

Name: _____

Due Date: _____

Julius Caesar

Extra Credit Memorization

Need a few extra points to help your average for this nine weeks? If you can recite the following twelve lines in front of the class with no errors, I will add 25 points to your Major Assessment category. That could raise your average by 2-3 points!*

*Individual grades will vary.

Description:

- + Twelve lines from *Julius Caesar*, Act III, scene ii, must be memorized and written in class.
- + One point will be deducted for each error.

Why memorize Shakespeare?

No less important, memorizing poetry turns on kids' language capability. It not only teaches them to articulate English words; it heightens their feel for the intricacies and complexities of the English language—an indispensable attainment if they are to go on to speak, write, and read English with ease. Susan Wise Bauer, author of *The Well-Educated Mind: A Guide to the Classical Education You Never Had*, argues that memorization "builds into children's minds an ability to use complex English syntax." The student "who memorizes poetry will internalize" the "rhythmic, beautiful patterns" of the English language. These patterns then become "part of the student's 'language store,' those wells that we all use every day in writing and speaking." Without memorization, the student's "language store," Bauer says, will be limited: memorization stocks "the language store with a whole new set of language patterns."

--"In Defense of Memorization" from the *Summer 2004 City Journal*. URL: http://www.city-journal.org/html/14_3_defense_memorization.html

Twelve extra credit lines:

ANTONY:

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.
Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest—
For Brutus is an honourable man;
So are they all, all honourable men—
Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.