

Brutus – Act 4

Character Development

Clinging to Idea of Honour

- Brutus criticises Cassius for taking bribes and raising money corruptly. He reminds Cassius that they killed Caesar because they believed he was corrupt. Brutus does not want to be guilty of the same crime:
- ‘Shall we now / Contaminate our fingers with base bribes...?’

Hypocritical

- Although Brutus claims to abhor corruption, he is willing to take money from Cassius to pay his army. This is rather hypocritical, as he knows Cassius raises such money corruptly.
- Brutus still has a high opinion of his own honour and is unmoved by Cassius' threats and complaints.
- 'I am so strong in honesty / That they pass me by as the idle wind / Which I respect not'.

Stoic

- A Stoic was a person who tried to suppress their own emotions and to calmly accept everything that happened.
- Brutus shows stoicism when he tries to control himself on hearing news of Portia's death. When Cassius sympathises, Brutus says 'Speak no more of her.'

Reflective / Philosophical / Too Sure of Himself

- Brutus believes that a person can turn fate to their advantage if they wish:
- ‘There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to
fortune’.
- He is determined to march to Philippi.
- However, Brutus is wrong in this judgement and should have listened to Cassius about letting the enemy tire themselves out coming

Guilty

- Brutus cannot sleep and he is visited by Caesar's ghost.
- The ghost calls itself 'thy evil spirit', which could mean that the ghost appears only to Brutus and is, therefore 'his' evil spirit; or it could mean that the ghost is a representation of Brutus' inner evil.
- The ghost is a bad omen for Brutus.