  - (d) according to the advice of his ministers

5. Goneril and Regan tried to

- flatter the king with empty words for personal gain
- show their true feelings towards their father
- be quiet about their love
- ignore Lear's demand to describe their love for him

6. Cordelia wanted to

- outdo her sisters in flattering her father
- be honest and unselfish in her words
- make the old king very angry
- get rid of her father

7. Lear blessed himself because

- he thought he was a grand old man respected by all
- his children helped him to free himself from the cares and worries of ruling over his kingdom
- he knew he was in perfect health and happiness
- he thought he had such loving children

## PART II

A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each :

- What did the old king learn before the end of his stay at Goneril's palace? Was he right?
- How did the Earl of Kent prove he was loyal to his master?
- What role do you think had a court jester

to play in the days of King Lear?

- What did the fool compare the plight of Lear with?
- Why is Lear described as the shadow of his old self?
- How did Lear finally react to Goneril's unkindness?
- Did Lear stop to hear out the Duke of Albany who wanted to excuse himself for any unkindness on his part? Why?
- Why did Lear weep when he set out to the palace of Regan?

B. Answer the following in a paragraph each :

- How did Goneril prove that the king was unwelcome at her palace?
- What were the tricks Goneril played to send away the old king?
- Give one example of a friendly service Caius rendered to Lear at Goneril's palace?
- Do you think the court jester was really a fool? Give one or two examples to prove your point.

C. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative given :

- The fool was threatened to be whipped
  - for his witty sayings
  - for his love of the king
  - for offending Goneril
  - for his careless ways.
- Lear appeared to be the fond foolish father for
  - he loved his children too much and expected them to flatter him

(b) he gave up power and privileges for nothing

(c) he took offence at the words of the fool

(d) he would get angry only with his children

3. Lear could not believe his eyes or ears because

- in his old age he was both blind and deaf
- it was dark and noisy
- he did not expect Goneril to be so unkind
- he thought the whole world had gone mad

4. Lear cursed Goneril that

- she might have many unkind children
- her children might teach her a bitter lesson
- she might never have a child or if she had one it might pay her back the same scorn and contempt she showed to him
- she might fall down dead at that very moment

### PART III

#### A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:

- Why did Goneril send a messenger to Regan ahead of Lear?
- What was the first thing Lear saw on arriving at Regan's palace? What impression did it make on him?

- What excuses did Regan give for not meeting Lear?
- What made Regan and her husband finally to come to greet the old king? Did they greet the king warmly?
- What was the purpose of Goneril in coming to Regan's palace and joining her at the time of the arrival of Lear?
- What was it that pierced the poor king to the heart? Why?
- What did Lear vow to do in order to teach his cruel daughters a lesson? Was he able to act on his words?

#### B. Answer the following in a paragraph each :

- Give an account of Caius' arrival and reception at the palace of Regan.
- Why did Caius not like the messenger sent by Goneril to Regan?
- Why was Caius put in the stocks?

#### C. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative given :

- Regan and her husband were keeping their court
  - with little show of luxury
  - with very few courtiers to attend on them
  - only once in a few days
  - in great pomp and state
- Caius beat Goneril's servant because
  - he had an old grudge against him
  - he thought the fellow was working against his master

(c) he was fond of picking quarrels  
 (d) he was told to do so

3. Lear asked Goneril to look at his old white beard  
 (a) to admire it  
 (b) to see if it needed trimming  
 (c) to remind her of the respect he deserved in his old age  
 (d) to find out if it had become whiter

4. Lear said he would rather go to France  
 (a) than return to Goneril.  
 (b) than live comfortably there  
 (c) than forget all about the past  
 (d) than prepare to take back his kingdom from his ungrateful daughters

5. King Lear's threats were idle  
 (a) for he always used to make empty threats  
 (b) because he had made them playfully  
 (c) for he only wanted to save his face  
 (d) as he was no longer a king

#### PART IV

##### A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each:

- Why did Lear say that the storm was less severe compared to greater maladies in life?
- How did Lear describe filial ingratitude to Caius?
- Why did the fool run back from a hovel which he had entered in order to escape from the storm?
- Who was it that the fool saw in the hovel? What was he doing there?

##### B. Answer the following in a paragraph each :

- Write a note on the plight of King Lear caught in the storm on the heath.
- How did Lear describe the misfortune he suffered?
- Describe the fool's encounter with the Bedlam beggar in the hovel.

C. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative given :

- The two cruel daughters said that if Lear chose to ride into a storm it was
  - something he wilfully brought upon himself.
  - because he was experienced in facing such storms.
  - impossible for them to stop him.
  - because he took pleasure in combatting the elements.
- The king said the mind became insensitive to
  - lesser sorrows when faced with great misfortune
  - all sorrows in old age

(c) everything except true happiness at all times

(d) to all feelings only rarely

3. The Bedlam beggar the fool met in the hovel was

- (a) really mad
- (b) feigning madness
- (c) was neither mad nor feigning madness
- (d) was either mad or feigning to be so

## PART V

### A. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each :

1. What did Caius think of Lear at the height of the storm?
2. Where did Caius take his master at the break of the day after the storm? How did he do it?
3. What did Cordelia ask for from her husband? Why?
4. What kind of a crown had Lear made for himself? Why was he singing?
5. Why were the father and daughter trying to kneel to each other?
6. Why did Lear say that Cordelia had to forget and forgive?
7. How was Lear restored to better health?
8. Why were the two elder sisters not expected to be faithful to their husbands?
9. How did Edmund prove that he was wicked?
10. What did Goneril do in order to win over her lover for herself?

