

NATIONAL JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, 2000
READING COMPREHENSION, LEVEL II

All questions are asked strictly in accordance with the words of the story in question.

Passage # 1

pantomimus quidam nomine Pylades epistulam ad Augustam, uxorem imperatoris, scripserat. in hac epistula erant multa verba amoris. Augusta igitur, cum epistulam legisset, erubuit, atque epistulam confestim complicatam in mensa posuit; nam imperatorem et libertum eius Pallantem intrantes conspexerat.

imperator nihil animadvertit, sed Pallas ruborem dominae suae viderat. cum epistulam quoque in mensa iacentem conspexisset, eam abstulit. Augusta autem nihil dicere poterat, quod imperator aderat; nam iram eius timebat.

deinde Pallas coegit Augustam omnia sua scelera adiuvere. Augusta ei placere volebat ne ille epistulam imperatori ostenderet. tandem Augusta ministris suis imperavit ut epistulam clam reciperent. conclavia Pallantis inspiciebantur, fides servorum temptabatur, Pallas ipse in via oppugnatus a 'latronibus' nudatus est. sed Pallas epistulam tam bene celaverat ut eam invenire non possent.

'epistula,' inquit Augusta, 'in tablino celata est; nam Pallas hinc ad tablinum recte contendit; tablinum diligentius inspiciendum est; pulvinos scindite, mensam et sellas disiungite, laquearia rumpite!' his tamen omnibus factis epistulam invenire non poterant.

tandem Augusta Musonium, qui homo sapientissimus erat, rogavit ut se adiuveret. ille, cum rem diu cogitavisset, explicavit Augustae quo modo Pallas epistulam celavisset.

'nonne,' inquit, 'optimum est folium in silva celare? nam in silva, quamquam omnes hoc folium videre possunt, quia inter multa alia folia est, non conspicuum est.'

ministri Augustae, Musonii mandata secuti, epistulam tandem invenerunt in mensa Pallantis cum aliis epistulis aperte iacentem.

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| erubesco, -ere, erubui | blush | nudo, -are | strip |
| confestim | hurriedly | hinc...recte | straight from here |
| complico, -are | fold up | pulvinus, -i (m.) | cushion |
| animadverto, -ere, -i | notice | scindo, -ere | rip |
| rubor, -oris (m.) | blush | disiungo, -ere | take to pieces |
| conclave, -is (n.) | room | laquearia, -ium (n.) | ceiling panels |
| folium, -i (n.) | leaf | aperte | openly |

1. What reason did Augusta have for wanting to please Pallas and even help him with his crimes?
 - a. she hated the emperor
 - b. she was afraid of Pallas
 - c. she wanted to collect her inheritance
 - d. she was in love with Pallas

2. A certain letter was written by:
 - a. Pallas
 - b. Augusta
 - c. Pylades
 - d. the emperor
 - e. Musonius

3. This certain letter can best be described as:
 - a. a love letter
 - b. a writ of arrest
 - c. title deed to a fortune
 - d. last will and testament

4. This certain letter was initially stolen from:
 - a. the emperor's safe
 - b. Augusta's room
 - c. Pylades' pocket
 - d. Pallas' men

5. What did Augusta eventually tell her agents to do?
 - a. spy on the emperor
 - b. destroy a certain room
 - c. set a trap
 - d. assassinate the emperor

6. In what way did Augusta's agents carry out her orders?
 - a. stole secret documents
 - b. pretended to be house servants
 - c. tried to bribe slaves
 - d. poisoned the evening meal

7. The relationship between Augusta and Pallas is:
 - a. husband and wife
 - b. as lovers
 - c. brother and sister
 - d. none of the above

8. The word 'latronibus' is written in inverted commas in the story because the people being referred to are:
 - a. very fierce
 - b. brave
 - c. not really who they appeared to be
 - d. loyal to the emperor

9. In which room or area did Augusta think the letter must have been hidden?
 - a. office
 - b. bedroom
 - c. garden
 - d. dining room

10. In what way would Augusta tell her agents to improve their performance?
 - a. direct order
 - b. secret note
 - c. subtle persuasion
 - d. letter

11. In what possible hiding-place did Augusta suggest her agents should look?
 - a. floor tile
 - b. bed
 - c. wall-panel
 - d. chair

12. Why did Augusta pick Musonius to help her?
 - a. he has wisdom
 - b. he has Pallas' confidence
 - c. he has the emperor's confidence
 - d. he is an expert assassin

13. Where does Musonius say is the best place to hide a leaf?
 - a. between two rocks
 - b. in a forest
 - c. in the grass
 - d. in a nest

14. Where was the letter finally eventually found?
 a. between two books b. in a library c. on the culprit's body d. in a desk
15. What occupation does Pylades have?
 a. body-guard b. farmer c. senator d. actor
16. Augusta is the wife of:
 a. Pylades b. the Emperor c. Musonius d. Pallas
17. What occupation does Pallas have?
 a. servant to the Emperor b. Augusta's personal bodyguard c. soldier d. senator
18. Who hid the letter?
 a. Augusta b. Pallas c. Pylades d. Musonius
19. The letter was initially stolen by.
 a. Musonius b. the Emperor c. Pylades d. Pallas
20. Choose the true statement.
 a. the Emperor knew about the letter b. Musonius was forced to help Augusta
 c. the Emperor did not know about the letter d. Pylades was forced to help the Emperor

Passage # 2

Fallax prope castra legionis habitabat et saepe ad tabernam ibat, in qua milites, centuriones, tribuni vinum bibebant. ibi res pretiosas surripiebat. nam in taberna milites saepe anulos et gemmas et alias res huiusmodi puellis dabant.

