

Q 1: "Friends, Romans, countrymen ... " 1- Summary Antony has been allowed by Brutus and the other conspirators to make a funeral oration for Caesar on condition that he will not blame them for Caesar's death; however, while Antony's speech outwardly begins by justifying the actions of Brutus and the assassins ("I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him"), Antony uses rhetoric and genuine reminders to ultimately portray Caesar in such a positive light that the crowd is enraged against the conspirators. Throughout his speech, Antony calls the conspirators "honorable men" –, his implied sarcasm becoming increasingly obvious. He begins by carefully rebutting the notion that his friend, Caesar, deserved to die because he was ambitious, instead claiming that his actions were for the good of the Roman people, whom he cared for deeply. He denies that Caesar wanted to make himself king, for there were many who witnessed the latter's denying the crown three times. As Antony reflects on Caesar's death and the injustice that nobody will be blamed for it, he becomes overwhelmed with emotion and deliberately pauses. As he does this, the crowd begins to turn against the conspirators. The crowd, increasingly agitated, calls the conspirators "traitors" and demands that Antony read out the will. Instead of reading the will immediately, however, he focuses the crowd's attention on Caesar's body, pointing out his wounds and stressing the conspirators' betrayal of a man who trusted them, in particular the betrayal of Brutus. In response to the passion of the crowd, Antony denies that he is trying to agitate them, implying that Brutus has manipulated them through deceitful rhetoric. He claims that if he were as eloquent as Brutus, he could give a voice to each of Caesar's wounds ("... that should move / The stones of Rome to rise and mutiny"). After that, Antony deals his final blow by revealing Caesar's will, in which "To every Roman citizen he gives, / To every several man, seventy-five drachmas" as well as land, to the crowd. He ends his speech with a dramatic flourish: "Here was a Caesar, when comes such another?", at which point the crowd begins to riot and search out the assassins with the intention of killing them.

2- Linguistic Stratagems The speech is a famous example of the use of emotionally charged rhetoric. Antony's pathetic speech proved to be the most effective. He was able to turn the easily swayed crowd against the "honorable" conspirators, and he was able to portray Caesar as a non-ambitious caring and truly honorable Roman man. In order to accomplish all his objectives Antony used in his speech a combination of verbal irony, repetition, connotation, and imagery rhetorical devices while strongly appealing to the plebeians "pathos" emotions. The rhetorical device Antony took hold of and made the central device throughout his persuasive argument was verbal irony. The use of verbal irony in his speech is so strong that it borders on sarcasm. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." says Antony when introducing himself to the crowd. He addresses the plebeians as "Friends" with the purpose of persuading them into believing that they were equal, and that he just wanted to say farewell to his passed, and dear friend Caesar. As his speech develops, Antony begins to plant the seed of doubt and anger in the Plebeians hearts towards the conspirators. "The noble Brutus hath told you Caesar was ambitious...It was a grievous fault, And grievously hath Caesar answered it, ... they all are honorable men" Here very wisely Antony is telling the plebeians that Brutus's is an honorable, and noble man thus may excuses his wrongful act when killing Caesar. These contradicting statements "Brutus an honorable man/killing Caesar was wrongful," already begin to create confusion and distrust about the conspirators. Once he had aroused this feeling of doubt in the plebeians Antony

was able to continue with his argument with much more strength and confidence. A point extremely important in Antony's speech was persuading the crowd to view Caesar as the most honorable man in Rome, whom was not ambitious as claimed by the conspirators. The evidence that Antony gave the crowd which persuaded them into believing that Caesar was not indeed ambitious, was that "He hath brought many captives home to Rome, whose ransoms did the general coffers fill...a kingly crown...he did thrice refuse...Brutus is an honorable man" Here Antony is implying to the crowd that if Caesar would've been ambitious as the honorable Brutus claims than Caesar would have kept all the treasures acquired at war for himself, plus he would have never rejected the crown offered to him three times. Antony's plans were working to the extreme. The crowd was torn, angry, and believing each and every word the noble Antony spoke. To make his speech even more effective Antony emphasizes a mixture of repetition and connotations, which makes his speech even more pathetically appealing. A word that is extremely stressed in Antony's speech is the word "Friends" which Antony refers to the crowd. This word has connotations of confidence, familiarity, and trust which make of Antony's image in the commoner's eyes a positive one. The word "honorable" is excessively present in Antony's speech too. At first, Brutus and the rest of the conspirators are thought highly of for being honorable men. Nevertheless, with the manipulative strength that he continuously uses this word to describe Brutus, the word becomes petty, no longer symbolizing loyalty and good for the commoners. This reaction from the commoner's was very positive for Antony for Brutus's and the conspirators honor was the only trait that excused them for murdering Caesar. "Bloody" is another word Antony uses with great consistency throughout his speech because of their negative, gruesome, tragic connotations. "While bloody treason flourished over us" These connotations along with the tone in which they are told create a feeling or thought of sadness, and atrocious events in the audiences souls. This growing emotion in the commoner's makes the respect and honorable view they had for Brutus and the conspirators slowly fade more into nothing more than the want for revenge. The usage of the rhetorical device, imagery was also a powerful turning point in Antony's speech. "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; He begins with an Asyndeton. This is when you make a list but don't put conjunctions. Mark Antony begins with the more intimate address 'Friends', before moving from the personal to the national, a move that is reinforced by expansion': 'Friends' (one syllable), 'Romans' (two syllables), 'countrymen' (three syllables). Antony also applies the device of "Metonymy" A figure of speech in which a related term is substituted for the word itself—where he associates the ear and the act of listening. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them; The good is often interred with their bones; Antony combines two Rhetorical devices here: Personification: attribution of personality to an impersonal thing. Tautology which is the repetition of an idea in a different word, phrase, or sentence. He is essentially saying the same thing with different words in each line. 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. In this original statement of grievance, Antony uses a Syllepsis: use of a word with two others, with each of which it is understood differently. Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest— For Brutus is an honorable man; So are they all, all honorable men— The most common Rhetorical Device used by Shakespeare in this monologue is Irony. This is an expression of something which is contrary to the intended meaning;

the words say one thing but mean another. And your audience knows what it means. Shakespeare uses this line as an Antistrophe throughout the speech. An Antistrophe is a repetition of the same word or phrase at the end of successive clauses or stanzas. "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. Here is irony and antistrophe again. He hath brought many captives home to Rome Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill: Did this in Caesar seem ambitious? Here Shakespeare begins a series of Rhetorical Questions so the crowd can prove to themselves that Caesar was not 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. Here is irony and antistrophe again. You all did see that on the Lupercal I thrice presented him a kingly crown, Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition? Rhetorical Question. Yet Brutus says he was ambitious; And, sure, he is an honourable man. Here is irony and antistrophe again. I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke, But here I am to speak what I do know. Antithesis is the opposition, or contrast of ideas or words in a balanced or parallel construction. You all did love him once, not without cause: What cause withholds you then, to mourn for him? Rhetorical Question. 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, Hyperbolic Metaphor is used here. Hyperbole is the exaggeration for emphasis or for rhetorical effect. And I must pause till it come back to me. Aposiopesis is a form of ellipse by which a speaker comes to an abrupt halt, seemingly overcome by emotion.