

## Julius Caesar

### Allusions throughout the Play

1. **Aenas (or Aeneas):** a Greek legend and Trojan hero; son of Anchises and Aphrodite
2. **Até:** the personification of recklessness and menace and eventual downfall or punishment for this behavior
3. **Colossus:** the word “colossus” means enormous; in this case, the “Colossus” is the large bronze statue of Apollo at the harbor of Rhodes; it was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World until it fell in 255BC after an earthquake
4. **drachma:** ancient currency (money)
5. **Epicurus:** an ancient Greek philosopher who founded Epicureanism, the idea that one should indulge in the pleasures in life (including materialistic and physical desires) in order to stave away any pain
6. **Fates:** in Greek mythology, the three goddesses who were believed to control the events and length of one’s life
7. **Feast of Lupercal (Lupercalia):** an ancient Roman festival held on February 15; it is believed to have been a ceremony to encourage fertility for animals and humans alike; Julius Caesar was crowned at this time
8. **Hybla:** a city in ancient Sicily
9. **Ides of March:** the 15<sup>th</sup> of March; the ides are simply the middle of the month
10. **Nervii:** a group of warriors, considered by Julius Caesar to be one of the most brutal tribes in Gaul (now southern France)
11. **Olympus:** the mountain in Greece which was believed to have been the home of the twelve gods of Olympus in Greek Mythology
12. **Phillipi:** an ancient city in Macedonia (now an area in northern Greece)
13. **Pluto’s mines:** Pluto was the equivalent of the Greek god Hades, the god of the underworld; it was believed that Pluto gave the Romans gold, silver, and other precious metals which he mined from below the surface of the earth
14. **Pompey:** refers to Pompey the Great, who was defeated by Julius Caesar in 48BC, then later murdered
15. **Sardis:** an ancient city in what is now Turkey
16. **suicide,** the Roman’s view of: contrary to the Christian view of suicide, the ancient Romans believed that committing suicide was acceptable and honorable, especially when facing the possibility of capture or enslavement in battle
17. **triumvirate:** a group of three rulers sharing authority and control

