

**READING COMPREHENSION – LEVEL 3**  
**Ohio Junior Classical League – 2012**

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**Passage I: Livy XXI.47.1-3**

*In the following excerpt, Livy describes Hannibal's pursuit of Scipio.*

hoc primum cum Hannibale proelium fuit, quo facile apparuit et equitatu meliorem Poenum esse et ob id 1  
campos patentes, quales sunt inter Padum Alpesque, bello gerendo Romanis aptos non esse. itaque 2  
proxima nocte iussis militibus vasa silentio colligere castra ab Ticino mota festinatamque ad Padum est, 3  
ut ratibus quibus iunxerat flumen nondum resolutis sine tumultu atque insectatione hostis copias traiceret. 4  
prius Placentiam pervenere quam satis sciret Hannibal ab Ticino profectos; tamen ad sescentos 5  
morum in citeriore ripa Padi segniter ratem solventes cepit. transire pontem non potuit, ut extrema 6  
resoluta erant tota rate in secundam aquam labente. 7

Vocabulary:

Padus, -i, m: the Po River

Ticinus, -i, m: the Ticinus River

ratis, ratis, f.: raft, boat

insectatio, insectationis, f.: hostile pursuit, criticism

segniter (adj): half-hearted

1. quid hoc primo cum Hannibale proelio facile apparuit?
  - a. The Roman cavalry was superior to Hannibal's cavalry
  - b. Hannibal's cavalry was superior to the Roman cavalry
  - c. Hannibal's cavalry was the same sort of cavalry maintained by the Romans
  - d. The Romans would attempt to fight the next battle at night.
2. quid aliud hoc primo cum Hannibale proelio facile apparuit?
  - a. It was advisable for the Romans to avoid fighting Hannibal's troops in open fields.
  - b. Attacking enemy camps was a strategy well suited to the Romans when waging war.
  - c. It was better for the Phoenician general to avoid fighting the Romans between the Po and the Alps.
  - d. Fighting battles in open fields was advisable for the Romans against Hannibal's troops.
3. What case is *Romanis* in line 2?
  - a. nominative
  - b. dative
  - c. accusative
  - d. ablative
4. Which Latin word best describes how the Romans broke camp?
  - a. *tacite*
  - b. *irate*
  - c. *apte*
  - d. *fortiter*
5. Which Latin word best describes the Romans' journey to the Po River?
  - a. *cautum*
  - b. *difficile*
  - c. *celere*
  - d. *laetum*
6. How did Scipio intend to get his troops across the Po River?
  - a. by sailing groups of soldiers across in separate boats
  - b. by riding horses swiftly through the shallow waters
  - c. by quickly building a sturdy bridge suspended above the water
  - d. by joining together enough boats to stretch across the river
7. quot Romanos cepit Hannibal?
  - a. by trickery
  - b. by delaying
  - c. approximately six hundred
  - d. approximately sixty
8. cur Hannibal tot Romanos capere potuit?
  - a. rates illorum Romanorum summersae sunt.
  - b. illi Romani lentius laborabant.
  - c. ripa citerior erat periculosa.
  - d. Hannibal rates coniunxerat.
9. cur Hannibal transire pontem non potuit?
  - a. He slipped into the water when trying to cross the bridge.
  - b. The river was so deep that the bridge got covered by water.
  - c. Hannibal was extremely resolved to cross on horseback.
  - d. The whole boat swung downstream in the current after the rope was untied.

**Passage II: Pliny the Younger, Epistulae 7.27.5-9**

*A letter from Pliny to Lucius Licinius Sura, describing a house that is for sale but also haunted.*

erat Athenis spatiosa et capax domus, sed infamis et pestilens. per silentium noctis sonus ferri, et si attenderes acrius, strepitus vinculorum longius primo, deinde e proximo reddebatur: mox apparebat idolon, senex macie et squalore confectus, promissa barba, horrenti capillo; cruribus compedes, manibus catenas gerebat quatiebatque. inde inhabitantibus tristes diraeque noctes per metum vigilabantur; vigiliam morbus et crescente formidine mors sequebatur. nam interdiu quoque, quamquam abscesserat imago, memoria imaginis oculis inerrabat, longiorque causis timoris timor erat.

deserta inde et damnata solitudine domus totaque illi monstro relicta; proscribatur tamen, seu quis emere, seu quis conducere ignarus tanti mali vellet. venit Athenas philosophus Athenodorus, legit titulum, auditoque pretio, quia suspecta vilitas, percunctatus, omnia docetur, ac nihilo minus, immo tanto magis conducit.

ubi coepit advesperascere, iubet sterni sibi prima domus parte, poscit pugillares, stilum, lumen; suos omnes in interiora dimittit, ipse ad scribendum animum, oculos, manum intendit, ne vacua mens audita simulacra et inanis sibi metus fingeret. initio, quale ubique, silentium noctis, dein concuti ferrum, vincula moveri; ille non tollere oculos, non remittere stilum, sed offirmare animum auribusque praetendere. tum crebescere fragor, adventare, et iam ut in limine, iam ut intra limen audiri.

respicit, videt, agnoscitque narratam sibi effigiem. stabat innuebatque digito, similis vocanti. hic contra ut paulum exspectaret manu significat rursusque ceris et stilo incumbit.

