

READING COMPREHENSION – UPPER LEVEL
Ohio Junior Classical League – 2012

Passage 1: An excerpt from Cicero's *Pro Archia*, 8

In the following excerpt, Cicero defends a poet by the name of Archias. Cicero's initial discussion centers on an actor by the name of Roscius.

quis nostrum tam animo agresti ac duro fuit ut Rosci morte nuper non commoveretur? qui cum 1
esset senex mortuus, tamen propter excellentem artem ac venustatem videbatur omnino mori non 2
debuisset. ergo ille corporis motu tantum amorem sibi conciliarat a nobis omnibus: nos animorum 3
incredibiles motus celeritatemque ingeniorum neglegemus? quotiens ego hunc Archiam vidi, iudices - 4
utar enim vestra benignitate, quoniam me in hoc novo genere dicendi tam diligenter attenditis - quotiens 5
ego hunc vidi, cum litteram scripsisset nullam, magnum numerum optimorum versuum de eis ipsis rebus 6
quae tum agerentur dicere ex tempore, quotiens revocatum eandem rem dicere commutatis verbis atque 7
sententiis! 8
quae vero accurate cogitateque scripsisset, ea sic vidi probari ut ad veterum scriptorum laudem 9
perveniret. hunc ego non diligam, non admirer, non omni ratione defendendum putem? atque sic a 10
summis hominibus eruditissimisque accepimus, ceterarum rerum studia et doctrina et praeceptis et arte 11
constare; poetam natura ipsa valere et mentis viribus excitari et quasi divino quodam spiritu inflari. 12

Vocabulary:

agrestis, -is, -e: rustic

concilio, -are: unite, win over, attract

adoror, admirari, admiratus sum: admire

inflo, -are: to blow upon

1. Which of the following statements best reflects the point of Cicero's rhetorical question at the beginning of this passage?
 - a. Roscius deserved to die because of his harsh spirit.
 - b. Roscius should have moved to the country before his recent death.
 - c. Only an insensitive person would be untouched by the death of Roscius.
 - d. So many of us farmers recently were moved to the country because of the death of Roscius.
2. What is the best way to translate *cum* in line 1?
 - a. with
 - b. when
 - c. since
 - d. although
3. What does Cicero suggest should have prolonged the life of Roscius?
 - a. his good health
 - b. his charm
 - c. his great skill
 - d. both B and C
4. *quo modo Roscius tantum amorem sibi conciliavit?* Through his ____:
 - a. determination
 - b. kindness
 - c. agility
 - d. good looks
5. Which of the following contrasts best reflects Cicero's transition from speaking of Roscius to speaking of Archias?
 - a. country habits vs. urban customs
 - b. charming traits vs. offensive characteristics
 - c. elderly opinions vs. youthful attitudes
 - d. physical ability vs. mental ability
6. In lines 4-8, what impressed Cicero the most about Archias's poetry?
 - a. the fact that Archias performed it impromptu
 - b. the fact that the verses revealed Archias's genuine kindness
 - c. the fact that no literature had previously contained as great a number of verses
 - d. the fact that even though Archias had run out of time, he still wanted to change his opinion
7. What is the subject matter of the poetry mentioned in lines 4-8?
 - a. current affairs
 - b. the new generation
 - c. love
 - d. hard work
8. In the second paragraph, Cicero suggests that ____.
 - a. many old poets had reached the point of praising Archias
 - b. Archias should praise all the classic poets
 - c. he (Cicero) has accurately considered what others had written about Archias
 - d. Archias should be praised as much as the classic poets
9. *quo modo Cicero Archiam defendendum esse putat?*
 - a. hunc diligit
 - b. omni ratione
 - c. uno modo
 - d. eum admiratur

10. Which of the following does NOT express an idea that Cicero claims the best, most educated men have taught us?
- that poets must study hard to become skilled
 - that poets are inspired by the gods
 - that great poets are born, not trained and developed
 - that poets are moved by the strength of the mind

Passage 2: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* VIII.637-650

ergo ubi caelicolae parvos tetigere Penates
 submissoque humiles intrarunt vertice postes,
 membra senex posito iussit relevare sedili,
 quo superiniecit textum rude sedula Baucis: 640
 inque foco tepidum cinerem dimovit et ignes
 suscitavit hesternos foliisque et cortice sicco
 nutrit et ad flammam anima producit anili,
 multifidasque faces ramaliaque arida tecto
 detulit et minuit parvoque admovit aeno. 645
 quodque suus coniunx riguo collegerat horto,
 truncat holus foliis; furca levat ille bicorni
 sordida terga suis nigro pendentia tigno
 servatoque diu resecat de tergore partem
 exiguum sectamque domat ferventibus undis. 650

Notes and Vocabulary

tetigere = *tetigerunt*
relevo, -are: relieve, ease
sedulus, -a, -um: attentive
hesternus: yesterday
cortex, -icis: bark
ramalis, -e: branches
riguus: irrigated
holus, -eris: vegetable