11. What happened to Cordelia in the end?
12. Did Cordelia deserve her fate? Why?

### B. Answer the following in a paragraph each :

1. What did Caius do in France?
2. How was Lear discovered in the fields near Dover? Who discovered him?
3. Describe Cordelia's meeting with Lear at Dover.
4. Give an account of the guilty loves of Goneril and Regan:

### C. Complete the following sentences choosing the correct alternative given :

1. In France Caius spoke movingly
  - (a) against the cruel daughters.
  - (b) only about himself.
  - (c) for his old master in order to bring him help.
  - (d) in praise of Cordelia's love for the old king.
2. Cordelia was asked to meet Lear
  - (a) only after he was restored to a better state of mind.
  - (b) immediately on arrival at Dover.
  - (c) some time during the next day.
  - (d) not in the next few days.
3. The two elder sisters loved
  - (a) two different knights.
  - (b) one and the same person.
  - (c) their stewards.
  - (d) whoever loved them.

4. The justice of heaven

- (a) seemed to set the cruel sisters free.
- (b) appeared to be too early in punishing the cruel sisters.
- (c) did not work in the case of Goneril and Regan.
- (d) overtook the wicked daughters of the king in course of time.

5. Kent thought it needless to trouble Lear with explanations as to

(a) where he met the king's loving daughter.

(b) why he had lost his kingdom.

(c) who he really was.

(d) how he had forgotten everything.

6. The play ends on a happy note when

(a) the fool says goodbye.

(b) the storm is over.

(c) the stage is empty.

(d) the Duke of Albany ascends the throne.



Long ago there lived in Rome a statesman<sup>1</sup> and general<sup>2</sup> named Julius Caesar. He was returning to Rome after a great victory. He had defeated the sons of Pompey<sup>3</sup> in the battle of Munda in Spain. The common people took a holiday to celebrate Caesar's triumph<sup>4</sup> and to welcome him. They decorated the statues in the streets.

The Tribunes<sup>5</sup>, Flavius and Marullus, who hated Caesar, did not like the celebrations. They suspected that Caesar was so ambitious<sup>6</sup> that he wished to become the king of Rome. They rebuked<sup>7</sup> the commoners for forgetting Pompey so soon.

"Why should you rejoice? What wealth has Caesar brought home? He has defeated not the enemies of Rome, but the sons of Pompey, a great Roman. You should rather feel ashamed of your conduct. Assemble near the river Tiber and shed tears over Pompey, instead of strewing<sup>8</sup> flowers for Caesar", urged the Tribunes.

Ashamed and silent, the people gave up their rejoicing and went back to their homes. Soon, the Tribunes set about pulling down the decorations from the streets.

It was the celebrations of the Feast of

Lupercal, an important festival held in Rome. On the day of the feast, young noblemen would run a course round the city wall, carrying strips of leather with which they would strike the crowd. Women who wanted children would stand in their path and hold out their hands to be struck, since they believed that the touch would bring them what they wished. The Lupercal was a yearly festival of purification.

Into the bustling<sup>9</sup> street strode<sup>10</sup> Caesar, accompanied by his wife, Calphurnia, and his friends, Mark Antony and Brutus. Brutus' wife Portia, and a few others, namely, Decius, Cicero, Cassius and Casca followed them. Antony was taking part in the race.

"Calphurnia! Stand right in the path of Antony when he is running his course", Caesar called out to his wife. Then he turned to Antony and said, "Don't forget to touch Calphurnia."

The procession marched on, when a soothsayer<sup>11</sup> cried out from the crowd, "Caesar!"

"Who is it that calls me", enquired Caesar.

1 statesman : a person who plays an important part in the management of state affairs  
 2 general : an army officer  
 3 Pompey : a Roman general, Caesar's rival and old partner in the government, now dead  
 4 triumph : victory in a battle  
 5 Tribunes : Officials whose duty was to protect the rights of the common people against the nobles

6 ambitious : seeking more political power and mastery  
 7 rebuked : spoke sharply against; scolded  
 8 strewing : spreading; scattering  
 9 bustling : noisy  
 10 strode : walked with long steps  
 11 soothsayer : a person who tells the future

The soothsayer came forward and said, "Beware the ides<sup>12</sup> of March."

What danger could happen to him on March 15th? The cries of joy turned into a silence of fear. But Caesar dismissed him saying, "He's a dreamer. Let's leave him and go on our way."

As the procession passed along, Brutus and Cassius were left alone.

"Would you like to see the race, Brutus?" enquired Cassius.

"No, I wouldn't. I don't share Antony's enthusiasm for games."

"You're being less friendly than before, Brutus", complained Cassius.

"No, Cassius. I'm not unfriendly. I'm myself upset."

A shout could be heard from a distance evidently that of the crowd greeting Caesar.

"I'm afraid, the people are choosing Caesar for their king", said Brutus to Cassius.

"Then I must think that you're not in favour of such a king", remarked Cassius.

"I'm not, Cassius, although I love him well", replied Brutus.

The games of Lupercal were over and Caesar was returning home. Brutus was astonished to see the angry looks of Caesar. His followers looked disgraced and Calphurnia looked pale.

Caesar saw Brutus and Cassius from a distance.

12 Ides : days around the middle of the month (here) March 15

13 count on : rely on

14 forge : to make a copy of

"I prefer fat men to men like Cassius who has a lean and hungry look. He thinks too much. Such men are dangerous", Caesar said to Antony.

"Don't fear him, Caesar. He is a noble Roman", replied Antony.

When Caesar and his followers had walked past, Casca gave an account of what had happened at the games.

"Antony had thrice offered Caesar a crown, but Caesar refused it only because he was not certain that the crowd really wished it. He will accept it, if it is offered to him again."

These words made Brutus more anxious than ever. He left Cassius.

Cassius felt confident that he would be able to count on<sup>13</sup> Brutus' co-operation in his plot against Caesar. He planned to forge<sup>14</sup> some letters supposed to be written by the admirers of Brutus, urging him to save Rome from the clutches<sup>15</sup> of Caesar. The letters would all be thrown inside his house through the window.

That night, thunder and lightning shot across the skies, striking fear in the people. Casca and Cicero met in a street. Casca was upset by the sight of the strange scenes, events and unnatural happenings.

