

13 Julius Caesar

So, Julius Caesar, who created so much of the chaos you just read about, convinced everyone he was the man to overcome that same chaos! Hitler, who fervently idealized ancient Rome, used this ploy to his cruel advantage, and so have other leaders. This only adds to Julius Caesar's impact on history, for Caesar not only moved Rome from a republic to an empire, but he reached a level of control and influence that has tantalized power-hungry leaders ever since! Don't believe me? Well, think about this! Caesar's very name has come to stand for power. You see, later, the Russians would call their supreme monarch *czar*, their form of *Caesar*; likewise, the German monarch was the *kaiser*, their form of *Caesar*! Do you get it? Do you see why you must understand Caesar if you're to understand Rome?!

You must, then, do some hard thinking. Did civil war end after his rule? Did he solve Rome's problems? Did his efforts earn him a peaceful life? If not, why does the world esteem him so? (Do *ThinkWrite 8* while investigating Caesar.)

And while you're studying the real issues in Julius Caesar's life, think about this: God says, "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth." Why does God insist that all people be treated decently? You already know! It's because all people are created in His image and have value (*Big Belief 2*). Now, if a person doesn't believe this truth of God's, they often believe the total opposite—that *might makes right*. In other words, if you're strong enough to do what you want, then you've got the right to. That's why people have enslaved, abused, and belittled others throughout history. These people believe that *nice guys finish last*, but God says nice guys will receive what the tough guys have been chasing—they'll inherit the earth! The gentle don't have to fight for it; God ultimately gives it to them as an inheritance!

Ask most adults about Julius Caesar and you'll probably find they only remember the date of his death. But you need to take into your adulthood the *reason* for his death, and what it teaches us about government and freedom and truth!

ThinkWrite 8: "Let's bring it home!"

Take all that you've researched—the consequences of bad government, the importance of higher laws, God's instructions to rulers—and let's bring it home. If you're an American, how does America measure up? If you're an Australian or Canadian, etc., how does your nation measure up?

You can benefit our world by understanding how Julius Caesar shifted Rome from a republic to an empire (dictatorship), for that's quite a feat. Could it happen in your nation? How solid is your republic (or commonwealth)? Are there any forces moving your nation toward tyranny? Are modern Americans (Canadians, etc.) like the Romans of Julius Caesar's day? Do many hope the government will take care of them? Do many seek only entertainment? Do many ignore the responsibility for moral decisions, leaving it to those in power to decide big issues? What are your nation's *Big 2 Beliefs*, and what does that say about your own nation's future?

13a Life of Julius Caesar

- *Greenleaf's *Famous Men of Rome*, Ch. XXI Gr. 2-7
- **Story of the World*, by Susan Wise Bauer, Ch. 34-35 Gr. 3-6
- **Story of the Romans*, by H.A. Guerber, Ch. LXV Gr. 4-8
- Book of the Ancient Romans*, by Mills, Ch. XIII (if not already read) Gr. 6-12
- Roman Republic*, by Asimov, pp. 210-222 Gr. 7-12
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- **Child's History of the World*, by V.M. Hillyer, Ch. 33 Gr. 1-4
- **Birthdays of Freedom: Vol. 1*, by Genevieve Foster, pp. 43-44 Gr. 2-6
- Julius Caesar*, by Rupert Matthews (Great Lives) Gr. 3-7
- Julius Caesar*, by John Gunther (Landmark) Gr. 3-9
- Great Leaders of Greece and Rome*, by Leonard Cottrell, Ch. 8 Gr. 4-8
- **Julius Caesar*, by Richard Platt (DK) Gr. 4-8
- World's Great Stories*, by Louis Untermeyer, pp. 131-133 Gr. 4-8
- Plutarch: Ten Famous Lives*, edited by Charles Robinson, Ch. 8
Gr. 6-12
Robinson has abridged the reports of Plutarch, a famed Roman historian.
- **Lives of Famous Romans*, by Olivia Coolidge, Ch. 2 Gr. 7-12
You may find an original edition of this very helpful book at your library.
It will be cited throughout this guide. If you'd like to buy it, new copies
are available only from the republisher: ShoeStringPress.com. (They do not
sell through Amazon.)
- **Ancient Rome: How it Affects You Today*, by Richard Maybury Gr. 8-12
Have you finished this little book yet? If not, keep at it. It has a great deal
to say about Julius Caesar.
- Julius Caesar*, by Manuel Komroff (Messner) Gr. 8-12
- The Military Life of Julius Caesar: Imperator*, by Trevor N. Dupuy
Gr. 8-12
- **Plutarch's Lives*, by Plutarch, chapter on Caesar Gr. 10-12
This classic is published under many names and formats, so I can't specify
a numerical chapter. And if you'd like, you can go deeper by reading
Plutarch's comparisons of key Romans and Greeks.

