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English Literature

JULIUS CAESAR

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XI (English Literature)



**BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
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*******Editors*******

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PREFACE

Julius Caesar is one of the classic Roman plays of Shakespeare, and is an excellent choice of reading material for the students at higher secondary level. It offers an interesting and gripping glimpse of a historical leader with a lasting charm. The play deals with the timeless question as to what makes up a good leader and displays three models of leadership in the characters of Julius Caesar, Brutus and Marc Antony. The play becomes more interesting a study when the students realize that Rome was a Republic at the time when Caesar was murdered by his fellow senators who conspired against him on the suspicion of becoming an autocrat. Today the student is more exposed to politics, and is able to debate on the question of who is and who is not a good leader. By comparing and contrasting the leadership qualities of Caesar, Brutus and Antony, and the other characters as well, the students are offered a stimulating play to ruminate over the qualities of a good leader. There are, in the play, other minor themes of friendship, loyalty, gratitude, superstition, ambition, frustration and suicide etc. which the students explore with a dramatic narrative that constantly attract their attention.

The book provides an introduction to William Shakespeare, his works, classification of his plays, the sources for writing the play *Julius Caesar*, the writer and the history, the synopsis of the play and the major characters. For a better comprehension of the play, certain exercises are appended. The comprehension exercises like multiple choice questions, short question-answers, reference to context explanations etc aim at helping the students to understand the text, and the composition exercise intend to bring out their creativity.

Suggestions from the teachers and students to improve this book are welcome.

Dr. ANIL KUMAR DADHICH
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