

HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE.

QUESTIONS ON JULIUS CÆSAR.

In what three places is the scene laid? Give the situation of them. Give the dates of the historic action. On how many days are the events of the play supposed to happen?

Name the tribunes. What is a tribune? Name the conspirators. The triumvirs after Cæsar's death. The women of the play. The speaker of the first speech. Of the last speech. Who is the hero of the play?

What words in I. 1., fix the time of the action? Marullus thinks that the citizens had no reason to rejoice in Cæsar's triumph. What would he consider a reason? Does any one else in the play think they had reason to rejoice? Marullus accuses them of fickleness. Were they fickle? What reason does Flavius give for plucking feathers from Cæsar's wing? Is the same reason, or anything like it, given by another speaker later on?

Collect all the accusations made against Cæsar in Acts I and II. Are any of these against his private life? Collect all the sayings in his praise. Discuss the sincerity of all these sayings. What other ways have we of judging his character?

What evidence have we of the popularity of Brutus? What adjective is applied to him by Cassius, Cinna, Clitus and Antony? Do you think he deserved it? "Cassius, against his better judgment, twice gives way to Brutus." When? Discuss the probable difference in the action if Cassius had not given way? It is said that the public action of Brutus in relation to the conspiracy and its outcome was a "series of practical mistakes." Name these mistakes. Can you account for them by anything in Brutus' character? Trace the steps of the downfall of the conspirators, beginning with their expulsion from Rome. (Acts III, 2).

Study carefully Brutus' speech to the citizens. Of what did he want to convince them? Judging by their words directly after his speech, had he succeeded? Why not? Study Antony's speech and its effect in the same way. Then comment on Antony's words "I am no orator—to stir men's blood." Weigh every word in these lines. Antony says, "I tell you that which you yourselves do know." State definitely what he has told them that they already knew. Can you show from the play that Antony was cruel, self-indulgent, unscrupulous, self-reliant, quick to decide, sincerely devoted to Cæsar, brave, a good judge of men, capable of admiring his enemies?

Who said, and of or to whom:—

- a. ——— with himself at war, forgets the shows of love to other men.
- b. Oh, he sits high in all the people's hearts.
- c. I have not known when his affections swayed more than his reason.
- d. He will never follow anything that other men begin.
- e. We shall find of him a shrewd contriver.
- f. This is a slight unmeritable man, meet to be sent on errands.
- g. No man else hath honour by his death,

Explain the following words as used in the play: Abide, addressed, aim, arrive, censure, clean (I. 3, 35) cf. Isaiah 24, 19; climate, conceit, discomfort, entertain, favour, fond, knave, merely, nice, physical, prevent, sad, stare, yearn.

Passages to be memorized:—Acts I, Sc. 1. ll. 37-60; Sc. 2, 151-161, 200-210; Sc. 3, 20-28; Act II. Sc. 1, 63-69, 101-111, 292-297; Sc. 2, 32-37; Act. III. Sc. 2, the orations of Brutus and Antony; Act IV. Sc. 3, 218-227; Act V. Sc. 5, 68-75.

QUESTIONS ON MACAULAY'S LIFE OF JOHNSON.

Name five eminent English writers of the 18th century, and one work of each. Give the place and date of Johnson's birth. Write a few lines upon his father. In what words does Macaulay sum up Johnson's "physical, intellectual and moral peculiarities?" Write a few sentences on each of the following: Johnson's education, his marriage, attempt at teaching, Pope, Hervey, the *Gentleman's Magazine*, Richard Savage, the Earl of Chesterfield, David Garrick, the *Rambler*.

Name two poems, a tragedy, a tale and a biography that Johnson wrote. In what circumstances was the tale written?

"It does not appear that these two men ——— ever saw each other." What two men? Fill in the blank with Macaulay's words.

From what different friends did Johnson receive great kindnesses? To what persons did he show kindness? What event "produced a change in Johnson's whole way of life?" What publication, *a.* saved Johnson's character for honesty, but added nothing to his fame? *b.* Was hailed with an enthusiasm such as no similar work has ever excited? *c.* Is, in Macaulay's opinion "the best of Johnson's works?" What honors came to Johnson in the later part of his life? "Yet even over such a society Johnson predominated." Name the principal members of this society and their claims to distinction.

Write notes on Macaulay's opinions of Boswell, Mrs. Thrale, Rasselas, the Dictionary, "Taxation no Tyranny."

Explain: Witty as Lady Mary, the poet who made Hector quote Aristotle, Fingal, Jacobites, the Royal Academy, the blue ribands in St. James' Square, the most Jacobitical place in England, the Beggars' Opera, Christ Church, Juvenal, the Harleian Library, Secretary of State, Lydia Languish, Lord Privy Seal, the Cock Lane Ghost, under the Southern Cross, the cruel price of longevity.

MY LITTLE HENS.

I have some hens, and every day,
At four o'clock I stop my play,
And scatter, in the barnyard, wheat,
And crumble crumbs for them to eat.
My little hens say, "Cluck-cluck, too,
I think they mean "Thanks—thanks," don't
you?"