

READING COMPREHENSION – LEVEL ½ and 1
Ohio Junior Classical League - 2010

Passage #1:

in parva casa prope magnam silvam formica impigra habitabat. aestate formica laborabat et cibum	1
in casam portabat. laeta erat sed non cantabat.	2
prope casam formicae impigrae cicada pigra habitabat. formica impigra pigram cicadam monebat,	3
sed cicada non laborabat; semper cantabat. hieme formica cibum habebat; cicada cibum non habebat.	4
misera cicada clamat, “tu cibum habes; ego cibum non habeo; cibum oro.”	5
formica clamat, “tu pigra es! aestate ego laboro; aestate tu non laboras. cicadae aestate non	6
laborant; hieme vos cibum non habetis. vos pigrae estis! cur non laboratis?”	7
cicada misera a casa formicae volat. non iam cantat.	8

Vocabulary:

formica – ant cicada – grasshopper

- Where did the ant live?
a. in a box b. in a small house c. in the ground d. in a poor man’s house
- What case is *casa* (line 1)?
a. nominative b. accusative c. ablative d. dative
- What is the best translation of *prope...silvam* in line 1?
a. through the forest b. in the forest c. for the forest d. near the forest
- Which of the following words best explains what makes the ant *impigra* (line 1)?
a. aestate b. laborabat c. cibum d. cibum
- When does the action in lines 1-2 take place?
a. winter b. spring c. summer d. autumn
- What does the *laeta* (line 2) modify?
a. formica b. aestate c. cantabat d. cicada
- How did the ant treat the grasshopper in line 3?
a. he helped him work b. he always shared with him
c. he scolded him d. he paid him to work
- What did the grasshopper do while the ant worked?
a. sang songs b. ate his food c. complained d. watched
- In line 5, what made the grasshopper *misera*?
a. he didn’t like the time of year b. he was working too hard
c. the ant went away d. he had no more food
- Which word in line 5 best tells us that the grasshopper was desperate for help?
a. misera b. cibum c. non habeo d. oro
- What was the mood of the ant in line 6?
a. irata b. laeta c. misera d. perterrita
- What case is *cicadae* in line 6?
a. nominative b. genitive c. dative d. ablative
- What is the subject of *laboratis* (line 7)?
a. cicada b. vos c. nos d. ego
- After the ant spoke, what did the grasshopper do?
a. answered b. thanked the ant for the food
c. flew away d. wanted help
- What case is *formicae* in line 8?
a. nominative b. genitive c. dative d. accusative

16. What is the subject of *cantat* (line 8)?
 a. formica b. cicada c. cibus d. casa
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Passage #2:

Anna est filia Galbae. Galba est agricola; prope magnam silvam habitat. in silva densa sunt multae ursae. 1
 Galba filiam de ursis saepe monet. 2
 “silva est periculosa, quod ursae sunt in silva,” dicit. “ambula semper in via lata.” 3
 olim autem Anna sola in magna et obscura silva ambulat. caelum, non viam, spectat. mox a via errat. 4
 subito magnam ursam videt. ursam stat; Annam exspectat. ursam Annam spectat; Anna ursam spectat. 5
 Anna perterrita clamare temptat, neque clamare potest. viam non videt, sed celeriter ambulat per densam 6
 silvam. ursam quoque celeriter ambulat. Anna lente ambulat; ursam quoque lente ambulat. denique ursam 7
 prope viam stat et Annae viam pede monstrat. 8
 nunc laeta Anna casam videt; pater et mater pro casa stant. Anna de ursam narrat. 9
 Galba dicit, “ursam benigna est Callisto. olim Callisto erat femina pulchra; nunc est ursam pulchra. saepe 10
 agricolae ursam necare temptant, sed ursam non necare possunt.” 11

