

## Literary Analysis

### Exposition in Drama

Like exposition in other forms of literature, the **exposition** in drama is the opening segment that introduces the characters, setting, situation, and other details crucial to understanding the work. For example, as *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* opens, a man in the crowd declares, "We make holiday to see Caesar and to rejoice in his triumph." The tribunes respond angrily:

And do you now cull out a holiday?  
And do you now strew flowers in his way  
That comes in triumph over Pompey's blood?  
Be gone!

This exchange reveals the play's situation: Caesar is returning victorious, the public loves him, and some leaders resent him.

### Connecting Literary Elements

**Dialogue** is the conversation between characters in a work of literature. In a drama, it is the principal way in which the story is told. Shakespeare uses dialogue in the exposition to establish the situation, introduce the main characters, and bring the reader up to date with events.

## Reading Strategy

### Using Text Aids

**Text aids** are directions provided for readers to help them understand a play. Stage directions that tell actors where and how to move and how to speak certain lines can help you, the reader, picture what is happening on stage. They are enclosed in brackets in the text.

Notes along the sides of the text explain the meanings of words and phrases that are no longer in use. Refer to these notes to clarify unfamiliar language. Use a chart like the one shown to help you rewrite some of the difficult passages in the play in your own words.

### Vocabulary Development

**replication** (rep' lə kā' shən) *n.* echo or reverberation (p. 824)

**spare** (sper) *adj.* lean or thin (p. 830)

**infirmity** (in fur' mē tē) *n.* illness; physical defect (p. 832)

**surly** (sər' lē) *adv.* in a proud, commanding way (p. 834)

**portentous** (pôr ten' tēs) *adj.* foreboding; full of unspecified meaning (p. 834)

**prodigious** (prō dij' əs) *adj.* impressively forceful (p. 835)

#### Original Lines

Accout'ed as I was,  
I plunged in.

⋮

#### Words Explained in Side Notes

Accout'ed:  
dressed in  
armor

⋮

#### My Own Words

Dressed in armor,  
I jumped in.