11. What is the literal meaning of the word *caelicolae* in line 637?
- running late
 - heaven-sent
 - sky-dwelling
 - son of Caecilius
12. Where did the gods enter?
- the chapel of the Penates
 - the underworld
 - a modest house
 - Olympus
13. In line 637, the word *Penates* is being used as which of the following?
- metonymy
 - synecdoche
 - simile
 - anaphora
14. Who bade the guests be seated?
- an old woman
 - an old man
 - the Penates
 - the Sedilians
15. What did Baucis throw on?
- an overcoat
 - a crude cloth
 - a textured clay lid
 - napkins
16. What did Baucis stir up?
- ashes
 - punch
 - the gods' anger
 - a hive of bees
17. How did Baucis cause the kindling to burst into flame?
- by blowing
 - by holding a torch to it
 - by throwing undiluted wine on it
 - by tricking the gods to light it
18. Where had Baucis been storing her firewood?
- in the woodpile behind the house
 - in the cellar
 - in the barn
 - in the rafters of their house
19. What did Baucis place on the fire?
- fragrant woods
 - a cooking pot
 - spits of meat
 - a side of beef
20. *Aeno* (line 645) is an example of which of the following?
- asyndeton
 - hyperbole
 - litotes
 - synecdoche
21. Who had brought something in from the garden?
- Baucis
 - the gods
 - peasants
 - the husband of Baucis
22. What did the husband of Baucis use to get down the hanging pork?
- a two-pronged fork
 - a knife
 - a wooden beam
 - assistance from the gods
23. What does *servato* (line 649) modify?
- bicorni (647)
 - nigro (648)
 - tigno (648)
 - tergore (649)
24. Also from line 649, what does *diu* best modify?
- pendentia (648)
 - servato (649)
 - resecat (649)
 - partem (649)

25. What was the size of the cut of meat sliced off?
 a. large b. medium c. small d. huge
26. How was the meat prepared?
 a. grilled b. baked c. boiled d. brined
27. What is the name of the *senex* mentioned in line 639?
 a. Pyramus b. Pygmalion c. Jupiter d. Philemon

Passage 3: Virgil, *Aeneid* V.129-135

hic viridem Aeneas frondenti ex ilice metam
 constituit signum nautis pater, unde reverti
 scirent et longos ubi circumflectere cursus.
 tum loca sorte legunt ipsique in puppibus auro
 ductores longe effulgent ostroque decori;
 cetera populea velatur fronde iuventus
 nudatosque umeros oleo perfusa nitescit.

130

135

Notes and Vocabulary

velo, -are: cover, hide
nitescio, -ere: begin to shine

28. Who sets up a sign for the sailors?
 a. Neptune b. Ilex c. Ascanius d. Aeneas
29. What signifies the turning point?
 a. an axe b. a leafy oak c. a green sail d. a stuffed seagull
30. Who is the *pater* mentioned in line 130?
 a. Aeneas b. Anchises c. Neptune d. Jupiter
31. The word *unde* (line 130) could be replaced with which of the following without changing meaning?
 a. sub b. fluctu c. ut inde d. non de
32. How do the teams choose their starting positions?
 a. they are assigned by Aeneas b. they follow nautical protocol
 c. they line up by colors d. they cast lots
33. Where do the captains of the ships stand?
 a. on the poop decks b. on the island c. on shore d. in the crow's nest
34. What do the captains wear?
 a. infantry costumes b. gold and purple c. admiralty crowns d. generic nautical attire
35. The *-que* on *ostroque* in line 133 closely links that word to which of the following?
 a. effulgent (133) b. auro (132) c. longe (133) d. decori (133)
36. What foliage do the crews wear?
 a. oak b. pine c. kelp d. poplar
37. Why do the shoulders of the crew gleam?
 a. because of the olive oil b. because of their manly sweat
 c. because of the too bright sun d. because the gods illuminate them
38. *Perfusa* (line 135) modifies ____.
 a. cetera (134) b. populea (134) c. fronde (134) d. iuventus (134)
39. Where do the events in this passage take place?
 a. Troy b. Latium c. Carthage d. Drepanum
40. What is being celebrated with the games described in this passage?
 a. the Trojans' arrival in Italy b. the marriage of Aeneas and Lavinia
 c. the death of Anchises d. the birth of Ascanius

Passage 4: Ovid, *Metamorphoses* I.698-712

...redeuntem colle Lycaeo
Pan videt hanc pinuque caput praecinctus acuta
talis verba refert”—restabat verba referre, 700
et precibus spretis fugisse per avia nympham,
donec harenosi placidum Ladonis ad amnem
venerit. Hic illam, cursum impredientibus undis,
ut se mutarent liquidas orasse sorores:
Panaque, cum prensam sibi iam Syringa putaret, 705
corpore pro nympphae calamos tenuisse palustres.
dumque ibi suspirat, motos in harundinae ventos
effecisse sonum tenuem similemque querenti.
arte nova vocisque deum dulcedine captum
“hoc mihi concilium tecum” dixisse “manebit!” 710
atque ita disparibus calamis compagine cerae
inter se iunctis nomen tenuisse puellae.

Notes and Vocabulary

praecingo, -ere: to gird
harenosus, a, um: sandy
amnis, -is: river
calamus, -i: reed, cane
quereor, -eri: lament
compago, -inis: fastening

In line 700, Mercury (the speaker) stops talking and Ovid reports his story by using indirect statement through the rest of the passage.

41. Whom does Pan see?
a. someone returning from Mt. Lycaeus
b. Pine Needles
c. a satyr
d. a head girded with pine
42. Where did the nymph flee?
a. to Mt. Lycaeus
b. through trackless places
c. to the sea
d. to Pan
43. What blocked the nymph's way?
a. Pan
b. a river
c. a band of satyrs
d. the will of Jupiter
44. What tense is *orasse* (line 704)?
a. present
b. pluperfect
c. perfect
d. future
45. Which of the following is the best translation of *cum* in line 705?
a. with
b. since
c. when
d. upon seeing that
46. What did Pan end up holding?
a. swamp reeds
b. a nymph
c. a river god
d. only the dress of the nymph
47. What sound was produced by Pan's sighing?
a. a thin sound
b. a nautical sound
c. a lamenting sound
d. both a and c
48. What length were the reeds?
a. uniform
b. mixed
c. unequal
d. both b and c
49. How were the reeds joined?
a. with twine
b. with glue
c. with wax
d. with a conundrum
50. What did the new invention keep?
a. the name of the girl
b. Pandemonium
c. the reed family
d. the panacea