

**National Junior Classical
Reading Comprehension
Advanced Prose, 1999**

**Read each selection and answer the questions about it.
Always choose the *best* response to each item.**

Selection 1

Ch. 48 The Dart in the Tower

Caesar ¹māgnīs itineribus in Nerviorū finēs vēnit. Ibi ex captivīs cōgnōscit, quae ²apud Cicerōnem gerantur, quantōque in periculō rēs sit. Tum cuidam ex equitibus Gallīs māgnīs praemiīs persuādet utī ad Cicerōnem epistolam dēferat.

5 Hanc ³Graecīs cōnscriptam litterīs mittit, nē, interceptā epistolā, nostra ab hostibus cōnsilia cōgnōscantur. Sī ⁴adire nōn ⁵possit, ⁶monet ut trāgulam cum epistolā ad ⁷amentum dēligatā intrā mūnitiōnēs castrōrum abjiciat. In litterīs scribit sē cum legiōnibus profectum celeriter ⁸affore; hortātur, ut pristinam virtūtem retineat. Gallus periculum veritus, ut erat praeceptum, trāgulam mittit.

10 ⁹Haec cāsū ad turrim adhaesit, neque ā nostrīs bīduō animadversa, tertiō diē ā quōdam milite cōspicitur, dēmta ad Cicerōnem dēfertur. Ille ¹⁰perlēctam in conventū militum ¹¹recitat ¹²māximāque omnēs laetitiā afficit. Tum ¹³fūmī incendiōrum procul vidēbantur; quae rēs omnem dubitātiōnem adventūs legiōnum expulit.

1. The best translation of *magnis itineribus* in line 1 is _____.
 - A. by means of very long marches
 - B. by forced marches
 - C. by means of big marches
 - D. by means of very big marches
 - E. by long marches
2. Another way of expressing *apud Ciceronem* in line 2 is _____.
 - A. *ad Ciceronem*
 - B. *in castris Ciceronis*
 - C. *ab Cicerone*
 - D. *e Cicerone*
 - E. *in Ciceronem*
3. What did Caesar persuade a Gallic knight to do?
 - A. take the Nervii captive
 - B. find out where Cicero then was
 - C. find out how great the danger was to Cicero
 - D. find out how great the danger was generally for the Romans
 - E. carry a litter to Cicero

- D. *in proxima silva*
20. *Ad finem fabulae, qui adveniebant?*
A. *Caesaris legiones* B. *Ciceronis milites* C. *Nervii* D. *Galli*

Selection 2

BRITONS WILL NEVER BE SLAVES

Jam super trigintā milia armātōrum aspiciēbantur, et adhūc conveniēbant omnis juventūs et senectūs, cum Calgacus, Britan-
nōrum dux fortissimus, in hunc modum locūtus est:

- “Quotiēs causās bellī et necessitātem nostram cōsiderō,
5 māgna mihi fidēs est hunc diem et cōsēsumque vestrum initium
libertātis tōtius Britanniae futūrum esse. Nōbīs nūlla servitūs
fuit; sunt nūllae ūltrā terrae nōs, tamen nē mare quidem sēcūrum
est, imminente nōbīs classe Rōmānā. Ita proelium atque arma,
quae fortibus honesta (*honors*) offerēbant, eadem etiam ignāvīs
tūtissima sunt.
10 “Priōrēs pūgnae, quibus adversus Rōmānōs variā fortunā ā
nōbīs pūgnātum est, spem ac subsidium in nostrīs manibus
relinquēbant, quia nōs, nōbilissimī tōtius Britanniae, et in ipsīs
penetrālibus (*heart*) terrae habitantēs, nec servientium lītora
aspicientēs, oculōs nostrōs quoque ā servitūte tūtōs habēbāmus.
15 Nōs, terrārum ac libertātis extrēmōs, recessus (*remote position*)
ipse in hunc diem dēfendit.
“Nunc terminus ipse Britanniae patet. Atque omne ignōtum
prō māgnificō (*the marvelous*) est. Sed nūlla est jam ūltrā nōs gēns
nihil nisi flūctūs et saxa, et infēstiōrēs Rōmānī, quōrum superbiam
20 (*domination*) frūstrā per obsequium (*submission*) effūgeris. La-
trōnēs orbis, quibus dēfuērunt terrae cūncta vāstantibus, jam
marē explōrant. Sī dīvēs hostis est, avārī sunt; sī pauper, domi-
nātiōnem dēsiderant; quibus nōn Oriēns, nōn Occidēns satis est.
Sōlī omnium hominum opēs atque inopiam parī cupiditāte
concupiscunt. Latrōcinium, caedem, rapīnam (*plunder*) imperium
appellant; atque ubi sōlitūdinem faciunt, pācem appellant.”