"I saw a slave holding up his left hand, and it was emitting<sup>16</sup> fire. A lion was wandering about in the Capitol<sup>17</sup>

15 clutches : strong hold

16 emitting : giving out

17 Capitol : a hill in Rome on which stood the great temple of Jupiter

Men were found walking in flames. A night-owl sat in the market place at noon and shrieked", narrated Casca to Cicero.

Cicero was, however, unaffected by these happenings. Soon he left Casca. Then came Cassius.

"These strange happenings are a warning to Rome that one man has grown too powerful", said Cassius to Casca.

"Is it not Caesar that you mean, Cassius", asked Casca.

"They say the senators are going to crown Caesar tomorrow?" continued Casca.

Cassius was shocked at the news. "If this happens, I'll kill myself. I wish the Romans had more strength and sense of pride to deal with Caesar", he exclaimed.

Casca agreed with the sentiments<sup>18</sup> expressed by Cassius. He was ready to join the conspiracy<sup>19</sup>. The two men were joined by another conspirator<sup>20</sup>, Cinna. Cassius gave him the letters to be thrown inside Brutus' house. Cassius and Casca resolved<sup>21</sup> to go and see Brutus in his house and persuade him to join them. They believed that once Brutus was on their side, their cause would be justified<sup>22</sup> by the public:

## II

It was midnight. Brutus was in his orchard<sup>1</sup>. He was debating with himself whether or not Caesar would be an unjust ruler. He did not hate Caesar personally, but there was something in Caesar which displeased him. The very thought of Caesar ascending the throne<sup>2</sup> made him upset. He decided that Caesar must die before he could gain absolute<sup>3</sup> power.

At that time, his servant, Lucius, entered with a letter which was found in the orchard. The letter urged Brutus to awake, strike and redress<sup>4</sup>. Once, an ancestor of Brutus drove the tyrant<sup>5</sup>, Tarquin,

from Rome. It was now the turn of Brutus to drive out another tyrant. He was convinced that the anonymous letters<sup>6</sup> had come from the free citizens, who loved democracy.

Soon the conspirators led by Cassius and Casca arrived.

"Good morning Brutus. Are we a trouble to you?" remarked Cassius.

Brutus welcomed Cassius. Cassius in turn introduced all the conspirators to Brutus – Trebonius, Decius, Casca, Cinna and Metellus.

18 sentiments : soft feelings

19 conspiracy : plot, plan to do evil things

20 conspirator : one who plots

21 resolved : made a firm decision

22 justify : to show that something is right

2 ascend the throne : to occupy the king's seat

3 absolute : total

4 redress : to remedy, reform

5 tyrant : a cruel and all-powerful ruler

6 anonymous letters : letters written by an unknown person

1 orchard : a garden of fruit trees

"Let's take a mutual oath<sup>7</sup> of faithfulness", suggested Cassius. "We needn't swear an oath; it is enough that our cause is just and we are true Romans", remarked Brutus.

A suggestion was made by Cassius at this moment.

"Cicero may be included in the group."

"Let's have him", supported Metellus.

But Brutus was against it and said, "Don't name him."

Decius then asked, "Who else besides Caesar should be killed?"

"Mark Antony should not be allowed to live after Caesar", exclaimed Cassius.

Brutus disagreed with Cassius.

"Antony will be powerless when Caesar is dead. He is only a limb<sup>8</sup> of Caesar, and can, therefore, be easily ignored. Our act is not a butchery<sup>9</sup> but a sacrifice<sup>10</sup>", remarked Brutus.

The next task was to tempt Caesar to come to the Capitol.

"I'm afraid Caesar may not come to the Capitol this morning. He has grown superstitious and may be persuaded by the priests to stay at home" said Cassius..

"Don't worry. I'll flatter<sup>11</sup> him into coming", said Decius.

7 mutual oath : an oath taken by each of them to the others

8 limb : a leg or an arm (here, an agent or servant)

9 butchery : cruel and unnecessary killing

All of them agreed to meet at eight in the morning to go along with Caesar to the Capitol.

When the conspirators had left, Portia, wife of Brutus, came to the garden.

"Brutus, my lord. Why are you so worried and impatient? What grief have you in your mind?" implored<sup>12</sup> Portia.

But Brutus sat silent and gloomy.

She knelt down before him and asked, "Am I not your wife? Tell me why you've been passing sleepless nights."

However hard she tried, he wouldn't tell her anything.

"I'll take you fully into my confidence<sup>13</sup> at the appropriate time", promised Brutus.

It was the morning of the Ides of March. The storm had not stopped. Calphurnia had been troubled by bad dreams. She had seen visions of murder three times. Caesar asked a servant to go to the priests and offer sacrifices to the gods.

Calphurnia came to Caesar and said, "Caesar, my lord. Kindly stay at home. Please don't go out. Too many terrible things have happened during the night."

10 sacrifice : an offering to god (here, a noble action)

11 flatter : to praise in an insincere way

12 implored : requested earnestly

13 take into confidence : to trust and reveal secrets to somebody.

"Who can prevent what the gods intend?" asked Caesar.

He had determined to go. He was not to be frightened.

"Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant<sup>14</sup> never taste death, but once", remarked Caesar.

Meanwhile, the servant returned with the priests to report that they had found no heart in one of the sacrificed animals. They took it as a bad omen and, therefore, warned Caesar not to go out. Calphurnia begged him on her knees to stay at home. Caesar, at first, brushed aside<sup>15</sup> these objections, but finally yielded to the request of his wife, agreeing to send word to the Senate that he was not well. He was thinking of sending Antony as his messenger, when Decius, one of the conspirators, came to prompt him to go to the Senate.

"Good morning, Caesar. I've come to take you to the Senate", said Decius.

"You're just in time to take a message to the senators. I won't come today", replied Caesar.

"Say he is sick", said Calphurnia.

"No, no. I've no need to lie. Simply tell them I will not come. That's enough", remarked Caesar.

Caesar told him about Calphurnia's dreams. She had seen Caesar's statue running with blood like a fountain, and many Romans happily washing their hands in it. Decius laughed away Caesar's fears by his clever words.

