

Individual Learning Packet

**Teaching Unit**

**Antony and Cleopatra**

by William Shakespeare

Copyright © 2004 by Prestwick House Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938. 1-800-932-4593.  
www.prestwickhouse.com Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her  
personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

**ISBN 978-1-60389-709-9**

Item No. 201610

# Antony and Cleopatra

## Objectives

Note: All references come from the Dover Thrift Edition of *Antony and Cleopatra*, Copyright 1998.

*By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:*

1. define the term “foreshadowing” and show how the following lines foreshadow the deaths of the two main characters:

**Cleopatra:** Act I, Scene II: “Oh, excellent! I love long life better than figs,” (spoken by Charmian) and “...hath yet but life/And not a serpent’s poison,” (spoken by Enobarbus).

**Antony:** Act I, Scene III: “Upon your sword/Sit laurel victory!” (spoken by Cleopatra).

2. discuss how Enobarbus functions as a commentator and how his role allows the audience to gain a greater understanding of Roman opinions and of Antony’s character.
3. trace the chronology of the play’s main action through the five acts.
4. discuss the characteristics of iambic pentameter and blank verse and their importance in the work.
5. recognize and explain the use of prose in a drama written predominantly in poetry.
6. analyze the stratifications of Roman society, including comments on the social distinctions that differentiated rulers, generals/trusted advisors, relatives, common soldiers, and slaves.
7. discuss conventions of death, including death in battle, suicide, and burial.
8. explain how Antony and Cleopatra could be seen as a cautionary tale to English citizens and to their leaders, citing examples.
9. compare and contrast Cæsar and Antony as generals and as men.
10. discuss the importance of the soliloquy in the pacing, character development, and tone of the play.
11. trace the rise, fall, and ultimate status of Antony’s character and as an example of the tragic hero.
12. analyze Cleopatra as a woman and as a queen.
13. cite and explain various examples of literary terms.

# Antony and Cleopatra

## Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Discuss the balance of power and the obligations among the Triumvirs (Lepidus, Cæsar, and Antony).
2. Discuss the technique of using messengers as a tool of commentary and give several examples.
3. Use inference and observation to contrast the characters and importance of Antony's two wives, Fulvia and Octavia.
4. Comment on the relationship of Cæsar and Octavia and the role of duty for the high-born Roman woman.
5. Although the play is a tragedy, it has some moments of comic relief. Cite two examples of this and discuss the importance of inserting comic relief in the play.
6. Discuss the differences between an elegy and a eulogy and cite an example of each in this play.
7. Lepidus, although a member of the Triumvirate, is certainly never equal to Cæsar in power or to Antony in personal magnetism. Show how these impressions are conveyed in the play, and give an analysis of the character of Lepidus.
8. Jealousy is an important element in Cleopatra's personality. Discuss this trait in her make-up, and cite examples of behavior that showed her jealousy.
9. In Act II, Scene II, Enobarbus gives a breathtaking description of Cleopatra's beauty and wealth. Rephrase this description either in poetry or as a rap presentation of your own devising.
10. Several battles occur in *Antony and Cleopatra*. Discuss two battles and compare the military skills of Cæsar, Pompey, and/or Antony as demonstrated in those battles. (Note: Choice of battles will determine which generals are analyzed.)
11. Advisors are an important to kings, queens, and generals. Discuss two of the following advisors, determining whether their advice was wise or foolish and whether they were loyal advisors or not.
  - Enobarbus
  - Agrippa
  - Charmian
  - Mardian
  - Proculeius
  - Menas
12. Would you want Cleopatra as an ally? Why or why not?

**Act I, Scene III: The Same. Another Room.**

1. Why is Cleopatra so frantic and jealous before Antony enters?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What does Antony tell Cleopatra about where his is going?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. On learning that Fulvia is dead, what does Cleopatra scold Antony for?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Antony claims he goes or stays at Cleopatra's command, but what is her response? Why does she behave in this way?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Act II, Scene III: The same. Cæsar's House.**

1. What does Antony admit to Octavia, and what does he promise her?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What is the soothsayer's warning to Antony? What is the purpose of including this warning?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. What is Antony's response to the soothsayer?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Act III, Scene IV: Athens. A Room in Anthony's House.**

1. Antony is ranting as the scene opens. What is he angry about?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. What is Octavia's response?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

3. What will Octavia do to repair the rift between Cæsar and Antony?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Act IV, Scene II: Alexandria. Cleopatra's Palace.**

1. Having ordered his own feast, Antony speaks to his followers. What is his purpose?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. When his servants cry, what is Antony's response?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---