CASSIUS
Messala,
This is my birth-day; as this very day
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand, Messala:
Be thou my witness that against my will,
As Pompey was, am I compell'd to set
Upon one battle all our liberties.
You know that I held Epicurus strong
And his opinion: now I change my mind,
And partly credit things that do presage.
Coming from Sardis, on our former ensign
Two mighty eagles fell, and there they perch'd,
Gorging and feeding from our soldiers' hands;
Who to Philippi here consorted us:
This morning are they fled away and gone;
And in their steads do ravens, crows and kites,
Fly o'er our heads and downward look on us,
As we were sickly prey: their shadows seem
A canopy most fatal, under which
Our army lies, ready to give up the ghost.

---

Julius Caesar Act 5 Scene1
In this extract, Cassius tells his soldier, Messala, how he feels about the impending battle with Antony and Octavius’ army.

Starter
Underline 10 unusual words and use a dictionary or your phone to define them on this sheet.

Ext: try to use these words in sentences of your own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task One (Choose One)</th>
<th>Task Two (Choose One)</th>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does Cassius feel about the impending battle?</td>
<td>Exploring Metaphor Cassius mentions animals and their actions whilst his army travelled from Sardis. How might these animals be symbolic of Cassius’s feelings about the battle?</td>
<td>How does Cassius feel about the impending battle? Turn your work from task two into a paragraph that shows clear analysis. Your paragraph must: • refer to Shakespeare’s intentions • identify a figurative device • explain how you believe the figurative language has been used to affect the audience. Try to link your answer to the theme if fate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underline three quotations and write a topic sentence to introduce them.</td>
<td>How does this speech link to the theme of fate? You must explore Cassius’s metaphors used above in your answer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ext: Justify each of your quotations - how do they support your argument?</td>
<td>Hint: Is it important that Cassius will die on his birthday?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy out three sentences from the speech above and parse them. Which word classes do you think are most important in these sentences? Why? Try to link this to what you know of Cassius’s character.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hint: Is it important that Cassius will die on his birthday?