Vocabulary:

proscribatur: was put up for sale or lease

sterni: his bed to be made

10. What is the best translation of the word *Athenis* in line 1?  
a. by Athens                      b. near Athens                      c. in Athens                      d. outside of Athens
11. Which of the following does NOT accurately describe this house?  
a. spacious                      b. expensive                      c. disreputable                      d. infected
12. What broke the initial silence of the night?  
a. the rattling of chains                      b. a ghost singing haunting songs  
c. an old man and a young man fighting with swords                      d. a marriage ceremony taking place nearby
13. Which of the following does NOT accurately describe the ghost?  
a. thin                      b. bald                      c. filthy                      d. bearded
14. Using all your reading comprehension skills, give the best definition for *compedes* in line 3.  
a. companions who travel with someone for a common cause  
b. footsoldiers who fight using a bow and arrow  
c. iron rings joined by a chain to restrain a prisoner  
d. small holes in a wall used for secretly keeping watch
15. cur huius domus inhabitantes dormire non poterant?  
a. illi defessi non erant.                      b. metu carebant.  
c. imaginem maiorem cupiebant.                      d. umbram timebant.
16. simul ac senis imago discessit, inhabitantium metus destitit.  
a. verum                      b. falsum
17. Which of the following words from the first paragraph does NOT refer directly to the same thing as *monstro* at the beginning of the second paragraph?  
a. vigiliam                      b. idolon                      c. senex                      d. imago
18. Why was Athenodorus at first hesitant to buy the house?  
a. Because he had heard that it was haunted by a ghost  
b. Because he thought the asking price was too expensive  
c. Because he thought the asking price was too cheap  
d. Because the house was so small and had no library
19. Why did Athenodorus finally buy the house?  
a. Because he was told that it was haunted by a ghost  
b. Because he was convinced that no ghost dwelled there  
c. Because the owner finally lowered his asking price to a reasonable amount  
d. Because the owner agreed to build a library prior to the sale

20. Which of the following is closest in meaning to *percunctatus* in line 9?  
 a. cunctator                      b. cunctatior                      c. cunctatus                      d. cunctatissimus
21. cur Athenodorus scribere constituit?  
 a. quod ille suos omnes in interiora dimittit                      b. ipse poscit pugillares, stilum, lumen  
 c. ne vacua mens inanes sibi metus fingeret                      d. iubet sterni sibi prima domus parte
22. What case is the 4<sup>th</sup> declension word, *metus*, in line 13?  
 a. nominative                      b. genitive                      c. accusative                      d. dative
23. How did Athenodorus react when he first heard something approaching?  
 a. He closed his eyes and fainted when he heard the chains.  
 b. He stood up and ran from the house in fear.  
 c. He looked up from his writing to see what was making the noise.  
 d. He tried to concentrate on his writing to block the noise from his mind.
24. In the final paragraph of this excerpt, Athenodorus realizes:  
 a. that the story of the ghost had been made up to scare him.  
 b. that the story of the ghost had been real.  
 c. that writing is the best way to get to sleep.  
 d. that the story told about the ghost was actually a story about a statue.

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**Passage III: Aulus Hirtius, *De Bello Gallico VIII.49***

Caesar in Belgio cum hiemaret, unum illud propositum habebat, continere in amicitia civitates, nulli spem                      1  
 aut causam dare armorum. nihil enim minus volebat quam sub decessu suo necessitatem sibi aliquam                      2  
 imponi belli gerendi, ne, cum exercitum deducturus esset, bellum aliquod relinqueretur quod omnis Gallia                      3  
 libenter sine praesenti periculo susciperet. itaque honorifice civitates appellando, principes maximis                      4  
 praemiis adficiendo, nulla onera iniungendo defessam tot adversis proeliis Galliam condicione parendi                      5  
 meliore facile in pace continuit.                      6

