

**READING COMPREHENSION – LEVEL 2**  
**Ohio Junior Classical League – 2012**

---

**Passage I: Presbyter et Miles**

quidam presbyter in Francia equum optimum habebat. accidit ut frater eius, qui miles erat,	1
eundem equum multum cuperet, ut eo in certamine uteretur; sed nullo modo eum obtinere potuit. tandem	2
multis precibus imperavit ut frater equum tres dies sibi commodaret. tum ad unum ex fratris sui servis iit	3
et rogavit: “quid frater meus frequentius dicit, dum equitat?”	4
servus posteaquam paulum meditatus est, respondit: “dominus meus plerumque preces suas dicit,	5
dum equitat, et verba quae frequentius dicit sunt: “deus in adiutorium meum intende.”	6
tum miles in equo commodato equitare coepit et, dum equitat, quotiens “deus in adiutorium	7
meum intende,” dicebat, equum calcaribus pungebat.	8
brevi tempore equum tam bene instruxit ut, quotiens miles haec verba dicebat, equus, calcaria	9
timens, cum ne minime quidem pungeretur, tamen quam celerrime currere inciperet et magnos saltus	10
daret. tribus dies postea, miles equum fratri reddidit.	11
postridie, cum presbyter in equo suo equitare inciperet, miles eum secutus est, ut finem videret.	12
cum autem presbyter preces dicere inciperet, equus magnos saltus dedit et summa vi procurrere incepit.	13
posteaquam equus hoc idem iterum atque iterum fecit, miles dixit: “mi frater, iste equus tibi non idoneus	14
est. magno periculo tuo in eo equitas; nam tu es homo gravis et, si de equo cades, vehementer laederis.”	15
tum alter voce tristi “hic equus,” inquit, “aequo gradu me ferre solebat; nunc tamen-nescio quo	16
modo id acciderit-multum doleo, quod equum bonum et idoneum amisi. quae cum ita sint, te oro ut	17
equum accipias; magis enim idoneus militis est quam presbytero.”	18
ita miles effecit ut equum cupitum sibi obtineret.	19

Vocabulary and Notes

presbyter, presbyteri, m. – priest

commodo, commodare – to lend

deus in adiutorium meum intende – paraphrased: lord, hasten to bring me to heaven

calcar, calcaris, n. – spur

pungo, pungere, pupugi, punctus – to prick, poke

idoneus, -a, -um – suitable

1. Why did the soldier want his brother’s horse?  
a. in order to race it      b. it was beautiful      c. to ride in battle      d. it was valuable
2. What did he convince his brother to do?  
a. to lend him the horse      b. sell him the horse  
c. buy a new horse      d. give him the horse
3. What is the best translation of the words *ut eo in certamine uteretur* from line 2?  
a. how it could be useful in a contest      b. since he was good at playing certamen  
c. so that he could be used in that contest      d. so that he could use it in a contest
4. What information did his brother’s slave provide the soldier?  
a. where the priest kept the horse      b. what words he said most frequently  
c. where his brother had gone      d. what the horse ate most frequently
5. What part of speech is *frequentius* in line 4?  
a. noun      b. adjective      c. adverb      d. participial verb
6. What equipment did he use to train the horse?  
a. a saddle      b. reins      c. spurs      d. food
7. What did the soldier say to make the horse run fast?  
a. a whip      b. kind words      c. a kick      d. a prayer
8. What case is *calcaria* in line 9?  
a. nominative      b. dative      c. accusative      d. ablative

