JULIUS CAESAR: WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

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Julius Caesar: With Introduction, Notes, and Questions for Review by William Shakespeare & F. A. Purcell & L. M. Somers

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WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

Adapted from the Wood and Syms-Wood "Oxford and Cambridge Edition"

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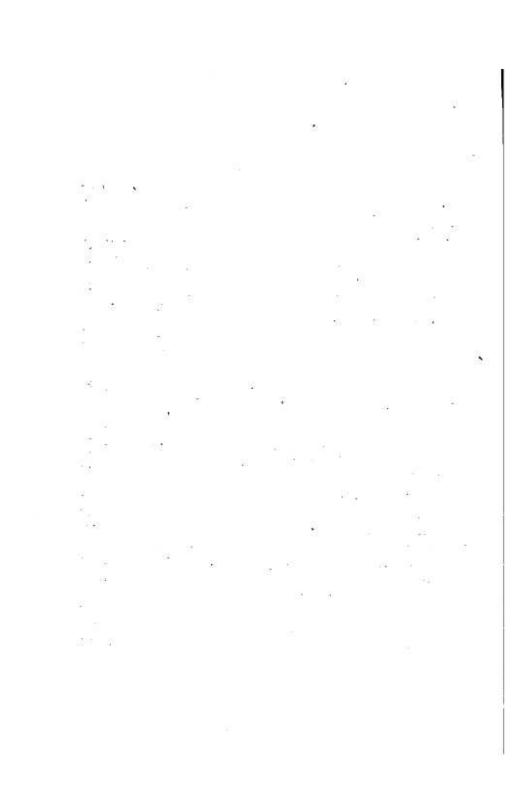
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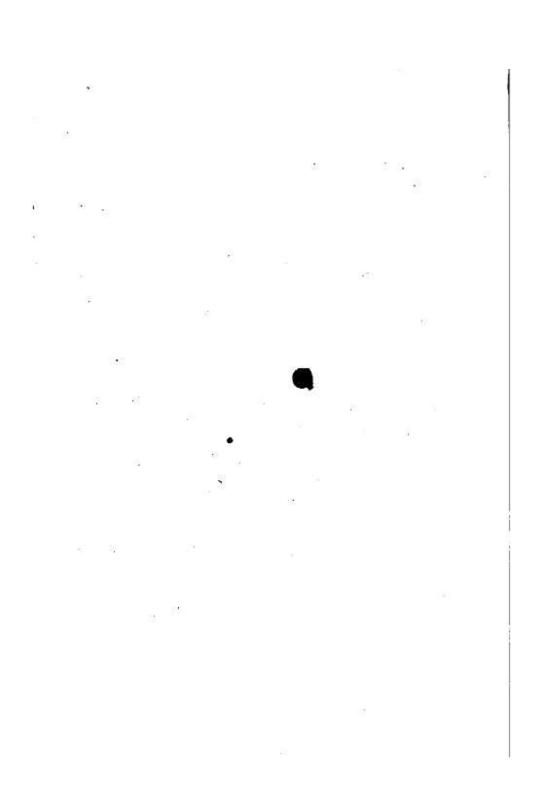
CONTENTS

	350	PAGE
PREFACE	***************************************	5
INTRODUC	TION	
I.	NARRATIVE OF SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE	7
II.	SHAKESPEARE'S RELIGION	10
ш.	Shakespeare's Learning	14
IV.	THE DRAMA	17
٧.	REPRESENTATION OF THE DRAMA IN SHAKESPEARE 'S TIME	19
VI.	CONSTRUCTION OF THE DRAMA "JULIUS CASAR"	21 *
VII.	STRUCTURE OF THE PLAY	
VIII.	Two Views of the Play	246
IX.	POINTS OF CONTRAST	26 b
- X.	Source of the Play	26
XI.	THE TITLE OF THE PLAY	
XII.	On Characterization	29 -
XIII.	CHARACTER INTERPRETATION	30 ₺
XIV.	CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY	31
XV.	HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION IN CONNECTION WITH ROMAN	
	History	1 5 5
XVI.	ROMAN TITLES	·
XVII.	ABSTRACT OF THE PLAY	68
CHRONOL	OGY OF THE PLAY	72
TEXT	***************************************	73
Nores .		164
GRAMMAT	TICAL NOTES	173
VERSIFICA	ATION	181 -
VARIANTS	AND PROPOSED EMENDATIONS	185
THE FOR	UM AND ITS SURROUNDINGS	186
CAUTIONS	AND HINTS FOR PARAPHRASING	187
QUESTION	S FOR REVIEW	189
-		244



PREFACE

This series of Shakespeare's plays, which includes The Merchant of Venice, Julius Casar, Macbeth, and Hamlet, is based mainly on the Oxford and Cambridge editions of Spilsbury, and Marshall and Wood. The present Editors have found it expedient to eliminate certain passages in the text, as well as to make some changes of matter and form in the editorial work, deemed necessary for American schools. The Introduction contains a Biographical Sketch of Shakespeare, a short account of the History of the Drama, brief references to the Sources of the Play, to the Characters, to Versification, to the Grammar of Shakespeare, etc. The annotated words are printed in italic type and the notes and word equivalents are given in the margin in juxtaposition with the text for the convenience of the student. The Glossary and many of the Notes have been rewritten, condensed, or amplified, as the case required, and the Classical and Biblical Allusions have been included in the Notes and Glossary. An abstract of the play has been supplied in Hamlet and in The Merchant of Venice. Some unimportant and apocryphal matter has been omitted. The section on Shakespearean Grammar will be found convenient for those who may have difficulty in classifying many Shakespearean expressions, and the Questions for Review will be of advantage to both teacher and pupil, by saving time for the one, and by assigning specific work to the other.





INTRODUCTION

L NARRATIVE OF SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE

William Shakespeare, the greatest of English dramatic poets, was born at Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, England, on April 23, 1564. His father, John Shakespeare, was of the yeoman class. He had been a successful Warwickshire farmer, but he adopted the trade of glover on his removal to Stratford in 1553. There he soon became an important factor in municipal affairs, and by ability and industry he rapidly rose from one position of trust to another, until finally, in 1568, he became high bailiff or mayor of the town. Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden, was of an old Warwickshire family, and though she inherited "lands and houses" she had no education.

John and Mary Shakespeare had eight children—four sons and four daughters. William, the third child, was the eldest son. Of his infancy and boyhood we know practically nothing. It is probable, however, that at the age of seven he entered the grammar school of Stratford, where he learned the rudiments of Latin, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, and probably a little Greek. His years at school were not many, for the declining fortunes of his father compelled the boy to seek employment when he was but thirteen years of age. After this we hear little or nothing about him until the time of his marriage, which probably took place in December, 1582. His wife, Ann Hathaway, of whom the boy-poet admiringly wrote

Ann Hathaway, she hath a way To charm all hearts, Ann Hathaway,

does not seem to have long exerted that charm over her young husband. At the time of their union he was little more than