"Your statue spouting<sup>16</sup> blood and Romans washing their hands in it means that Rome will receive new strength and greatness from you", explained Decius.

"You see, the Senators plan to offer you a crown today. If you do not come, they may change their minds. It will also sound ridiculous to the Senators to hear that mighty Caesar stayed at home frightened by the dreams of his wife", he continued.

Decius' persuasive<sup>17</sup> eloquence<sup>18</sup> cheered Caesar up, and finally he decided to go.

Caesar called for his stately robe<sup>19</sup> as Brutus, Casca and the rest of the conspirators arrived to escort him to the Capitol. Caesar extended a hearty welcome to them. Antony also joined them soon. Before they started, Caesar invited them to have some wine with him. Then they all set out for the Senate meeting.

Artemidorous, a scholar and friend of Caesar, had got scent of the conspiracy. So, he set down his warning on a piece of paper.

14 the valiant : brave men

15 brushed aside : treated as unimportant

16 spouting : flowing or sending out

17 persuasive : convincing

18 eloquence : skilful use of language

19 stately robe : royal gown

"Caesar, beware of Brutus; take care of Cassius; do not come near Casca; keep a watch on Cinna; do not trust Trebonius; beware of Metellus; Decius does not like you; your security is threatened by conspiracy. May the mighty gods defend<sup>20</sup> you. Your admirer, Artemidorus."

He intended to hand it over to Caesar when he passed along.

Brutus had told Portia everything about the conspiracy. She stood in the street

in front of her house and urged Lucius to run immediately to the Senate House. She was anxious about the safety of Brutus and greatly concerned about<sup>21</sup> the possible consequences<sup>22</sup> of the conspiracy.

Portia was unable to stay at home. She was straining her ears to catch every sound that might come from the direction of the Senate House. She feared that the plot had been discovered. No longer able to control herself, she prayed to God to help Brutus in his enterprise<sup>23</sup>.

### III

Julius Caesar was approaching the Capitol surrounded by the conspirators. He noticed the soothsayer among the crowd.

"The Ides of March have come", exclaimed Caesar.

"Yes, Caesar, but not gone", replied the soothsayer.

Artemidorus now pressed into Caesar's hands the paper he had drawn up to warn him. But Caesar put him aside saying, "What concerns me personally<sup>1</sup> will be the last to receive attention."

Caesar disregarded all the warnings and went to the Senate House. He moved towards his chair. As pre-planned by the

conspirators, Trebonius drew Antony aside and Metellus pressed towards Caesar with a petition for the recall of his brother Publius from banishment<sup>2</sup>. Brutus and Cassius supported this appeal. But Caesar flatly rejected the request, saying, "Publius has been banished for good reason and he cannot be called back."

Brutus and the other conspirators crowded round Caesar. Suddenly, Casca shouted out, "Now let my hands speak for me!" and stabbed Caesar in the neck from behind. All the others rushed upon their victim. Brutus was the last to strike. When Caesar saw his dearest friend also strike him, he cried out in agony, "And you too Brutus!"

20 defend : to protect, to save

21 concerned about : anxious about

22 consequence : result, especially unpleasant, of an action

23 enterprise : daring plan

1 what concerns me personally : what is a personal matter to me

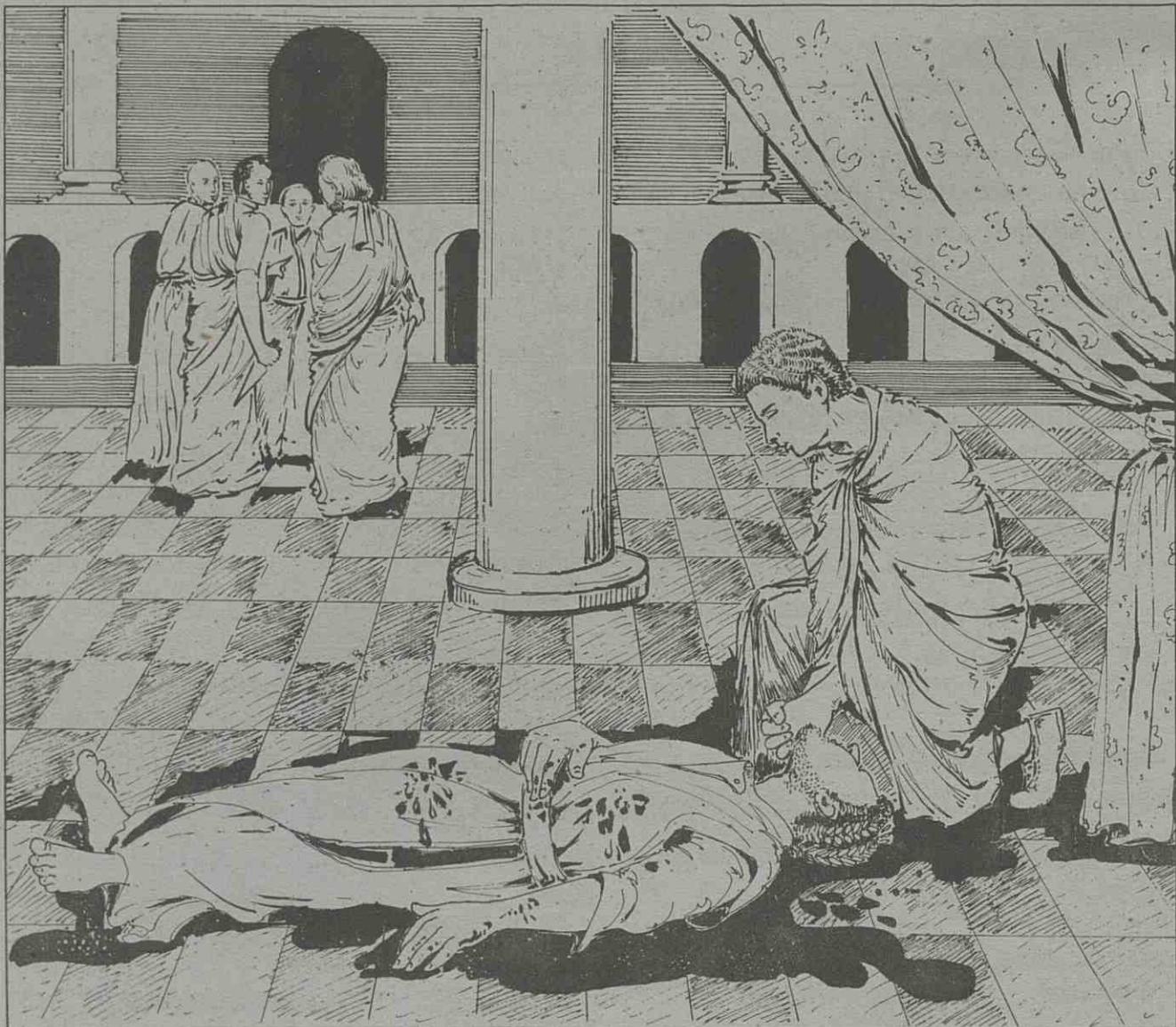
2 banishment : the punishment of sending out of a country

