

Sixth Grade Performance Assessment

You will listen to an information text called “Julius Caesar: Dictator for Life,” by Denise Rinaldo. You’ll also get a chance to reread the text on your own. Then you’ll answer some questions. You might find this quotation useful - it’s from a different section of the text:

“As a commander, Caesar was ruthless to his enemies. One million people may have died during his military campaigns. Another million were probably sold into slavery. At the same time, he inspired tremendous loyalty in his own soldiers. He rewarded their bravery with gratitude, cash and land “ (p. 120)

ruthless = without pity, merciless, or very cruel.
loyalty = faithfulness, adoration, love

Task 1: (Reading Standard 8, Writing Standard 2) Write an essay in which you answer these questions:

In “Julius Caesar: Dictator for Life” the author argues that Caesar was complicated - he was more than one way. As she develops her argument, one claim the author makes is that Caesar was ruthless. Another claim the author makes is that Caesar inspired loyalty. How does the author convince you that Caesar was both ruthless and inspired loyalty?

In your response, be sure to:

- introduce your topic by explaining the author’s argument and specific claims
- explain how the first claim is convincing with facts, details, quotations, and information *from the text*
- explain how the second claim is convincing with facts, details, quotations, and information *from the text*
- group information logically into paragraphs
- use specific language related to the topic
- provide a concluding statement that supports your explanation

Task 2: (Reading Standard 4)

Sometimes when you’re reading about a topic, there are certain words that seem extra important. For example, in describing how Caesar was such a ruthless military leader, the author says that many were killed during Caesar’s *rampage* through Gaul (France). Explain what you think *rampage* means in this context, and why this term is important to understanding Caesar’s ruthlessness.