'ego sum fur optimus,' dicebat. 'nemo res pretiosas melius surripere potest quam ego.'
 amici Fallacis tamen, Edax et Bibulus, qui milites Romani erant, dissentiebant: 'in taberna tu es fur optimus. sed e castris nihil surripere potes; nam in castris milites omnia custodiunt.'
 proxima nocte Edax et Bibulus, in statione erant. Fallax, cum ad portam venisset, 'centurionem vestrum,' inquit, 'visito.'

'centurionem visitare potes,' respondit Bibulus, 'sed nihil ferre e castris!'
 eo die Britanni frumentum ad horrea forte attulerant. plaustra prope horrea adhuc iacebant. Fallax unum plaustrum ad portam trusit. 'heus!' inquit Bibulus, et Fallacem rogavit quid e castris in plastro portaret. 'nihil!' respondit Fallax. et plaustrum erat re vera inane. mox, cum in castra iterum revenisset, alterum plaustrum per portam trusit. hoc plaustrum quoque erat inane. iterum atque iterum idem faciebat, sed Edax et Bibulus nihil in plaustris invenire poterant.
 postridie in taberna Fallax 'optimus fur sum!' inquit, 'et non solum in taberna!' tum amici rogaverunt eum quid surripisset. 'nos enim nihil vidimus; omnia plaustra erant inania.'
 'ita vero!' inquit Fallax. 'plaustra surripiebam.'

surrupio, -ere, -ui
statio, -onis
forte attulerant
adhuc

steal
guard-post
happened to have brought
still

iacere
trudo, -ere, trusi
re vera
inanis

lie, stand
push
really, truly
empty

21. Where did Fallax live?

- a. near a Roman camp b. out in the woods c. on a farm d. in town

22. What did Roman tavern-goers do in the tavern?

- a. eat food b. drink wine c. steal jewelry d. trade goods

23. Who could be found in the tavern?

- a. soldiers b. officers c. both a and b d. none of the above

24. What did Fallax do in the tavern?

- a. eat food b. drink wine c. steal jewelry d. trade goods

25. Who did Fallax meet in the tavern?

- a. friends b. soldiers c. officers d. both a and b' e. both b and c

26. What did girls often receive in the tavern?

- a. rings b. kisses c. drinks d. dinner

27. Who are friends of Fallax?

- a. Bibulus b. Edax c. both a and b d. none of the above

28. The phrase "sed e castris nihil surripere potes;" basically says that:

- a. Edax is a liar b. Bibulus wants to bring stolen goods into the camp
c. Fallax can't steal anything out of the camp d. none of the above

29. The phrase "nam in castris milites omnia custodiunt." basically says that:

- a. soldiers are able to guard the camp well b. soldiers are not able to guard the camp well
c. thieves are able to get into the camp easily
d. thieves are not able to get into the camp easily

30. When did Fallax go to the Roman camp?

- a. the next day b. the next night c. right away d. the next week

31. How did Fallax get into the Roman camp?

- a. he bribed the guards b. he entered unnoticed
c. he disguised himself as a Roman soldier d. he walked right past the guards

32. What had been brought into the camp earlier that day?

- a. grain b. weapons c. gold d. none of the above

33. What did Fallax attempt to steal?

- a. grain b. weapons c. gold d. none of the above
34. When Fallax walked out of the camp, Edax and Bibulus:
a. urged him on b. smiled c. said nothing d. asked him a question
35. What did Fallax use to take things out of the camp?
a. a large sack b. a cart c. a child d. his body
36. Who is Edax?
a. British peasant b. Roman soldier c. fellow thief d. merchant
37. How many times did Fallax manage to get in and out of the camp?
a. none b. one c. two d. three e. four
38. The setting of the story ends:
a. in the tavern b. in the camp c. at the camp gate d. in the woods
39. By the end of the story, stolen goods were:
a. seen but not found b. never taken out of the camp
c. discovered and seized d. sold for money
40. Which of the following is not true about Fallax?
a. he is a liar b. he is a thief c. he is friendly with the Roman soldiers d. he brags