9. What case is *saltus* in line 10?  
 a. nominative            b. genitive            c. dative            d. accusative
10. When did the soldier return the horse?  
 a. after 13 days            b. after 30 days            c. after 3 weeks            d. after three days
11. Why did the soldier follow his brother?  
 a. in order to see what would happen            b. in order to steal the horse  
 c. in order to see where he was going            d. in order to reach the border
12. What did the horse do again and again?  
 a. jump            b. threw the priest            c. ran away            d. made a great noise
13. Why, according to the soldier, was it dangerous for the priest to ride the horse?  
 a. he was too old            b. he was fat            c. he was too small            d. the horse was dangerous
14. Why had the horse been suitable for the priest before?  
 a. he was slow            b. he was obedient            c. he was docile            d. he had an even pace
15. Why did the priest now mourn?  
 a. the horse was killed            b. the horse ran away  
 c. he lost a good horse            d. his brother stole the horse
16. What did the priest ask his brother to do?  
 a. sell the horse            b. kill the horse            c. keep the horse            d. race the horse
17. For whom was the horse best suited, according the priest at the end of the story?  
 a. a soldier            b. a priest            c. a young man            d. an old man

---

**Passage II: Patres et Plebs**

tredecim annis postquam Porsenna se recepit, bellum Volscum imminet, et civitas odio inter	1
patres plebemque incendebatur maxime ob aes alienum. plebs querebatur se alienis terris pro libertate et	2
imperio pugnans domi a civibus oppressam esse, tutioremque in bello quam in pace et inter hostes	3
quam inter cives libertate, plebis esse. id odium insignis unius militis calamitas incendit. senex quidam se	4
in forum proiecit. plena erat squaloris vestis; corpus fame defessum. cognoscebatur tamen in tanta	5
deformitate et multi loquebantur eum honores militis meruisse. ipse multarum pugnarum vulnera antiqua	6
ostendit. rogantibus unde illa vestis et unde deformitas, ille respondit se pugnasse Sabino bello. dixit se	7
absente agros vastatos esse, casam incensam esse, pecora abacta esse, itaque ad tributum pendendum se	8
aes alienum fecisse. dixit primo se agrum avitum amisisse, deinde fortunas alias, ductum esse se ab	9
creditore in servitutem. propter haec visa auditaque clamor magnus ortus est. multi oppressi aere alieno	10
undique in forum maturabant ad fidem civium petendam. per omnes vias cum clamore in forum seditionis	11
causa cucurrerunt.	12
inter haec nuntiatum est, Volscos magno cum exercitu ad urbem oppugnandum venire. plebs	13
gavisa est magnopere; patres ob periculum timore moti sunt. multa meliora, igitur, consules polliciti sunt	14
ut plebs hostes repellerent. hostis repulsis, autem, condiciones plebis visae sunt peiores. quo facto	15
maturata est seditio.	16

Vocabulary and Notes

alienum, alieni, n. – debt	tributum, tributum, n. – tax	maturum, maturare – to hurry
pecus, pecoris, n. – cattle	avitus, -a, -um – ancestral	gavisa est – rejoiced

18. When did war threaten?  
 a. 30 years after Porsenna's withdrawal            b. 13 years after Porsenna's withdrawal  
 c. 3 years after Porsenna's withdrawal            d. 3 months after Porsenna's withdrawal
19. What conflict now threatened the state?  
 a. another war with Poresenna            b. a civil war  
 c. war with the Volscians            d. war with Volsca