With these words, Caesar fell down dead, pierced by three and thirty wounds. The conspirators washed their hands and swords in Caesar's blood.

In the meantime, the senators dispersed in terror. Antony fled to his house. Brutus and Cassius tried to control the mob by shouting that liberty had been preserved by the death of the ambitious dictator. Waving their bloody hands and swords in the market place, the conspirators cried out. "Peace, freedom, and liberty!"

Presently, Antony's servant approached Brutus with a message from his master. Antony wished to know why Brutus had thought it necessary to kill Caesar. He was willing to follow Brutus faithfully if he promised him safety. Brutus extended to Antony the offer of friendship inspite of Cassius' uneasiness and doubts.

On the assurance from Brutus, Antony went to the Senate House. He was overcome with grief at the ghastly<sup>3</sup> sight of Caesar's body lying in a pool of blood.



<sup>3</sup> ghastly : terrible

“I don’t know what you plan to do. But if I must die, no place would be better than here beside Caesar”, he said to the conspirators.

“We may seem cruel and bloody to you. But we killed Caesar for the good of Rome”, replied Brutus.

Antony overcame his initial shock and asked Brutus, “Kindly permit me to speak at Caesar’s funeral<sup>4</sup>.”

Brutus readily agreed in spite of Cassius’ warning.

“Antony may incite<sup>5</sup> the people, to go against us”, remarked Cassius.

“If I address the meeting first, Antony, with all his eloquence, cannot do any mischief”, replied Brutus.

Antony and Brutus would address the Romans on the same platform. Soon the conspirators dispersed.

When left alone with Caesar’s body, Antony gave vent to<sup>6</sup> his hatred and anger towards the murderers.

“Oh, Caesar, pardon me for being meek and gentle with your murderers. You are the ruined remains of the noblest man that ever lived.”

Antony had no doubt that Caesar’s spirit would spell disaster<sup>7</sup> for the whole country.

“Civil war shall come upon Italy until Caesar’s enemies are destroyed and the spirit of Caesar is satisfied”, he foretold<sup>8</sup>.

The Romans assembled at the Forum<sup>9</sup>. They were impatient to know why Caesar had been murdered. Brutus asked Cassius to go into the other street taking half the people with him so that the citizens might listen to both of them.

Brutus took his position on the rostrum<sup>10</sup> and asked the people to listen to him patiently and sympathetically.

“Romans, fellow-countrymen and friends, listen to me for the sake of what I believe in”, he began.

“You are waiting here to hear from me why I killed Caesar. You know I loved Caesar dearly and honoured him for his valour, but I loved Rome more. I was forced to kill him because he was ambitious and posed a grave problem to liberty and democracy. Had Caesar lived, each Roman would have become a slave. I have the same dagger for my own death, whenever my country’s good requires it.” said Brutus.

The speech was received with loud cheers though the sentimental mob had not understood the reasoning of Brutus. He asked the citizens to allow him to leave and remain there to listen to the funeral oration<sup>11</sup> of Antony.

4 funeral	: the burial of a dead person
5 incite	: to urge/persuade
6 give vent to	: to express freely
7 spell disaster	: bring terrible misfortune
8 foretell	: to give information about what will happen

9 Forum	: an open place used for public business (in Rome)
10 rostrum	: platform for public speech
11 oration	: a formal public speech

Antony came to the Forum, carrying Caesar's bleeding body. He expressed his gratitude to Brutus for permitting him to address the gathering.

"Friends, Romans, and countrymen, lend me your ears", said Antony passionately<sup>12</sup>.

"I have come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them; the good is often buried with their bones. Let it be so with Caesar. The noble Brutus has told you that Caesar was ambitious. If that were true, it was a severe fault; but Caesar has paid dearly for it. He was my friend, faithful and true to me. But Brutus says he was ambitious and Brutus is an honourable man. Caesar once brought a number of captives, whose ransoms<sup>13</sup> enriched the public treasury. Did this seem ambitious on Caesar's part? Whenever the poor cried, Caesar wept for them. Yet Brutus says he was ambitious, and Brutus is an honourable man. You all saw that on the Lupercal he refused the crown thrice. Was this ambition? Yet Brutus says he was ambitious, and certainly Brutus is an honourable man. You all loved him once, and not without reason. But now that he is dead, there is none to mourn<sup>14</sup> his death."

Antony cleverly paused, as if overcome by the intensity of his emotion. He was

waiting for his words to work upon his hearers. Now they began to learn from Antony's speech that Caesar was not ambitious. They felt that a grievous<sup>15</sup> wrong had been done to Caesar.

"Caesar has left a will and it is with me; if I read it, you'll know how deeply Caesar loved you, and you will become mad with grief", continued Antony.

The angry outbursts<sup>16</sup> of the excited crowd were distinctly heard. The people now clamoured<sup>17</sup> to Antony to read the will.

