Rome: Power and Glory - Julius Caesar

1. What can you infer about Caesar based on his quote, “I would rather be the first man in a barbarian village, than the second man in Rome.”?

**Power hungry; personal power was more important to him than loyalty to Rome**

2. What did Caesar believe were the two secrets to gaining power in Rome?

**Play to the people and command a successful army**

3. What did Caesar do in 49 BCE in his attempt to gain absolute power?

**Commanded a Roman army to cross the Rubicon into Rome and started a Civil War**

4. What did Romans think about Cleopatra?

**They did not like her; she represented everything that was a threat to Rome; she reminded them of their vulnerability**

5. How did Caesar use the absolute power that had been given to him by the people?

**Surprises everyone by using it not for revenge but for social reform; gave food and grain to the poor and land to the soldiers**

6. Why did the Senators assassinate Caesar and how did the people of Rome react to his assassination?

**Caesar asked the people to elect him Dictator for life; Senators felt it was an insult to the Republic; The people of Rome rioted, they burned the homes of the assassins and declared Caesar to be a god**

7. What is meant by, “You could get rid of Caesar, but you couldn’t get rid of Caesarism.”?

**The Republic was gone - it had been killed by Caesar; people valued the gifts of a dictator more than the empty promises of a republic; question becomes who will replace Caesar as absolute ruler**

8. Who competed to replace Caesar as absolute ruler of Rome?

**Octavian - Caesar’s 18 year old heir (nephew / son-in law)**
**Marc Antony - Caesar’s closest friend and ally**