- C. the best sailors on the sea at that time D. none of the above
35. The financial wealth of the Romans' enemies causes the Romans to be ____
 A. less apt to attack B. eager to take hostages C. greedy
 D. merciful
36. What rhetorical device is used in line 24?
 A. metaphor B. hyperbole C. synchysis D. chiasmus
37. Which of the following do the Romans not, according to the speaker, view as power and rule?
 A. robbery B. plunder C. good administration D. slaughter
38. *Quibus sub conditionibus Romani pacem vident?*
 A. *ubi omnes terrae vincuntur* B. *ubi solitudinem faciunt*
 C. *ubi dives populos vincunt* D. *ubi pauperes vincunt*
39. What best describes what the speaker is attempting to do in this selection?
 A. warn B. advise C. teach D. encourage
40. The attempt the Britons will make to repel the Romans is implied to be ____ by the speaker.
 A. hopeless B. desperate but with probable good outcomes for the Britons
 C. totally uncertain but necessary D. one of several ways to avoid becoming slaves

Selection 3

THE BOY WHO COULD KEEP A CONFIDENCE

Mōs antea senātoribus Rōmae fuit in Cūriam cum praetextātis filiis (*sons under age*) intrāre. Tum, cum in senātū rēs māior cōsultāta eaque in diem posterum prōlāta est (*postponed*) placuit nē quis (eam rem) ēnūntiāret priusquam dēcrēta esset.

5 Māter Papīri puerī, quī cum patre suō in Cūriā fuerat, rogābat filium quid in senātū patrēs ēgissent. Puer respondit id dīcī nōn licēre. Māter fit audiendī cupidior; sēcrētum rei et silentium puerī animum ējus excitāvērunt; quaesīvit igitur vehementer.

Tum puer, mātrem urgente, mendācī (*of a lie*) cōsiliū cēpit.

10 Actum esse in senātū dīxit, utrum vidērētur ūtilius exque rē publicā ūnus vir ut duās uxōrēs habēret, an ut ūna (*fēmina*) duōbus virīs nūpta esset. Hoc illa ubi audīvit, domō trepidāns (*panic-stricken*) ēgressa est et ad cēterās mātrōnās properāvit.

15 Pervēnit ad senātum postrīdiē mātrōnārum multītūdō. Lacrimantēs orant ut ūna potius duōbus nūpta fieret quam ut ūnī virō duae. Senātorēs, ingredientēs in Cūriam, postulātum (*demand*) mulierum mirābantur. Puer Papīrius in mediam Cūriam prōgressus, quid ipse mātrem dīxisset, nārrāvit. Senātus fidem atque ingenium puerī laudāvit, sed cōsultum fēcit, nē posthāc (*thereafter*) puerī cum patribus in Cūriam intrārent, praeter Papīrium, quem postea Praetextātum appellābant ob tacendī loquendīque prūdentiam.

**Tell in which selection each of the following happens
or is implied in any way.**

**Choices are A. Selection One B. Selection Two
C. Selection Three D. More than one selection
E. Not in any of the selections.**

52. The Romans were considered as evil by some other ancient peoples.
53. A custom held among the Romans is changed.
54. Cicero addresses Caesar.
55. A Roman advises other Romans to maintain the courage they have always displayed.
56. The Romans are described as desiring to rule the known world.
57. Someone describes what actions a governing body has made or not made.
58. Someone testifies in the senate about what he has done the day before.
59. Someone tells the Britons about the courage, strength, and good qualities of the Romans.
60. A woman begs her husband to divorce her so that she may marry another man.