

“I Come to Bury Caesar...”

A WordGrid Puzzle by Rick Rubenstein

Even those who have never read Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* are likely familiar with the scene in Act III featuring Mark Antony addressing the assembled mourners at Caesar’s funeral with the famous words “Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears.” What few know, however, is that Antony concealed the real reason Caesar’s assassins were dissatisfied with him and thus did him in.

To discover the secret reason behind Caesar’s demise, solve the four puzzles below using the included grid. The puzzles can be solved in any order. The answer to each is an ordinary English word. No grid cell will be used more than once.

As you complete the puzzles, transfer the answers to the numbered spaces below. This will provide instructions enabling you to determine what crucial quality Caesar was missing.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Friends

Concealed in the grid is a circle (well, really more of an octagon) of eight close friends. Pairs of neighboring friends are so close, in fact, that they’re practically joined at the hip — and if you *do* join them, you can find eight additional words. Even the closest friends, though, don’t share everything. Read the unshared letters (one from each friend), proceeding clockwise from a friend for you to determine, and write them in the spaces below.

19 16 6 30 27 22 11 5

Romans

Seven Romans can be found in the grid. They are traveling incognito, and thus don’t look especially like Romans, or indeed like people. However, out of habit, each is standing atop a location emblematic of Rome. These citizens, read in order from top to bottom, will provide a clue to a seven-letter word; write this word below.

1 20 13 31 14 18 4

Countrymen

Nine words in the grid might be considered “countrymen” — or at least, they could if they hadn’t each had one letter changed. Write the letters which were altered, from top to bottom, in the spaces below.

21 29 24 7 15 10 2 23 25

Lend me your ears

The grid contains clues to eight words. The words themselves appear elsewhere in the grid. All the clues can be found in contiguous cells, reading either left to right or top to bottom. You may, however, have to borrow some ears to decipher them correctly. Write the first letters of the clued words, read from top to bottom, in the spaces below.

28 3 17 32 12 9 26 8