Act II Scene 1

I. Caesar Now v. Caesar with Power

A. What is Brutus’s opinion of Caesar?

B. How does Brutus think Caesar will change if he becomes King?

C. What is Brutus’s opinion of power and ambition?

II. Important Passage: “Brutus, thou sleep’st. Awake!”

A. What does this passage mean?

B. Where does this passage appear?

C. What convinces Brutus to join the conspiracy?

III. For the first time in this play, one of the characters considers ethical/moral concerns. Which

character struggles with his conscience in Scene 1.

IV. Ambition

A. Is ambition considered a virtue or flaw in today’s society?

B. Is ambition considered a virtue or flaw in the setting of this story?

C. How do you know? Why did it change?

D. Which character is ambitious?

V. In Brutus’s monologue he discusses the power, purpose, and limitations of oaths. What does he say

about oaths?

VI. Themes

A. Age and Youth- When discussing Cicero’s possible value to the conspirators, what do we

learn about the conspirators’ opinions of age and youth. What words are associated with each?

B. Feminism- How would you characterize Portia? Is she weak? Is she strong? How does Brutus

treat her? What does she say about her own gender?

ATIONS by Shel Silverstein

If we meet and I say, “Hi,”

That’s a salutation.

If you ask me how I feel,

That’s consideration.

If we stop and talk awhile,

That’s a conversation.

If we understand each other,

That’s communication.

If we argue, scream and fight,

That’s an altercation.

If later we apologize,

That’s reconciliation.

If we help each other home,

That’s cooperation.

And all these ations added up

Make civilization.

(And if I say this is a wonderful poem, Is that exaggeration?)