25. Which of the following is the best translation for *cum* in line 1?  
 a. when                      b. since                      c. although                      d. because
26. quod anni tempus in Belgio Caesar agebat?  
 a. three                      b. one                      c. summer                      d. winter
27. What was Caesar's main goal at this point in his campaign?  
 a. to defeat the one remaining rebellious tribe                      b. to give no enemy states the hope of friendship  
 c. to avoid provoking any further conflicts in Gaul                      d. to make new friends by offering them weapons
28. What case is *nulli* (line 1)?  
 a. nominative                      b. genitive                      c. dative                      d. ablative
29. Why was this goal so important to Caesar at this particular time?  
 a. because he was just starting his campaign in Belgium  
 b. because he was just about to lead his troops out of Belgium  
 c. because his army had been exhausted by so many wars in Gaul  
 d. because he considered it to be the best time of year for waging war
30. What type of clause is introduced by *ne* in line 3?  
 a. purpose                      b. result                      c. indirect command                      d. fearing
31. What is the best translation of the word *quod* in line 3?  
 a. which                      b. because                      c. than                      d. something
32. difficile erat Caesari bellum hoc tempore in Gallia vitare.  
 a. verum                      b. falsum
33. Which of the following did Caesar **NOT** do?  
 a. impose new burdens upon the states of Gaul                      b. wear down the states of Gaul in battle  
 c. give gifts to the chieftains of Gaul                      d. address the states with praise
34. What case is *parendi* in line 5?  
 a. nominative                      b. genitive                      c. dative                      d. ablative
35. Why was Caesar leaving Belgium at this time?  
 a. he was recalled by the Senate                      b. he was at war with Pompey  
 c. to support Marc Antony in an election                      d. his term was over

36. Why did Aulus Hirtius write this passage and not Caesar himself?
- he was Caesar's scribe, and therefore wrote the whole book
  - Aulus Hirtius is Julius Caesar's pseudonym
  - it was written after Caesar was assassinated
  - Caesar had already started *de bello civili* and didn't have time to finish this commentary

**Passage IV:** Catullus 64.238-250

haec mandata prius constanti mente tenentem  
 Thesea ceu pulsae ventorum flamine nubes  
 aerium nivei montis liquere cacumen. 240  
 at pater, ut summa prospectum ex arce petebat,  
 anxia in assiduous absumens lumina fletus,  
 cum primum infecti conspexit lintea veli,  
 praecipitem esse scopulorum e vertice iecit,  
 amissum credens immiti Thesea fato. 245  
 sic funesta domus ingressus tecta paterna  
 morte ferox Theseus, qualem Minoidi luctum  
 obtulerat mente immemori, talem ipse recepit.  
 quae tum prospectans cedentem maesta carinam  
 multiplices animoolvebat saucia curas. 250

**Notes and Vocabulary**

*ceu*: *ceu*, *adv.*, just as  
*aereus*, *-a*, *-um*: lofty  
*liquere* = *linquerunt*  
*cacumen*, *-inis*: summit  
*absumo*, *-ere*: exhaust  
*fletus*, *-us*: weeping, tears  
*velum*, *-i*: sail  
*immitis*, *-e*: severe  
*funestus*, *-a*, *-um*: deadly  
*carina*, *-ae*: keel, ship

37. What case is *Thesea* in line 239?
- nominative
  - ablative
  - accusative
  - vocative
38. According to the passage, how had Theseus' memory been previously in regard to his father's orders?
- firm and unforgetting
  - spotty
  - poor
  - prone to lapses
39. To what is Theseus' mind compared?
- the sea
  - the winds
  - clouds
  - a mountain
40. What is the best translation of the word *ut* in line 241?
- when
  - so that
  - like
  - how
41. Which word(s) tell you what Theseus's father saw?
- prospectum
  - assiduous
  - lintea veli
  - praecipitem
42. Which word is used to describe how Theseus's father committed suicide?
- primum
  - praecipitem
  - scopulorum
  - fato
43. *Credens* in line 245 modifies which of the following?
- pater (241)
  - fletus (242)
  - Thesea (245)
  - fato (245)
44. Which of the following devices is used in line 245?
- prolepsis
  - anaphora
  - elipsis
  - polysyndeton
45. Who is *Minoidi*?
- Medea
  - Ariadne
  - Minos
  - Pasiphae
46. What did Theseus experience upon entering his father's house?
- relief
  - joy
  - fear
  - grief
47. Who had earlier suffered what Theseus experienced when he returned home to Athens?
- the Minotaur
  - Minos
  - Minos' daughter
  - Medea
48. *Quae* (line 249) refers to the same thing as which of the following words from the passage?
- funesta (246)
  - carinam (249)
  - mente (248)
  - Minoidi (247)
49. Why is the observer in lines 249-250 sad?
- she has been wounded by a sword
  - she sees the ship of her beloved departing
  - she realizes she will die by drowning
  - her vertigo has returned
50. This passage is from a longer poem about what?
- heroes and monsters
  - the myths of Athens
  - a wedding
  - the gods' interactions with humans