17. In line 1, what case is *Galbae*?
 a. nominative b. dative c. genitive d. ablative
18. What relationship do Anna and Galba have?
 a. wife and husband b. they are sisters c. mother and daughter d. father and daughter
19. What makes the forest *periculosa* (line 3)?
 a. it is big and dense b. there are many bears c. there are no streets d. there are ghosts
20. What does Galba instruct Anna to do?
 a. walk on the wide path b. walk on the narrow path
 c. walk on the well-lit path d. don't walk too late in the day
21. What does the adjective *sola* (line 4) modify?
 a. Anna b. magna c. silva d. ursam
22. What case is *silva* (line 4)?
 a. nominative b. genitive c. accusative d. ablative
23. Why did Anna *a via errat* (line 4)?
 a. she couldn't see b. she's adventurous c. she got scared d. she wasn't paying attention
24. After Anna got lost, how soon did she notice something was wrong?
 a. a long time later b. right away c. after a few minutes d. she never noticed
25. How did Anna try to get away?
 a. walked quickly then quietly b. walked as fast as possible then stopped
 c. walked quickly then slowly d. walked slowly then quietly
26. How did Anna find the path to get out of the forest?
 a. by accident b. the bear showed her c. she never found it d. she felt it with her foot
27. What case is *pede* (line 8)?
 a. nominative b. accusative c. dative d. ablative
28. What made Anna *laeta* (line 9)?
 a. she found the road b. she got back home c. she saw her parents d. she was friends with the ursam
29. Where were the *pater et mater* waiting for Anna (line 9)?
 a. inside the house b. next to the house c. in front of the house d. away from the house
30. What distinguishing characteristic told Galba that the *ursam* was Callisto?
 a. a scar b. it talked c. it was big d. it was kind
31. How do the farmers behave when they see the *ursam*?
 a. they ask it for help b. they follow it c. they try to kill it d. they use its magic powers

32. What is the subject of *possunt* (line 11)?
a. Anna b. agricolae c. pater et mater d. ursam
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Passage #3:

Castor et Pollux erant fratres fortes et benigni et pulchri. in multis bellis magna virtute pugnabant et multos 1
hostes superaverunt. olim magna tempestas ad navem appropinquabat, sed auxilio deorum discessit. tum 2
nautae in capitibus Castoris et Pollucis duas stellas viderunt. “dei ipsi in capitibus fratrum has stellas 3
locaverunt,” clamaverunt omnes. “fratres boni sunt causae salutis nostrae!” 4
postea acer hostis Castorem necavit et ad inferos hic properavit. magnus dolor Pollucem occupavit. is erat 5
immortalis quod filius dei erat. sine fratre suo Pollux erat miser et tristis. multis verbis et magno dolore 6
auxilium patrem ipsum deorum oravit. “ego laetus vitam meam,” inquit, “pro fratre meo dabo.” 7
rex deorum autem statuit unum diem vitae Castori, unum diem mortis Polluci dare. itaque domicilium 8
fratrum cotidie mutavit. Iuppiter duas stellas in caelo locavit. homines eas Geminos appellabant et fratres 9
ut deos adorabant. 10

33. Which of the following is not a characteristic of Castor and Pollux, as described in line 1?
a. young b. attractive c. brave d. nice to people
34. What case is *magna virtute* (line 1)?
a. nominative b. dative c. accusative d. ablative
35. Which of the following distinguished Castor and Pollux *in multis bellis* (lines 2-3)?
a. they welcomed many guests b. they killed many enemies
c. they had great beauty d. they were kind to their hosts
36. What case is *tempestas* (line 2)?
a. nominative b. accusative c. dative d. genitive
37. Which of the following is the best translation for *sed auxilio deorum discessit* (line 2)?
a. but the aid of the gods sent it away
b. but he begged for the help of the gods
c. but it scattered by the help of the gods
d. but it came by the desire of the gods
38. What did the sailors see (line 3)?
a. two stars b. two chairs c. two horns d. two rocks
39. How did the sailors react to what they saw on Castor and Pollux’s heads?
a. fear b. excitement c. confusion d. relief
40. What case is *omnes* (line 4)?
a. nominative b. accusative c. dative d. genitive
41. Which of the following is the best translation of *fratres boni sunt causae salutis nostrae* (line 4)?
a. the good brothers are the cause of safety for us
b. the good brothers are our cause for safety
c. the good brothers are the cause of our safety
d. the brothers are our cause of good safety
42. *cur magnus dolor Pollucem occupavit* (line 5)?
a. Castor was dead b. a guest thought they were bad
c. he (Pollux) was dead d. Castor and Pollux had to travel to the underworld
43. To whom does *is* (line 5) refer?
a. Castor b. hostis c. Pollux d. dei
44. From whom did Pollux seek help (line 6-7)?
a. Apollo b. Castor c. Jupiter d. Pluto
45. What tense is the verb *dabo* (line 7)?
a. present b. imperfect c. future d. pluperfect

46. What case is *vitae* (line 8)?
a. nominative b. genitive c. dative d. accusative
47. What case is *Castori* (line 8)?
a. genitive b. dative c. accusative d. ablative
48. How often did the brothers trade places?
a. weekly b. daily c. yearly d. only once
49. What word makes *eas* (line 9) need to be feminine?
a. *stellas* b. *homines* c. *Geminos* d. *appelabant*
50. What is the best translation of *ut* (line 10)
a. so that b. when c. until d. as