Antony asked them to form a ring round the body of Caesar and showed them the gaping wounds inflicted<sup>18</sup> on it by the conspirators. There were cries of pity and rage<sup>19</sup> from the people. He then read out the will. The citizens listened with rapt attention and were exceedingly<sup>20</sup> happy to learn that Caesar had bequeathed<sup>21</sup> to them all his private road, his groves of trees and newly planted orchards. He had also left seventy-five drachmas<sup>22</sup> to each of them. Antony concluded with the words:

"Here was a Caesar! When comes such another?"

The furious mob rushed off to set fire to the traitors' houses.

12 passionately : showing strong feelings

13 ransom : money paid for the release of a person held as a prisoner

14 mourn : to weep over, to lament

15 grievous : very serious

16 outburst : sudden and violent expression of emotion

17 clamour : to make a loud demand

18 inflict : to cause to suffer

19 rage : violent anger

20 exceedingly : extremely

21 bequeath : to arrange to give at death

22 drachma : a silver coin

Brutus and Cassius fled in fear. They saw the wrath<sup>23</sup> of the violent mob mounting. Julius Caesar's grand-nephew and heir, Octavius, had by now arrived in Rome.

The angry mob turned blood-thirsty and rushed out into the streets burning everything they saw and killing every one they suspected. They ran wildly in search of the conspirators.

## IV

Some eight months had passed since the assassination of Caesar. Antony, Octavius and Lepidus, the three men of power, formed the governing council known as the Triumvirate. The government of Rome was now in their hands. They were holding a meeting in Antony's house. They had drawn up a list of those who should be put to death as suspected enemies. The list included Antony's nephew and Lepidus' brother. Octavius demanded Lepidus' brother to be killed. Lepidus consented, provided Antony's nephew also was put to death.

Presently, Antony sent Lepidus to fetch Caesar's will. When he was gone, Antony expressed his utter contempt<sup>1</sup> for him.

"He is a feeble man of no merit, fit only to be used for minor errands<sup>2</sup>. Is it fitting,

On their way, they came across a man, who, on questioning, was revealed to be a poet. As soon as he told them that his name was Cinna, they asked him a number of questions, and forced him to answer at once; Cinna answered as many questions as possible. But his name posed a problem. The citizens mistook Cinna, the poet, for Cinna, the conspirator. They pounced upon him and hacked<sup>24</sup> him to death.

now that the world is to be divided among three rulers, that he should be one of the three?" asked Antony to Octavius.

Then they proceeded to devise ways and means to encounter the forces of Brutus and Cassius.

Brutus and Cassius had fled<sup>3</sup> Rome after Antony's speech. They were in exile<sup>4</sup> near Sardis in Asia Minor. They had raised an army in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Brutus was waiting for the arrival of Cassius with his forces. There had been some misunderstanding between the two.

Soon, Cassius came there with his soldiers. He complained that Brutus had done him wrong.

23 wrath : anger

24 hack : to cut into pieces

1 contempt : lack of respect

2 errand : journey to carry a message

3 flee : to run away (flee-fled-fled)

4 exile : punishment of being sent out of one's own country

"It is not in my nature to do wrong to anybody", replied Brutus.

"Brutus, this calm appearance of yours hides your wrong doings", remarked Cassius.

"Let's not quarrel in the presence of soldiers. We'll settle our scores<sup>5</sup> inside the tent", suggested Brutus.

Cassius obliged and they retired to the privacy of the tent.

The wordy quarrel continued inside the tent.

"You have disregarded the letters I've written in favour of Lucius Pella", complained Cassius.

Brutus had punished Pella, one of Cassius' supporters, for taking bribes.

"You, too, are corrupt", exclaimed Brutus.

"Brutus, do not bark at me. I shall not endure it. I'm a soldier, more experienced and more efficient than you are", shouted Cassius.

"Do you claim you're a better soldier? Prove it, and justify your boast. I shall be well pleased if you do", challenged Brutus.

"You wrong me in every way; indeed you wrong me, Brutus", remarked Cassius.

"You refused to pay me the sum I needed for the payment of my regiments<sup>6</sup>", complained Brutus.

Cassius denied the charges and said, "You magnify<sup>7</sup> my faults. Take this dagger and plunge it into my naked breast as you did to Caesar."

This moved Brutus and made him reconcile with Cassius. They became good friends again.

"I've inherited the rashness of my nature from my mother", said Cassius and regretted his bad temper.

"Of late, I've been sick at heart and troubled on many accounts. You know, my wife is dead. She took her own life by swallowing burning coals. I'm all the more disturbed to learn that Antony and Octavius have made themselves so strong", said Brutus.

Young Octavius and Mark Antony were coming down upon them with a great force directing their expedition towards Philippi, according to reports received.

Brutus and Cassius discussed where the battle should be fought.

"What do you think of marching to Philippi soon?" asked Brutus.

Cassius, however, offered a counter-proposal.

"It is better to let the enemy look for us. We'll remain here."

But Brutus overruled<sup>8</sup> him and preferred that they should march to Philippi. Cassius unwillingly agreed to the suggestion.

5 settle our scores: settle our disputes

6 regiment : a large division of the army

7 magnify : to make appear larger

8 overrule : to decide against

"If that is your decision, go on. We shall also go and meet them at Philippi. Early morning, we shall rise up and leave here", said Cassius.

When left alone, Brutus watched the light of the candle becoming dimmer and dimmer. In the dim light the ghost of Caesar appeared before him.

"What are you?" asked Brutus, excited and nervous.

"Your evil spirit", came the reply.

"Why do you come?" asked Brutus, his voice trembling.

"To tell you that you shall see me again at Philippi," replied Caesar's ghost.

The ghost then vanished. Terror stricken, Brutus awakened Lucius and others, and asked, "Have you seen anything?"

They replied that they hadn't.

Brutus decided to act at once and sent instructions to Cassius to march with his forces early in the morning to meet the enemy at Philippi. He would follow later.

Brutus and Cassius marched with their army towards Philippi. There, on the plains, Octavius and Antony awaited their arrival.

"Now, Antony, our hopes have been realised. They mean to summon us to battle at Philippi here, answering our challenge before we have made it", said Octavius.

