

*I am cutting this scene so my 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be successful at performing the famous assassination scene in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar*

ACT 3, SCENE 1. ROME. BEFORE THE CAPITAL.

*A crowd of people; among them ARTEMIDORUS and the Soothsayer. Flourish.  
Enter CAESAR, BRUTUS, CASSIUS, CASCA, DECIUS BRUTUS, METELLUS CIMBER,  
TREBONIUS, CINNA, ANTONY, LEPIDUS, POPILIUS, PUBLIUS, and others*

*I cut these characters because: 1) their lines did not advance the story I am trying to tell, 2) the lines were duplicates of other characters' lines, or 3) the character had no lines in my final version.*

**CAESAR**

[To the Soothsayer] The ides of March are come.

**Soothsayer**

Ay, Caesar; but not gone.

**ARTEMIDORUS**

Hail, Caesar! read this schedule.

**DECIUS BRUTUS**

Trebonius doth desire you to o'erread;  
At your best leisure, this his humble suit.

**ARTEMIDORUS**

☉ Caesar, read mine first; for mine's a suit  
That touches Caesar nearer: read it, great Caesar.

**CAESAR**

What touches us ourself shall be last served.

**ARTEMIDORUS**

Delay not, Caesar; read it instantly.

**CAESAR**

What, is the fellow mad?

**PUBLIUS**

Sirrah, give place.

**CASSIUS**

What, urge you your petitions in the street?  
Come to the Capitol.

*CAESAR goes up to the Senate-House*

**POPILIUS**

I wish your enterprise to-day may thrive.

**CASSIUS**

What enterprise, Popilius?

**POPILIUS**

Fare you well. *Advances to CAESAR*

*I highlighted famous lines I wanted to keep in yellow.*

*I cut these lines to get the action of the scene going right away!*

*As I cut the scene, I had to imagine how I would direct the scene - which characters cross the stage with Caesar and which characters stay behind to talk about Caesar's Death.*



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**BRUTUS**

What said Popilius Lena?

**CASSIUS**

He wish'd to-day our enterprise might thrive.  
I fear our purpose is discovered.

**BRUTUS**

Look, how he makes to Caesar; mark him.

**CASSIUS**

~~Casca, be sudden, for we fear prevention.~~  
Brutus, what shall be done? If this be known,  
Cassius or Caesar never shall turn back,  
For I will slay myself.

**BRUTUS**

Cassius, be constant:  
Popilius Lena speaks not of our purposes;  
For, look, he smiles, and Caesar doth not change.

**CASSIUS**

~~Trebonius knows his time; for, look you, Brutus.~~  
~~He draws Mark Antony out of the way.~~

*Exeunt ANTONY and TREBONIUS*

**DECIUS BRUTUS**

Where is Metellus Cimber? Let him go,  
And presently prefer his suit to Caesar.

**BRUTUS**

He is address'd: press near and second him.

**CINNA**

Casca, you are the first that rears your hand.

**CAESAR**

Are we all ready? What is now amiss  
That Caesar and his senate must redress?

**METELLUS CIMBER**

Most high, most mighty, and most puissant Caesar,  
Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat  
An humble heart,-- *Kneeling*

**CAESAR**

~~I must prevent thee, Cimber.~~  
~~These couchings and these lowly courtesies~~  
~~Might fire the blood of ordinary men;~~  
~~And turn pre-ordinance and first decree~~  
~~Into the law of children. Be not fond;~~  
~~To think that Caesar bears such rebel blood~~  
~~That will be thaw'd from the true quality~~  
~~With that which melteth fools; I mean, sweet words,~~  
~~Low-crooked court'sies and base spaniel-fawning:~~  
Thy brother by decree is banished:  
If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him,  
I spurn thee like a cur out of my way.

*This line was cut because it refers to a subplot from a conversation in an earlier scene that Casca will be the first to stab Caesar.*

*I cut Anthony and Trebonius from the scene because they are part of another subplot which is the power struggle between Brutus and Anthony and is not part of the assassination story I am wanting to tell.*

*I cut this speech down to these three lines of blank verse that are the heart of Caesar's response to Metellus Cimber kneeling in front of him.*

Know, Caesar doth not wrong, nor without cause  
Will he be satisfied.

**METELLUS CIMBER**

Is there no voice more worthy than my own  
To sound more sweetly in great Caesar's ear  
For the repealing of my banish'd brother?

**BRUTUS**

I kiss thy hand, but not in flattery, Caesar;  
Desiring thee that Publius Cimber may  
Have an immediate freedom of repeal.

**CAESAR**

What, Brutus!

**CASSIUS**

Pardon, Caesar; Caesar, pardon:  
As low as to thy foot doth Cassius fall,  
To beg enfranchisement for Publius Cimber.

**CAESAR**

I could be well moved, if I were as you:  
If I could pray to move, prayers would move me:  
But I am constant as the northern star,  
Of whose true fix'd and resting quality  
There is no fellow in the firmament.

