

Reading Comprehension Test – Novice & Level 1
Area F JCL 2004

- I. *Because the Romans stole brides from the Sabines, they made war on the Romans. The Sabines trapped the Romans on the Capitoline Hill, but did not know the secret path up. A Roman girl named Tarpeia betrayed it to them for a reward.*

1 Sabīnī Rōmānōs pugnābant quod Rōmānī Sabīnās captīvās uxōrēs
2 dūxerant. Rōmānī arcem in Capitōliō dēfendēbant. Tarpēia, filia dūcis Spuriī
3 Tarpēiī, erat Virgō Vestālis. Tarpēia ambulābat ex arce quod aquam ex fonte
4 comparāverat. Tītus Tātius, rēx Sabīnōrum, viam in arcem Tarpēiam rogāvit.
5 Tarpēia, armillās aureās in sinistrīs bracchiīs Sabīnōrum vidēns, “sī mihi,”
6 inquit, “dābitis quod in sinistrīs bracchiīs geritis, viam in arcem mōnstrābō.”
7 vērō Sabīnī armillās aureās in sinistrīs bracchiīs gerēbant, sed scūta quoque in
8 sinistrīs bracchiīs habēbant. Tarpēia viam in arcem mōnstrāvit. in arce, Sabīnī
9 Tarpēiam scūtīs oppressērunt quod īnfida patriae familiaeque erat. postea
10 Rōmānī ex rūpe cīvēs īnfidōs iēcērunt; rūpem Tarpēiam appellāvērunt.

uxōrem dūcere – to marry

arx, arcis – citadel (a fortress, generally on a high place)

dūx, dūcis – leader (of the Romans)

comparō, -āre – to get, obtain

armilla – bracelet

aureus, -a, -um – golden

bracchium – arm

vidēns – seeing

scūtum – shield

rūpēs – cliff, rock

īnfidus, -s, -um – treacherous, traitorous

iaciō, iacere, iēci – throw

1. quī Rōmānōs pugnābant?
 - a) the captives
 - b) the Sabines
 - c) Tarpēia
 - d) the wives
2. cūr Rōmānōs pugnābant?
 - a) because the Romans stole their wives
 - b) because the Sabines had married the captives
 - c) because the Romans had married captive Sabine women
 - d) because the Romans had led an attack
3. quid Rōmānī in Capitōliō faciēbant?
 - a) they were fighting the Sabines
 - b) they were defending their wives
 - c) they were leading away captives
 - d) they were defending the citadel

4. Who was Tarpēia?
 - a) she was the daughter of the leader
 - b) she was the daughter of Spurius Tarpēius
 - c) she was a Vestal Virgin
 - d) all of the above

5. unde Tarpēia ambulābat?
 - a) she was walking from the citadel
 - b) she was defending the citadel
 - c) she was walking down the road
 - d) she was watching for the Sabines

6. Why had she gone to the citadel?
 - a) to give water to the soldiers
 - b) to fetch some water
 - c) to find Spurius Tarpēius
 - d) to find the Vestal Virgins

7. Who was Titus Tatius?
 - a) king of the Sabines
 - b) leader of the Sabines
 - c) king of the Romans
 - d) leader of the Romans

8. What did he want to know?
 - a) whether her father was on the citadel
 - b) where the house was on the citadel
 - c) where the road was into the citadel
 - d) where the gold was on the citadel

9. quid Tarpēia vīdit?
 - a) golden bracelets
 - b) golden armor
 - c) the Sabines
 - d) the road into the citadel

10. quid quoque in sinistrīs bracchiīs erant?
 - a) bracelets
 - b) swords
 - c) shields
 - d) all of the above

11. What was the treacherous thing that Tarpēia did?
 - a) she stole what was on their left arms
 - b) she showed Titus the way into the citadel
 - c) she showed Titus where her father was
 - d) all of the above

