

## Julius Caesar

100 BC - 44 BC

from Fifty Famous Stories Retold

by James Baldwin

Nearly two thousand years ago there lived in Rome a man whose name was Julius Caesar. He was the greatest of all the Romans.

Why was he so great?

He was a brave warrior, and had conquered many countries for Rome. He was wise in planning and in doing. He knew how to make men both love and fear him.

At last, he made himself the ruler of Rome. Some said that he wished to become its king. But the Romans at that time did not believe in kings.

Once when Caesar was passing through a little country village, all the men, women, and children of the place came out to see him. There were not more than fifty of them, all together, and they were led by their mayor, who told each one what to do.

These simple people stood by the roadside and watched Caesar pass. The mayor looked very proud and happy; for was he not the ruler of this village? He felt that he was almost as great a man as Cæsar himself.

They said, "See how that fellow struts at the head of his little flock!"

"Laugh as you will," said Cæsar, "he has reason to be proud. I would rather be the head man of a village than the second man in Rome!"

At another time, Caesar was crossing a narrow sea in a boat. Before he was halfway to the farther shore, a storm overtook him. The wind blew hard; the waves dashed high; the lightning flashed; the thunder rolled.

It seemed every minute as though the boat would sink. The captain was in great fright. He had crossed the sea many times, but never in such a storm as this. He trembled with fear; he could not guide the boat; he fell down upon his knees; he moaned, "All is lost! All is lost!"

But Caesar was not afraid. He bade the man get up and take his oars again.

"Why should you be afraid?" he said. "The boat will not be lost; for you have Caesar on board."



Model Practice 1

The wind blew

hard; the waves dashed

high; the lightning

flashed; the thunder

rolled.



# The Boaster

620 BC - 560 BC

by Aesop, W. J. Linton, and Walter Crane

from the Baby's Own Aesop 1887

In the house, in the market, the streets,  
Everywhere he was boasting his feats;  
Till one said, with a sneer,  
“Let us see it done here!  
What’s so oft done with ease, one repeats.”

**Deeds not words.**

Model Practice 1

In the house, in the

market, the streets,

Everywhere he was

boasting his feats;

