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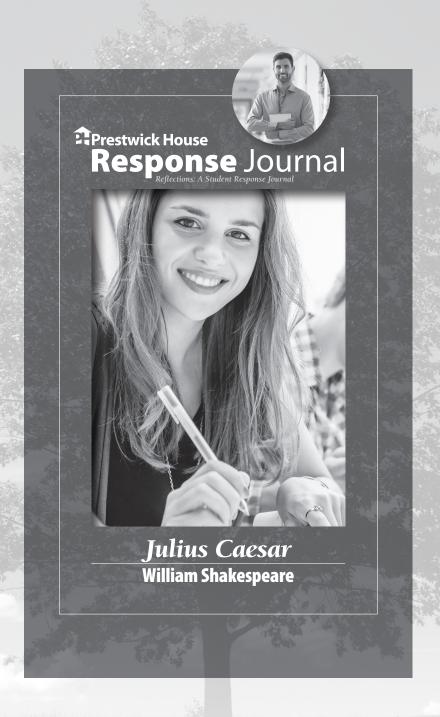
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Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Julius Caesar

Act I, Scene I

- 1. Even though *Julius Caesar* was written more than four hundred years ago, this play is still being produced on stages around the world, as well as being studied in classrooms everywhere. In an attempt to understand why this play continues to be meaningful and enjoyable so long after it was written, write a paragraph in answer to each of the following questions:
 - A. When and where did Julius Caesar live, how did he die, and what was his claim to fame?
 - B. Why do you think his story is still interesting to people of all ages even today?

Please be sure your paragraphs are written in complete sentences and that each word is spelled correctly.

- 2. All people who live in the United States are guaranteed equality under our Constitution. This was not so in Rome in the times of Julius Caesar. Flavius and Marullus are Tribunes; the other characters in this scene are Commoners. The dialogue between the two classes gives clues as to the social equality, or lack of equality, among the characters. To understand this more fully, complete the following:
 - A. Write a definition of what the words "tribune" and "commoner" meant in Rome in 44 B.C.
 - B. Write a one-sentence summary of how you think each of the Tribunes feels about the Commoners and how the Commoners feel about the Tribunes. Following that, find three lines of dialogue which show this in the words of a Tribune and three lines of dialogue showing this in the words of a Commoner.

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Act I, Scene III

8. In this scene we meet Cicero, who is a member of the ruling class of Rome, as well as a writer, and a famous orator. There were in 44 B.C., of course, no forms of mass communication of ideas as we have today. Orators performed that function in the form of a speech, or oration. This oration usually had an impassioned emotional appeal and was given in a public place, most often outdoors to a large group of people. Perhaps the closest example of an oration with which you might be familiar is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech delivered in Washington, D. C., on August 28, 1963. Another famous oration would be President Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address." Research one or the other of these orations, and complete the following assignment based on your findings:

Write a paragraph telling how you would have felt if you had been present in either Washington or Gettysburg the day that speech was delivered. In your paragraph, tell what those words meant to you and the extent to which you were emotionally affected as you were hearing them. Begin your paragraph as follows:

It was very crowded at...

9. Julius Caesar takes place less than a half-century before Christianity. In those times, many gods, omens, portents, and superstitions were part of the everyday belief system of most Romans. Cicero says, "Indeed, it is a strange-disposed time:/But men may construe things after their fashion..." What are the strange sights that Casca tells Cicero he saw? Imagine that you had seen such things, but instead of telling a friend about them, you record them as an entry in your journal. Begin your journal entry as follows:

The gods are visiting strange things upon us. Am I to take it that the meaning of...

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12. The latter part of this scene, when Brutus' wife Portia begs him to tell her what is wrong, tells us a lot about their marriage. Imagine you are a marriage counselor and overhear the conversation between this husband and wife. Based on it, write a report you might share with the chief counselor of your clinic, giving your assessment of Portia and Brutus as a couple. Begin your report as follows:

Portia obviously is very concerned about her husband Brutus. She states that...

Act II, Scene II

13. Calpurnia has a dream in which she cries that Caesar is being murdered, a dream Caesar overhears. Calpurnia believes all that is happening in the dream as a sign that Caesar will indeed be killed. Caesar's answer to her is another of Shakespeare's most famous quotations: "Cowards die many times before their deaths; /The valiant never taste of death but once." From what you have read so far, what opinion have you formed about whether Caesar is a coward or a brave man? Write a paragraph in which you give your reasons for feeling the way you do. Try to use as many of Caesar's actual words from the play as you can to bolster your reasoning. Begin your paragraph as follows:

Caesar's reputation as a victorious warrior might...

Julius Caesar

20. Metellus Cimber, one of the conspirators, sets up the coming assassination by kneeling before Caesar to ask a favor. This brings one of the killers near enough to Caesar to stab him. The other conspirators, using the same excuse crowd around Caesar in order to participate in the killing. The first of the men, Casca, says, "Speak, hands, for me!" after which he stabs Caesar, followed by each of the conspirators, including Brutus. This horrific killing is done in full view of the Roman crowd. Imagine you are a well known writer or historian in Rome at the time. You question all of the following men after they have stabbed Caesar and ask why they did this and how they feel having accomplished the deed. Beside each man's name, write what his answer might be.

Casca:	
Cassius:	
Metellus Cimber:	
Brutus:	
Cinna:	
Ligarius:	
Trebonius:	