"They would be pleased to go to other places and to come down with fearful brav-

ery to make us think that they have courage. But they have none", replied Antony.

Presently, a messenger arrived. "Prepare yourselves, generals. The enemy is advancing in bold array", he informed.

"Octavius, lead your army slowly on, on the left side of the level plain", suggested Antony.

"No advance on the right. You keep to the left", replied Octavius.

Their argument was cut short by the appearance of Brutus and Cassius.

"A discussion before fighting. Do you agree, countrymen?" asked Brutus.

"Yes, but not because we like words better than fighting, as you do", said Octavius.

"Good words are better than bad blows", remarked Brutus.

"Along with your bad blows, you give good words, Brutus. When you struck Caesar through the heart, you did it crying: Long Live! Hail, Caesar!" exclaimed Antony.

Octavius got tired of the arguments and asked Brutus and Cassius to bring their forces to battle at once.

"Come, come, to work! I will draw my sword against conspirators, I will not put it back until Caesar's three and thirty wounds are all avenged or till I fall in battle!"

Brutus and Cassius were prepared to face the risk of the battle.

"What will you do in the event of defeat?"  
Cassius asked Brutus.

"I'd rather commit suicide. I don't like to be carried in chains in the triumphal procession of the enemy to Rome", Replied Brutus.

The two men parted after a touching farewell and proceeded to meet the enemy on the battlefield.

The plain of Philippi was alive with movements of troops. Brutus gave written orders to the regiments.

"I see only faint courage in the men led by Octavius, and a sudden sharp attack will defeat them."

The battle went on. Cassius' army was defeated by Antony. Cassius somehow managed to flee to a hill with one of his men, Titinius and his servant Pindarus. From his position on the hill, he saw that his tents were burning. "Titinius..... Quick! Ride out and learn whether those near by troops are friends or enemies", said Cassius.

"I'll be back here with the speed of thought",

replied Titinius.

Cassius then turned to Pindarus and said, "Look out over the field and tell me what is happening."

In the meantime, the other wing of the army under the command of Brutus had gained a small victory over the army of Octavius. Titinius was surrounded by the victorious soldiers who asked him to convey the message to Cassius. But Pindarus, watching this scene from the top of a hill, thought that Titinius had been surrounded by the enemy and was taken prisoner. He reported it to Cassius. At this, Cassius felt disappointed.

"Come here, Pindarus. With this good sword of mine that ran through Caesar's body, stab me into my breast. Do not try to answer me", ordered Cassius.

Sadly, Pindarus did as he had been ordered. Cassius died with the words:

"Now Caesar, you are avenged by the very same sword which killed you."

## V

Titinius found Cassius dead when he came to report Brutus' victory over Octavius. He deeply mourned the death of Cassius. Faithful to Cassius to the last, Titinius killed himself. He fell by the side of Cassius.

Soon Brutus came to the spot. He was

profoundly<sup>1</sup> shocked to see the dead bodies of Cassius and Titinius. He paid tribute to both, particularly to his fallen friend. He gave instructions for Cassius' funeral on the island of Thasos and hurried to the battlefield to try his luck in a second fight.

<sup>1</sup>profoundly: deeply, extremely

Brutus and his faithful followers fought desperately. He knew that there was not even the least possibility of victory and yet inspired his men to hold their heads up. His followers found nothing to hope for. But they preferred, as true Romans, to save Brutus at all costs<sup>2</sup>.

They put up a tough fight. Cato, Brutus' brother-in-law fell, and Lucilius, a friend of Brutus, was taken prisoner, while Brutus himself managed to escape. Lucilius tried to mislead the enemy by saying that he was Brutus. Antony's soldiers believed that they had really captured Brutus. Antony, however, had no difficulty in discovering the mistake. He had Lucilius as a prisoner of no less importance. He enquired about Brutus.

"Brutus is safe enough and you will never succeed in taking him alive", said Lucilius.

Antony appreciated the loyalty and devotion of Lucilius. He then sent his men to report to Octavius all about what had happened.

Brutus' army was defeated in the battle. He retired to a rock with the remaining friends. He asked all his friends — Clitus, Volumnius, Strato and Dardanius — to kill him and spare him the disgrace of being taken captive in a triumphal procession along the streets of Rome. But they all refused.

"The spirit of Caesar has appeared to me

2 at all costs : no matter what happens; in any case

3 tribute : admiration

twice at night. First, it was at Sardis and then last night, here in the field of Philippi. I know that my hour has come", he said to Volumnius.

At that time, an alarm was raised. It indicated defeat in battle. Brutus was asked to flee. He bade farewell to his friends. He felt proud that in all his life, he had found all his friends true and faithful to him.

Brutus was now left alone in another part of the plain with Strato, his faithful servant. At his request Strato held the sword and Brutus ran upon it. He died crying, "Caesar, now you may rest in peace. I did not kill you with half so much willingness as I kill myself."

Antony paid the warmest tribute<sup>3</sup> to Brutus:

"This was the noblest Roman of them all: All the conspirators, save only he; Did that they did in envy of great Caesar; He only, in a general honest thought; And common good to all, made one of them. His life was gentle; and the elements So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up And say to all the world, "*This was a man!*"\*

Octavius gave orders to treat Brutus with all honour and give him the proper funeral service as was most fitting for a soldier, with everything nobly arranged.

\*Antony here says that Brutus alone became one of the conspirators with a desire for the common good. The others acted from envy. Brutus' life was gentle. Various qualities were so combined in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world: "This was a man."

## ACTIVITIES

### PART I

**A. Answer each of the following questions in a sentence or two:**

1. Why were the common people enjoying a holiday?
2. Why did the Tribunes rebuke them?
3. Calphurnia was asked to stand right in the path of Antony when he was running the course. Why?
4. What warning did the soothsayer give Caesar?
5. Did Brutus like Caesar to be the king of Rome? Copy from the story the sentence which supports your answer.
6. What was Caesar's impression of Cassius?
7. How did Cassius react to the news of Caesar's crowning?
8. Who was Cinna? What duty was assigned to him by Cassius?
9. What did Cassius and Casca plan to do?

