

Julius Caesar Key Facts

Writer: William Shakespeare | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Playwright:** William Shakespeare (1564–1616)
- **Titles of the Author:** Bard of Avon, National Poet of England, “The World’s Greatest Dramatist,” and “Father of English Drama.”
- **Written Time:** Around 1599 (Late Elizabethan period)
- **First Published:** 1623 (in the First Folio, posthumously)
- **Full Title:** The Tragedy of Julius Caesar
- **Genre:** Tragedy (also historical and political drama)
- **Form:** Blank verse (unrhymed iambic pentameter) mixed with prose
- (High-ranking characters speak in verse; commoners often speak in prose.)
- **Language:** Early Modern English
- **Source:** Plutarch’s Lives of the Noble Grecians and Romans (translated into English by Sir Thomas North, 1579)
- **Tone:** Serious, political, tragic, and reflective. Shakespeare blends public drama with private emotion, exploring themes of power, loyalty, ambition, and moral conflict.
- **Structure:** Five Acts
- **Point of View:** Third-person dramatic perspective (no narrator; events unfold through dialogue and action).
- **Style:** Elevated, rhetorical, and poetic; marked by oratory, irony, and philosophical debate about morality and politics.
- **Famous Lines:**
 - “Cowards die many times before their deaths; / The valiant never taste of death but once.” — Caesar (Act II, Scene ii)
 - “Et tu, Brute?—Then fall, Caesar!” — Caesar (Act III, Scene i)
 - “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; / I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.” — Antony (Act III, Scene ii)

- **Publication History:** First printed in the First Folio of 1623. The play was likely performed earlier by the Lord Chamberlain's Men at the Globe Theatre, London.
- **Tone and Mood:** Noble yet tragic; full of tension between idealism and political realism.
- **Famous Scene:** Antony's funeral oration at Caesar's funeral (Act III, Scene ii), one of the greatest speeches in English literature.
- **Setting:**
- **Time:** 44 B.C. (end of the Roman Republic)
- **Place:** Ancient Rome and nearby locations (Capitol, Forum, battlefield at Philippi)

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