12. quid Sabīnī fēcērunt?
a) they crushed her with their shields
b) they spared her life
c) they threw her from a cliff
d) they named the cliff after her
13. What did the Romans do to treacherous citizens?
a) they crushed them with shields
b) they crushed them with a rock
c) they threw them off a cliff
d) they imprisoned them in the citadel
14. quid significat “quod”? (line 1)
a) that
b) which
c) because
d) who
15. quid significat “quoque”? (line 7)
a) which
b) because
c) finally
d) also
16. quid significat “vērō”? (line 7)
a) truly
b) scarcely
b) forcefully
c) hardly
17. quid significat “postea”? (line 9)
a) afterwards
b) then
c) finally
d) next
18. What is the object of vidēns? (line 5)
a) Sabīnōrum
b) bracchiīs
c) Tarpēia
d) armillās

19. How do you translate *mōnstrābō*? (line 6)
- I was remaining
 - he will remain
 - I will show
 - he was showing
20. How do you translate *patriae familiaeque*? (line 9)
- fathers and families
 - of her country and families
 - to her country and family
 - of her father and family

II. *In Roman times, as today, a skilled musician would not buy an instrument for himself without the opportunity to test it first.*

1 Aulus et Publius tībiās faciēbant. tībiae erant optimae. Aulus et Publius
 2 multīs cīvibus tībiās ostendērunt, sed cīvēs tībiās nōn emēbant.
 3 Aulus et Publius amīcum in forō salūtāvērunt. amīcus “herī,” inquit,
 4 “Philomūsus urbem intrāvit. Philomūsus est optimus tībīcen. Philomūsus
 5 cotīdiē nōnā hōrā ad thermās venit.”
 6 Aulus et Publius et thermās nōnā hōrā contendērunt. Philomūsus in
 7 palaestrā sē exercēbat.
 8 “nunc?” Aulus Publium rogāvit.
 9 “minimē!” respondit Publius. “Philomūsus sē exercet; fessus est.”
 10 Philomūsus tepidārium intrāvit.
 11 “nunc?” Aulus iterum rogāvit.
 12 “minimē!” respondit Publius. “Philomūsus sūdat. digitī sunt lūbricī.”
 13 Philomūsus caldārium intrāvit.
 14 “nunc?” rogāvit Aulus.
 15 “minimē!” respondit Publius. “servus Philomūsus rādīt; et Philomūsus
 16 nunc etiam plūs sūdat.”
 17 tum Philomūsus frīdigārium intrāvit. Aulus et Publius quoque frīgidārium
 18 intrāvērunt et tandem Philomūsō tībiās ostendērunt.
 19 “tībiae,” inquit Philomūsus, “mē valdē dēlectant; sed modo ē balneō
 20 frīgidō veniō. digitī meī sunt frīgidī. tantō pēius!”

tībia – flute
 tībīcen – flute player
 nōnā hōrā – at the ninth hour
 sūdat – sweat
 digitus – finger

rādīt – scrape
 etiam plūs – even more
 modo – just, just now
 balneum – plunge(-bath)
 tantō pēius – what a pity!

21. quī tībiās faciēbant?
a) Aulus
b) Publius
c) Aulus and Publius
d) Philomūsus
22. To whom were the flutes shown?
a) to the best people
b) to many citizens
c) to Philomūsus
d) to the friend
23. What was the problem?
a) Philomūsus wouldn't buy at the flutes
b) Philomūsus wouldn't play the flutes
c) the friend didn't know Philomūsus
d) the citizens weren't buying the flutes
24. quem Aulus et Publius salūtāvērunt?
a) amīcum
b) Philomūsum
c) tībiās
d) cīvēs
25. quandō Philomūsus urbem intrāvit?
a) today
b) yesterday
c) that morning
d) last night
26. Why should Aulus and Publius care?
a) because Philomūsus buys flutes
b) because Philomūsus makes flutes
c) because Philomūsus was going to play
d) because Philomūsus is the best flute player
27. quō Philomūsus venit?
a) nōnā hōrā
b) cotīdiē
c) in palaestrā
d) ad thermās
28. ubi Philomūsum invēnērunt?
a) nōnā hōrā
b) cotīdiē
c) in palaestrā
d) ad thermās