Julius Caesar, by William Shakespeare
Various

Have you been wanting to tackle some Shakespeare? You can try reading this play, an abridged adaptation of it, or even enjoy the film wherein James Mason plays Brutus.

Fiction/Historical Fiction

We Were There with Caesar's Legions, by Robert Webb (We Were There)
Gr. 3-8

Fictional kids have adventures with the real Caesar. Since this book is for younger children, it only glorifies Caesar. Feel free to have your kids enjoy the story; just make sure they also have a fuller picture of him from other resources.

**Detectives in Togas* and **Mystery of the Roman Ransom*, both by H. Winterfeld
Gr. 3-10

Fun mystery stories set at the time of Julius Caesar. Boys are especially fond of the humor in these books!

Gift of the Golden Cup and *Theft of the Golden Ring*, both by Isabelle Lawrence
Gr. 5-12

Fun mystery stories set at the time of Julius Caesar. Rare books, but great finds!

13b Caesar's Conquest of Gaul (France)

**Story of the Middle Ages*, by Christine Miller and H.A. Guerber, Ch. Xa, XI, XIIa
Gr. 4-8

**Caesar's Gallic War*, edited by Olivia Coolidge (from Caesar's own journal)
Gr. 5-12

You may find this very helpful book at your library. If you'd like to buy it, new copies are available only from the republisher: ShoeStringPress.com. (They do not sell through Amazon.)

13c Caesar's conquest of Britain

**An Island Story*, by H.E. Marshall, Ch. II Gr. 3-8
This book is available online and is possibly being reprinted.

**Story of the Middle Ages*, by Christine Miller and H.A. Guerber, Ch. IX, Xb Gr. 4-8

The Story of Britain, by R.J. Unstead, pp. 5-12 Gr. 5-12
This is a nice narrative history of England. Alas, it is out of print, but if you can find it, enjoy it! Any history of Britain would do, however.

Fiction/Historical Fiction

The Beast of Lor, by Clyde Robert Bulla Gr. 2-6
Don't miss this! A British boy is stunned by his first sight of an elephant, when Julius Caesar uses them to invade Britain.

13d Caesar's Wife, Cleopatra of Egypt

Be wary of biographies that may be feministic, and be warned that Cleopatra was not a saint!

**Cleopatra*, by Diane Stanley Gr. 3-8
Beautiful picture-biography with mosaic-style illustrations.

**Cleopatra: The Queen of Kings*, by Fiona Macdonald (DK) Gr. 4-9

**Queen Cleopatra*, by Tom Streissguth Gr. 4-9

Cleopatra of Egypt, by Leonora Hornblow (Landmark) Gr. 4-12

**Cleopatra: Goddess of Egypt, Enemy of Rome*, by Polly Schoyer Brooks Gr. 6-12

Egypt's Queen Cleopatra, by Iris Noble (Messner) Gr. 7-12

**Cleopatra*, by Robert Green (First Books) Gr. 8-12

Fiction/Historical Fiction

**Cleopatra VII: Daughter of the Nile*, by Kristiana Gregory (Royal Diaries) Gr. 4-9
This is a fictionalized diary based on Cleopatra's real life; contains modern attitudes.