

*AA306 Shakespeare*

*Antony and Cleopatra*

# *Shakespeare's sources*

- *North's Plutarch. vital source for many writers of the time*
- *Clearly Shakespeare's primary source for A5 C*
- *Striking parallels between the two texts*  
*e.g. Enobarbus "The barge she sat in..."*  
*II ii*
- *Other sources e.g. Suetonius' The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*
- *Sources largely anti-imperialist*

## *...and others*

- *Many other possible sources.*
- *Chaucer's Legend of Good Women*
- *Cinthio's Cleopatra*
- *Etc▷etc▷— the story is a well known one▷*
- *↳see Bullough's Narrative and Dramatic sources of Shakespeare's Vol▷V←*
- *But Plutarch remains major source*

# *Characterization*

- *NB. **not** character*
- *How does Shakespeare present the characters★*
- *E.g. first image of Antony.*

*The triple pillar of the world transformed  
Into a strumpet's fool ~~4i~~*

# *Enobarbus on Cleopatra*



# *TMA focus*

- *The TMA guidance notes say.*
- *How does Shakespeare use Plutarch★*
- *Detailed comparison*
- *Political and moral dimension*
- *Proximity and divergence*

# *Suggested approach*

- *Take up the guidance note suggestion to investigate Plutarch's presentation. how does he present the characters★*
- *What worldview does Plutarch display★*
- *How is this reflected in the presentation of character★*

# *Compare with Shakespeare*

- *Shakespeare is concerned with dramatic presentation, so events are elided, details changed, etc. for dramatic effect (e.g.) marriage to Octavia*
- *Key passages to be identified*
- *Close reading of both Shakespeare and Plutarch*

# *Close reading*

- *Imagery, language, poetic effects, position in text, context, speaker etc▷*
- *Plutarch. intentions, implicit and explicit attitudes, language, bias▷*

# *Structure*

- *Maybe.*
- *Intro – genre differences*
- *Plutarch's account → commentary*
- *Shakespeare's versions in comparison*
- *Conclusions*