

The Funeral Speeches in *Julius Caesar*

The funeral speeches by Brutus and Antony are famous examples of rhetoric, or, the art of persuasive speech. Both speeches make use of the following rhetorical devices:

- repetition of words and sounds
- parallelism, or repeated grammatical structures
- rhetorical questions – questions requiring no answer because the answer seems obvious
- Ethos – an appeal made to convince an audience based on the speaker’s credibility/believability
- Pathos – an appeal made to convince an audience based emotion
- Logos (logic) – an appeal made to convince an audience using facts, logic

Use this worksheet to identify the above devices used in Brutus’s and Antony’s speeches and to analyze other aspects of their speeches.

Brutus’s Speech

Be patient till the last.
Romans, countrymen, and lovers! hear me for my cause, and be silent, that you may hear. Believe me for mine honor, and have respect to mine honor, that you may believe. Censure me in your wisdom, and awake your senses, that you may the better judge. If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love to Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?
As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate, I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honor him; but, as he was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears for his love; joy for his fortune; honor for his valor; and death for his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a bondman? If any, speak; for him have I offended. Who is here so rude that would not be a Roman? If any, speak, for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak, for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.
Then none have I offended.
I have done no more to Caesar, Caesar than you shall do to Brutus.

The question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol; his glory not extenuated, wherein he was worthy, nor his offences enforced, for which he suffered death.

Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony, who, though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the benefit of his dying, a place in the commonwealth; as which of you shall not?

With this I depart, that, as I slew my best lover for the good of Rome, I have the same dagger for myself, when it shall please my country to need my death.

Highlight in Yellow Brutus’s use of Pathos

Highlight in Second Color Brutus’s use of Logos

Circle and Label Brutus’s use of Ethos

Underline and label Brutus’s use of parallelism, repetition, and rhetorical questions

Antony's Speech

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 honorable man; So are they all, all honorable men – Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral. He was my friend, faithful and just to me: But Brutus says he was ambitious; And Brutus is an honorable man. He hath brought many captives home to Rome Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill: Did this in Caesar seem ambitious? When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept: Ambition should be made of sterner stuff: Yet Brutus says he was ambitious; And Brutus is an honorable man. You all did see that on the Lupercal I thrice presented him a kingly crown, Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition? Yet Brutus says he was ambitious; And, sure, he is an honorable man. I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, But here I am to speak what I do know. You all did love him once, not without cause: What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him? O judgment! thou art fled to brutish beasts, And men have lost their reason. Bear with me; My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,

And I must pause till it come back to me (*weeps*) ...
...If you have tears prepare to shed them now. You all do know this mantle. I remember The first time ever Caesar put it on. 'Twas on a summer's evening in his tent. That day he overcame the Nervii. Look, in this place ran Cassius's dagger through See what a rent the envious Casca made. Through this the well-beloved Brutus stabbed. And as he plucked his cursed steel away, Mark how the blood of Caesar followed it, As rushing out of doors, to be resolved If Brutus so unkindly knocked, or no. For Brutus, as you know, was Caesar's angel. Judge, O you gods, how dearly Caesar loved him! This was the most unkindest cut of all. For when the noble Caesar saw him stab, Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms Quite vanquished him. Then burst his mighty heart!

Highlight in Yellow Antony's use of Pathos

Highlight in Second Color Antony's use of Logos

Circle and Label Antony's use of Ethos

Underline and label Antony's use of parallelism, repetition, and rhetorical questions

Answer questions in complete sentences and use text support

Brutus's Speech

1. Consider Brutus's use of rhetorical questions. What sorts of things is he hoping the audience will decide are most important to them?
2. In one sentence, express the purpose of Brutus's speech and his principal means of achieving it.

Antony's Speech

1. Antony repeatedly refers to Brutus and his co-conspirators as "honorable." What effect does the continued repetition of this word have on the tone of the words around it?
2. Like Brutus, Antony uses rhetorical questions: what does he hope the audience will think as a result of them?
3. In 1-2 sentences, express the differences in purpose and methods between Brutus' and Antony's speeches.