

# Synopses Of Shakespeare's Plays Written By Seniors

## Julius Caesar

Brutus, believed by Julius Caesar to be his best friend, is cleverly led by Cassius to organize a group of conspirators against Caesar. The conspirators, all except Brutus, are prompted by motives of jealousy and hate to murder Caesar. Brutus convinces his countrymen that he did so for their own good, that should Caesar have lived he would have taken too much advantage of his power.

Brutus, later realizing that his side is meeting defeat, persuades one of his men to assist him in committing suicide.

Horace High

Out, out, brief candle!  
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player  
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage  
And then is heard no more.  
Shakespeare

## KING LEAR

King Lear, deciding to divide his kingdom among his three daughters and deceived by the flattery of the two elder ones, disinherits the youngest, but the most sincere. The youngest goes to France, falls in love, and marries the king. Returning, she finds her father crazy and rejected by her sisters,

who have also blinded her friend, the Duke of Gloucester. The Duke's disloyal son imprisons Lear and his youngest daughter, who is later hanged. One of the elder sisters poisons the other and then commits suicide. Gloucester's faithful son, Edgar, becomes king, as Lear dies of grief.  
C. W., Jr.

## RED MAPLES

Red maples in bloom  
Dispel winter's gloom,  
They brighten the woodland and lawn;  
A picture they bring  
Of sunshine and spring  
That adds to the beauty of dawn.

With pine trees of green,  
And maples between,  
Whose heart could be other than stirred  
As, flitting close by,  
Against the gray sky,  
Is seen a lovely cardinal bird?

Florene Nixon

## The Merchant Of Venice

Generous Antonio, borrowing money from evil Shylock to finance Bassanio's wooing of Portia, pledges as security a pound of flesh if he cannot pay when his ships come in. After successfully wooing and winning Portia by a test of caskets and the marriage of his friend, Gratiano, to her maid, Bassanio learns that Antonio's ships are lost. In the trial presided over by disguised Portia as judge and her maid as clerk, Shylock is made to forfeit his fortune for attempting the life of Antonio. Antonio gives his part to Lorenzo, his friend, who married Shylock's daughter, on the condition that Shylock would reform. Carl Walker, Jr.

## AS YOU LIKE IT

The banished Rosalind, accompanied by her friend Celia, disguises herself as a shepherd and takes up her abode in the forest of Arden. Orlando, also banished and in love with Rosalind, goes to Arden forest

too. There he meets a young shepherd and tells of his pangs of love. In the end the disguise is thrown off and the lovers are reunited. A lover is found for Celia and a double wedding is performed. Hildred Ruffin