# Cast of Characters

## Julius Caesar – a Roman general and senator; loved by commoners Wife: Calphurnia

**Barren**

### Brutus – Caesar’s best friend Wife: Portia

#### Mark Antony – Loyal to Caesar;

#### Avenges his death w/ Second Triumvirate

**Conspirators (Senators):**

* BL00685_**Cassius**
* **Marcus Brutus**
* **Casca**
* **Trebonius**
* **Ligarius**
* **Decius Brutus**
* **Metellus Cimber**
* **Cinna**

##### Setting - Rome

**Opening: February 15th**

* **Feast of Luperical – Fertility Festival**

# Assassination: March 15th

* **Ides of March**

# The Shakespeare Controversy

# Why is he so hard to read?

# Early Modern English

* **Old Words** 
  + **Thou cans’t not say I did it (Macbeth)**
* **Familiar words with unfamiliar meanings**
  + Soft = slowly
  + Saucy = presumptuous
  + Just = true
  + Repair = go
* **Strange Punctuation**
  + If there is no punctuation at the end of the line (**enjambment**), keep reading without taking a breath until you come to a major mark of punctuation.
* **Inverted Sentence Structure** 
  + **Come, go we then together. (Troilus and Cressida)**

# Iambic Pentameter

**Romeo: But soft, what light through yonder window breaks**

* The rhythm that holds together Shakespeare’s **blank verse**
* Almost like natural speaking – closely resembles the rhythm of heart beat
  + **iamb – an unstressed syllable / stressed syllable pattern**
  + **Iambic pentameter = 5 iambs per line**

**But soft, what light through yonder window breaks**

* Character with low social rank speak in prose – those with high social rank speak with iambic pentameter

# Drama Terms

**Aside – private words spoken to audience, or another character, but not heard by the other characters on stage**

**Soliloquy – one character on stage expressing private thoughts that are always true**

**Anachronism - something or someone that is not in its correct historical or chronological time, esp. a thing or person that belongs to an earlier time:**

* *The sword is an anachronism in modern warfare*
* *A cell phone is an anachronism in Caesar’s time*

*.*

**Dramatic Irony – When the audience knows what is going to happen, but the characters do not**

**Verbal Irony – when a character says something, but clearly means the opposite.**

# 

# The Globe – built in 1599 by Richard Burbage

# Did he really write his stuff?

# Stratfordians – YES.

**His work was published by his friends,**

**seven years after his death in the First Folio.**

# Anti-Stratfordians

# Lack of evidence – including handwriting samples and varied spellings of his name – to prove he wrote his plays

# Shakespeare was not educated – how could he have

# written that extensively?

**Lord Chamberlain’s theater officially records William Shakespeare as an actor, not a playwright.**

**Shakespeare uses over 18,000 different words. The King James Bible uses 6,000. The King James Bible was being written at the same time – how come a writer as great as Shakespeare was not invited to write the Bible?**

# 

# A remarkable photo of Shakespeare’s Theater built in 1887

# Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon,

# England. This color photochrome

# print was made between 1890 and

1900 in Stratford-on-Avon, England