20. What was happening at home while the plebs were fighting abroad?  
 a. the plebs were fighting for freedom      b. the citizens were stealing their homes  
 c. their families were sold into slavery      d. they were being forced into debt
21. By what means was this hatred ignited?  
 a. the execution of a soldier      b. the calamities of war  
 c. a soldier's misfortune      d. natural calamity
22. In line 4, what does *insignis* modify?  
 a. id      b. odium      c. militis      d. calamitas
23. What kind of man prostrated himself in the Forum?  
 a. a poor man      b. an old man      c. a brave man      d. a pleb
24. What kind of clothes was he wearing?  
 a. filthy      b. a vest      c. old      d. military uniform
25. What had this man earned?  
 a. honor in war      b. booty in war      c. a special uniform      d. a deformity
26. What tense is the verb form *meruisse* in line 6?  
 a. present      b. imperfect      c. perfect      d. pluperfect
27. What things did he show?  
 a. old scars      b. his deformity      c. his military honors      d. his old clothes
28. How had he received these?  
 a. in prison      b. from a man named Sabinus  
 c. from an ancient man      d. fighting in war
29. What had happened while he was away?  
 a. his fields were overgrown      b. his land was ruined  
 c. his fields were burned      d. his cattle grazed aimlessly
30. Why was he in debt?  
 a. he had no money      b. his grandfather left him debt  
 c. he was forced to pay taxes      d. he lost his slaves
31. What had happened to him as a result of having lost his fortune?  
 a. he lost his cattle      b. sold into servitude  
 c. his grandfather died      d. he couldn't get credit
32. Why did a great outcry arise?  
 a. anger at the man      b. because of the man's word  
 c. because of sight of the man      d. both b & c
33. From whom did the debtors seek support?  
 a. the citizens      b. the senate      c. the state      d. foreign countries
34. Why did they rush into the forum?  
 a. to kill the old man      b. to kill the patricians  
 c. to kill the senators      d. in revolt against their oppressors
35. What was announced?  
 a. the approach of the Volscian army      b. the plebs had overcome their oppressors  
 c. Volscia approached with a great army      d. the patricians would give in to the plebs
36. In line 13, *magno* modifies which of the following words?  
 a. Volscos      b. exercitu      c. urbem      d. understood *id*
37. What did the consuls promise the plebs?  
 a. that they could be consuls      b. better conditions  
 c. equal rights      d. restoration of their lands

38. In return for what did they make this promise?  
 a. weapons            b. land            c. assistance            d. money
39. Describe the conditions of the plebs toward the end of this passage.  
 a. much better            b. the same            c. better            d. worse
40. What now was imminent?  
 a. another war with the Volscians            b. another war with Volsca  
 c. war with Porsenna            d. a revolt

**Passage III: Roman social structure is created**

postea civitatem descripsit. centum senatores legit, eosque cum ob aetatem tum ob reverentiam eis            1  
 debitam “patres” appellavit. plebem in triginta curias distribuit, easque mulierum raptarum nominibus            2  
 appellavit. anno regni tricesimo septimo, cum exercitu lustraret, repente inter violentissimam tempestatem            3  
 oculis hominum subductus est. hinc alii eum a senatoribus interfectum esse, alii ad deos sublatum esse            4  
 existimaverunt. post Romuli mortem unius anni interregnum fuit. deinde Numa Pompilius, qui in urbe            5  
 Curibus habitabat, rex creatus est. hic vir bellum quidem nullum gessit; nec minus tamen civitati profuit.            6  
 nam et leges dedit, et sacra plurima instituit, ut populi barbari et bellicosi mores molliret. omnia autem,            7  
 quae faciebat, se nymphae Egeriae, coniungis suae, iussa facere dicebat. morbo decessit quadragesimo            8  
 tertio impero anno.            9

41. Drawing from the context, which of the following is the best possible subject for *descripsit* (line 1)?  
 a. civitatem            b. Romulus            c. Julius Caesar            d. Aeneas
42. What is the best translation for the word *legit* (line 1)?  
 a. read            b. chose            c. reads            d. chooses
43. Why were the senators called fathers?  
 a. out of respect            b. because he was indebted to them  
 c. because they were lawmakers            d. because there were 100 of them
44. Who were the *curiae* named after?  
 a. 30 senators            b. the Sabine women            c. wives of the plebs            d. Romulus
45. When was Romulus carried off?  
 a. when he was 37            b. while reviewing the troops  
 c. in the seventh year of his reign            d. in front of the eyes of all men
46. How long before a new king was named?  
 a. four years            b. three years            c. forty-three years            d. a year
47. Which of the following is the best translation of *nec minus tamen civitati profuit* (line 6)?  
 a. at last, he was much less powerful to the citizens  
 b. however, he did not profit much from the citizens  
 c. finally, he stood in front of the citizens for a little while  
 d. however, he was no less meaningful to the citizens
48. According to the story, what did Numa do during his reign?  
 a. made war on the barbarians            b. established morals  
 c. made laws            d. married a nymph
49. What is the subject of *facere* (line 8)?  
 a. omnia            b. se            c. Egeriae            d. iussa
50. How long did Numa rule?  
 a. 430 years            b. 43 years            c. 3 years, 4 months            d. 34 years