Passage # 3

Seianus erat Tiberii minister, Tiberii favorem olim adeptus erat quod vitam eius servaverat. Germanicus, qui heres Tiberii fuerat, nuper mortuus erat, et Seianus non solum filios Germanici maiestatis accusaverat, sed totam domum eius evertere conabatur, ut, omnibus heredibus interfectis, ipse filiam Tiberii duceret et imperator postea fieret. itaque Sabinus odio erat Seiano; nam mortem Germanici semper querebatur; et, quamquam multi alii amicitiam quam cum Germanico habuerant repudiare festinaverunt, Sabinus uxorem eius adhuc visitabat.

eo tempore omnes senatores qui ad maiores honores pervenire volebant, Seianum adibant; nam ille solus consules eligebat et alios honores pro imperatore dabat. quattuor senatores igitur, Latiaris et tres amici, ut Seiani favorem adipiscerentur, Sabino insidias parare constituerunt. Latiaris eum ad cenam invitavit et amicos iussit in tecto triclinii se celare. illis per rimas audientibus, sermo de morte Germanici inter Latiarem et Sabinum habebatur. Sabinus, insidias non suspicatus, non solum Seianum vituperare coepit, sed etiam Tiberium. hoc audito Latiaris postridie Sabinum maiestatis accusavit; nam tres huius sermonis testes habebat. Sabino sic condemnato, Latiaris et amici postea consules a Seiano facti sunt.

adipiscor, -i, adeptus
maiestas, - atis (f.)
evertere
ducere
fio, fieri

obtain
treason
overthrow, ruin
lead (into marriage)
become

repudiare
maiores honores
eligere
tectum, -i (n.)
rima, -ae (f.)

disown, reject
higher office
choose
roof
crack, chink

queror, -i, questus

complain, grieve

testis, -is (m.)

witness

41. How had Sejanus won Tiberius' favor?

- a. he had saved the emperor's life
- b. he was related to the emperor
- c. he was related to the emperor's wife
- d. he caught the secret lover of the emperor's wife

42. The phrase, "nuper mortuus erat" refers to:

- a. Germanicus
- b. Germanicus' wife
- c. the Emperor's wife
- d. the Emperor's wife's lover

43. Whom had Sejanus accused of treason?

- a. the wife of the Emperor
- b. the heirs of Germanicus
- c. Sabinus
- d. Germanicus

44. What ill-feelings did Sejanus have concerning the family of Germanicus?

- a. they had more money than he
- b. they looked down on him and his position
- c. they were closer to the Emperor than he
- d. All of the above

45. Whom did Sejanus want to marry?

- a. the wife of Germanicus
- b. the wife of the Emperor
- c. the daughter of the Emperor
- d. the daughter of Germanicus

46. What did Sabinus persist in doing which aroused Sejanus' hostility to him?

- a. he kept on complaining about high taxes
- b. he always complained about Germanicus' death
- c. he used to complain about Sejanus' lack of honor
- d. he continued to seek the honors that Sejanus was seeking for himself

47. The word "eius" in the phrase "sed totam domum eius evertere conabatur" refers specifically to:

- a. Germanicus
- b. Sabinus
- c. the Emperor
- d. Latiaris

48. What was another thing that Sabinus persisted in doing which aroused Sejanus' hostility to him?

- a. he used to visit Sejanus' own wife
- b. he used to visit Germanicus' wife
- c. he used to visit the Emperor's wife
- d. he used to visit the Emperor

49. Why did the senators approach Sejanus?

- a. they were forming a conspiracy against him
- b. they were seeking political offices for themselves
- c. they were trying to intimidate him
- d. they wanted Sejanus to run for office

50. The word "eius" in the phrase "Sabinus uxorem eius adhuc visitabat." refers specifically to:

- a. Germanicus
- b. Sabinus
- c. the Emperor
- d. Latiaris

51. What did the senators do next?

- a. they attended a dinner-party
- b. they helped Sejanus run for the office of consul
- c. they gave up and left Sejanus alone
- d. they appealed to Sabinus for help

52. How many senators desired to win Sejanus' favor?
a. 2 b. 4 c. 8 d. 16
53. In the sentence "Latiaris eum ad cenam invitavit et amicos iussit in tecto triclinii se celare" the action takes place in the:
a. reception area b. kitchen c. dining room d. garden
54. He was exercising the honor of choosing consuls for political office during the course of the story:
a. the Emperor b. Sabinus c. Germanicus d. Sejanus
55. In the phrase "nam tres huius sermonis testes habebat" the word "huius" is in grammatical agreement with:
a. tres b. sermonis c. testes d. habebat
56. Who is included in the word "illis" in the phrase "illis per rimas audientibus"?
a. Sabinus b. Sejanus c. Latiaris d. none of the above
57. By the end of the story, who was accused of treason and convicted?
a. Sabinus b. the Emperor c. Latiaris d. Sejanus
58. Who made the accusation?
a. Sabinus b. the Emperor's wife c. Latiaris d. Sejanus
59. Not counting the accuser, how many witnesses to the accusation were there?
a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4
60. As a result of the accusation, who was made consul?
a. Sabinus b. Germanicus c. Latiaris d. Sejanus

