

Incorporating Vermont PBS Into Your Classroom

Program: *Great Performances: Julius Caesar*

Grade(s): 6-12

Ways to watch: Series website, Vermont PBS broadcast stations, streaming services

About: Set in a women’s prison, [Great Performances: Julius Caesar](#) offers a powerful dramatization of the catastrophic consequences of a political leader’s extension of power beyond constitutional confines through an all-female lens. In this acclaimed Donmar Warehouse production directed by Phyllida Lloyd, Shakespeare’s famous discourse on power, loyalty, and tragic idealism is heightened against the backdrop of female incarceration.

Primary Connection to the [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy](#):

<i>Standards</i>	<i>Anchor Standards</i>
Reading – Key Ideas and Details	<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.</p>
Reading – Craft and Structure	<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4 Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.5 Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.</p>
Reading – Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.</p>
Language – Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	<p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.</p>

Primary Connection to the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS):

<i>Standards</i>	<i>Anchor Standards</i>
Responding	7. Perceive and analyze artistic work. 8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. 9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Resources: Use the following carefully curated resources to support teaching English language arts and more with *Great Performances*.

- PBS Learning Media: [Julius Caesar collection](#)
- PBS: [Great Performances: Julius Caesar](#)
- PBS: [Great Performances series website](#)
- [Great Performances - Resources and Episode-Specific Activities](#)
- [COVID Related](#)
- [AOE Continuity of Learning](#)

Other PBS programs with connections to ELA, Social Studies, and the Arts:

1. Great Performances: Much Ado About Nothing
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
2. [American Masters](#)
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
3. [Poetry in America](#)
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
4. The Great American Read
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
5. [Masterpiece Collection](#)
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
6. Shakespeare Uncovered
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)