**B. Choose the right answer from those given below each questions:**

1. How did Julius Caesar react to the soothsayer's warning?
  - (a) He became upset.
  - (b) He ignored it.

(c) He rebuked the soothsayer.

2. What would Cassius do, if the Senators crowned Caesar?
  - (a) He would kill himself.
  - (b) He would leave Rome.
  - (c) He would kill Caesar.

3. How did Caesar react when the crown was offered to him?
  - (a) He readily accepted it.
  - (b) He was undecided.
  - (c) He rejected it.

**C. Write a short paragraph on each of the following:**

1. The reactions of the common people and the Tribunes to Caesar's victory.
2. The meeting between Brutus and Cassius.
3. The supernatural happenings in the streets of Rome.

### PART II

**A. Answer each of the following questions in a sentence or two:**

1. Why did Brutus decide that Caesar must die?

2. Name the conspirators who joined Brutus.
3. What did Brutus say about swearing an oath?
4. What did Calphurnia see in her dream?
5. How did Caesar respond to his wife's warning?
6. How did Decius persuade Caesar to attend the Senate meeting?
7. Who was Artemidorus? What did his letter to Caesar contain?
8. How did Portia come to know about her husband's role in the conspiracy?
9. Why did Portia send Lucius to the Senate House?
10. What was Brutus' enterprise?

**B. Choose the right answer from those given below each question:**

1. "Mark Antony should not be allowed to live after Caesar", exclaimed Cassius. How did Brutus react to this?
  - (a) Brutus suggested killing Antony.
  - (b) Brutus disagreed with Cassius.
  - (c) Brutus said nothing.
2. Why did Calphurnia ask her husband to stay at home?
  - (a) She got a note of warning from Artemidorus.
  - (b) Caesar was not well.
  - (c) She had seen bad dreams about him.
3. Who persuaded Caesar to disregard Calphurnia's appeal?

- (a) Decius
- (b) Brutus
- (c) Cassius

**C. Write a short paragraph on each of the following:**

1. The conspiracy.
2. Calphurnia's dreams.
3. Portia's anxiety about her husband's safety.

**PART III**

**A. Answer each of the following questions in a sentence or two:**

1. How did the soothsayer and Artemidorus try to warn Caesar?
2. What did Metellus appeal to Caesar?
3. Who was the first to stab Caesar?
4. Why did Antony run away from the scene of murder?
5. How did Brutus try to justify the murder of Caesar?
6. What did Antony request Brutus to do?
7. Why was Cassius against granting Antony's request?
8. Did Antony say that Caesar was really an ambitious man? Copy from the text the sentence which supports your answer.

9. How did Caesar enrich the public treasury?
10. What did Caesar bequeath to the Romans by his will?
11. What did the mob do in their anger?
12. Why was the poor poet Cinna hacked to death?

**B. Choose the right answer from those given below each question:**

1. What was the reaction of Caesar when Brutus struck him?
  - (a) He cried out in agony.
  - (b) He scolded Brutus.
  - (c) He returned the blow.
2. Why did Antony go to the Forum?
  - (a) to meet Brutus.
  - (b) to bury Caesar.
  - (c) to justify Brutus' action.
3. What happened when Antony spoke to the Romans?
  - (a) The Romans dismissed him.
  - (b) They were impressed by his arguments.
  - (c) They were doubtful about Antony's views.

**C. Write a short paragraph on each of the following:**

1. Caesar's murder
2. Brutus' speech
3. Mark Antony's speech

4. The Roman mob.

**PART IV**

**A. Answer each of the following questions in a sentence or two:**

1. What was Antony's opinion about Lepidus?
2. Why was Pella punished?
3. Cassius had not been very cordial in his relation with Brutus. Why?
4. Why did Brutus suggest that they should settle their scores inside the tent?
5. What were the causes of the quarrel between Brutus and Cassius?
6. How did Portia die?
7. When did Caesar's ghost appear before Brutus?
8. What did Caesar's ghost tell Brutus?

**B. Choose the right answer from those given below each question:-**

1. Who constituted the Triumvirate?
  - (a) Antony, Octavius and Lepidus
  - (b) Cassius, Brutus and Lucius
  - (c) Trebonius, Metellus and Casca
2. What followed the quarrel between Brutus and Cassius?
  - (a) Brutus killed Cassius
  - (b) Cassius killed Brutus
  - (c) Both were reconciled

3. Brutus was sick at heart on many accounts. One of the reasons was that

- Antony and Octavius had made themselves very strong
- Cassius quarrelled with him
- No news reached him from his home

**C. Write a short paragraph on each of the following:**

1. The Triumvirate
2. The quarrel between Brutus and Cassius at Sardis
3. Caesar's ghost

**PART V**

**A. Answer each of the following questions in a sentence or two:**

1. Where did Octavius and Antony wait for Cassius and Brutus?
2. What did Cassius see from his position on the hill?
3. Why did Cassius resolve to put an end to his life?
4. What were the dying words of Cassius?
5. What did Titinius do when he found Cassius dead?
6. Did Brutus hope to win the battle?
7. Who was Cato? What happened to him in the tough fight?
8. How, and why did Lucilius try to mislead

- the enemy?
9. Why did Brutus ask his men to kill him?
10. How did Brutus die?
11. What tribute did Antony pay to Brutus?

**B. Choose the right answer from those given below each question:**

1. How did Cassius die?
  - He swallowed burning coals.
  - He took poison.
  - Pindarus stabbed him.
2. What did Brutus do when he was finally defeated?
  - He ran upon his sword to kill himself.
  - He ran away from the battlefield.
  - He fought till he was killed by his enemies.
3. The story of Julius Caesar belongs to
  - Greek history
  - Roman history
  - Roman mythology

**C. Write a short paragraph on each of the following:**

- The battle on the plains of Philippi
- Cassius' end
- Brutus' end