The skies are painted with unnumber'd sparks;  
They are all fire and every one doth shine;  
But there's but one in all doth hold his place:  
So in the world; 'tis furnish'd well with men,  
And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive;  
Yet in the number I do know but one  
That unassailable holds on his rank,  
Unshaked of motion: and that I am he;  
Let me a little show it, even in this;  
That I was constant Cimber should be banish'd,  
And constant do remain to keep him so.

**CINNA**

O Caesar,--

**CAESAR**

Hence! wilt thou lift up Olympus?

**DECIUS BRUTUS**

Great Caesar,--

**CAESAR**

Doth not Brutus bootless kneel?

**CASCA**

Speak, hands for me!

*CASCA first, then the other Conspirators and  
BRUTUS stab CAESAR*

**CAESAR**

Et tu, Brute! Then fall, Caesar. *Dies*

**CINNA**

*I want to add tension to the scene  
so having Brutus jump in immedi-  
ately to distract Caesar helps the  
audience know that the assassins  
are nervous.*

*These 3 lines of blank verse are  
the heart of Caesar's thoughts  
and are famous. I justify the cut  
at "stars" (mid thought) because  
I will have Cinna interrupt Caesar  
speech. Once again I want the  
nervousness of the assassins to  
be clear to the audience.*

*These highlighted lines are all  
famous lines in the play.*

Liberty! Freedom! Tyranny is dead!  
Run hence, proclaim, cry it about the streets.

**CASSIUS**

Some to the common pulpits, and cry out  
'Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!'

**BRUTUS**

People and senators, be not affrighted;  
Fly not; stand stiff: ambition's debt is paid.

**CASCA**

Go to the pulpit, Brutus.

**DECIUS BRUTUS**

And Cassius too.

**BRUTUS**

Where's Publius?

**CINNA**

Here, quite confounded with this mutiny:

**METELLUS CIMBER**

Stand fast together, lest some friend of Caesar's  
Should chance--

**BRUTUS**

Talk not of standing. Publius, good cheer;  
There is no harm intended to your person,  
Nor to no Roman else: so tell them, Publius.

**CASSIUS**

And leave us, Publius; lest that the people,  
Rushing on us, should do your age some mischief.

**BRUTUS**

Do so: and let no man abide this deed,  
But we the doers.

*Re-enter TREBONIUS*

**CASSIUS**

Where is Antony?

**TREBONIUS**

Fled to his house amazed:  
Men, wives and children stare, cry out and run  
As it were doomsday.

**BRUTUS**

Fates, we will know your pleasures:  
That we shall die, we know; 'tis but the time  
And drawing days out, that men stand upon.

**CASSIUS**

Why, he that cuts off twenty years of life  
Cuts off so many years of fearing death.

**BRUTUS**

Grant that, and then is death a benefit:  
So are we Caesar's friends, that have abridged  
His time of fearing death. Stoop, Romans, stoop,  
And let us bathe our hands in Caesar's blood  
Up to the elbows, and besmear our swords:

*This is an example of an unusual cut that allows me to keep the famous lines. I can justify cutting in the middle of a blank verse line because Brutus' line becomes a shared-line with Decius Brutus' line*

*Decius Brutus: "And Cassius too."  
Brutus: "Stoop, Romans, stoop."*

*Together they maintain the iambic pentameter (if Brutus takes a small pause before he says "Stoop, Romans, stoop...").*

*Additionally, I removed this subplot where the assassins' worries about how the public will react to Caesar's death. These lines set-up the famous eulogies in the second half of this scene. Once again I want my cutting to tell only the story of the assassination.*

Then walk we forth, even to the market-place,  
And, waving our red weapons o'er our heads,  
Let's all cry 'Peace, freedom and liberty!'

**CASSIUS**

~~Stoop, then, and wash. How many ages hence  
Shall this our lofty scene be acted over  
In states unborn and accents yet unknown!~~

**BRUTUS**

~~How many times shall Caesar bleed in sport,  
That now on Pompey's basis lies along  
No worthier than the dust!~~

**CASSIUS**

~~So oft as that shall be,  
So often shall the knot of us be call'd  
The men that gave their country liberty.~~

**DECIUS BRUTUS**

~~What, shall we forth?~~

**CASSIUS**

Ay, every man away:  
Brutus shall lead; and we will grace his heels  
With the most boldest and best hearts of Rome.

*Enter a Servant*

**BRUTUS**

~~Soft! who comes here? A friend of Antony's.~~

**Servant**

~~Thus, Brutus, did my master bid me kneel:  
Thus did Mark Antony bid me fall down;  
And, being prostrate, thus he bade me say:  
Brutus is noble, wise, valiant, and honest;  
Caesar was mighty, bold, royal, and loving:  
Say I love Brutus, and I honour him;  
Say I fear'd Caesar, honour'd him and loved him.~~

*Cutting the rest of the scene makes sense to the story I am telling because Cassius' line marks the end of the assignation plot. The entrance of the servant introduces the next section of the scene - the public orations.*