29. What question does Aulus keep asking Publius?
- When?
 - Now?
 - Soon?
 - There?
30. What was Publius's first reason for saying no?
- Philomūsus was exercising
 - Philomūsus was getting scraped
 - Philomūsus was sweaty
 - both b and c
31. What was Publius's second reason for saying no?
- Philomūsus was exercising
 - Philomūsus was getting scraped
 - Philomūsus was sweaty
 - both b and c
32. What was Publius's third reason for saying no?
- Philomūsus was exercising
 - Philomūsus was getting scraped
 - Philomūsus was sweaty
 - both b and c
33. In which room did Aulus and Publius show the flutes?
- in caldāriō
 - in tepidāriō
 - in frīgidāriō
 - in thermīs
34. dēlectantne tībiae Philomūsum?
- dēlectant
 - nōn dēlectant
35. What was such a pity at the end of the story?
- that his fingers were too cold to play the flutes
 - that his fingers were too sweaty to play the flutes
 - that he was too tired to play the flutes
 - that he was too cold to play the flutes
36. quid significat "sē"? (line 7)
- myself
 - themselves
 - yourself
 - himself

37. quid significat “valdē”? (line 19)

- a) never
- b) greatly
- c) hardly
- d) happily

38. What case is tībīcen? (line 4)

- a) nominative
- b) dative
- c) accusative
- d) ablative

III. *In the following passage, Harry, who has just read his letter from Hogwarts, has asked Hagrid about the phrase “awaiting your owl.” (This is abridged.)*

1 “Gorgōnēs galopantēs, hoc locūtus mē admonuistī,” inquit Hagrid et ab
2 aliō sinū lacernae strigem dēprōmpsit—strigem vēram, vīvam,
3 incōmptiōrem—pennam longam volūmenque membrāneum. linguā intrā
4 dentēs īsertā, epistulam brevem scrīpsit quam inversam Harrius legere
5 poterat:

6 Hagrid Salūtem Dīcit Dominō Dumbledōrī.
7 epistulam Harriō dedī. crās in forum ībimus ad rēs emendās. horrible
8 est caelum. cūrā ut valeās.

9 Hagrid epistulam convolūtā strigī dedit, quae eam fortiter in rōstrō
10 īfixit, ad iānuam iit, strigemque in tempestātem ēiēcit.

hoc locūtus – this said
admoneō, -ēre, -uī – remind
sinus, sinūs – pocket
lacerna – coat
strix, strigis – screech owl
dēprōmō, -ere, -psī – fetch
incōmptus, -a, -um – messy, unkempt

penna – quill
salūtem dīcit – (a Roman style letter
salutation)
ad rēs emendās – to buy things
convolūtus, -a, -um – rolled up
rōstrum – beak, bill

39. quem Harrius admonuit?

- a) Gorgōnēs
- b) galopantēs
- c) Hagrid
- d) alium

40. unde strix vēnit?
a) ab aliō sinū
b) Gorgōnēs
c) hoc locutus
d) mē
41. What else did Hagrid produce?
a) vēram vīvamque
b) pennam volūmenque
c) lacernae
d) linguā
42. Describe the owl.
a) real, white and rather scrawny
b) alive, brown and very untidy
c) striped, alive and rather real
d) real, alive and rather a mess
43. cūr Harrius epistulam legere poterat?
a) quod illa erat brevis
b) quod ille pennam longam volūmenque habuit
c) quod lingua intrā dentēs inserta est
d) quod ille epistulam legere inversam poterat
44. quis Dumbledōrī epistulam scrīpsit?
a) Hagrid
b) Harrius
c) strix
d) Salūtem
45. quid Hagrid fēcerat?
a) ille salūtem dīxerat
b) ille in forum īerat
c) ille rēs ēmerat
d) ille epistulam Harriō dederat
46. What did Hagrid say was horrible?
a) the hut
b) the light
c) the weather
d) the food

47. quid strix in rōstrō īnfixit?
 a) caelum
 b) epistulam convolūtā
 c) strigem
 d) tempestātem
48. quid strigī accidit?
 a) Hagrid Harriō eam dedit
 b) illa ad iānuam iit
 c) Hagrid in tempestātem ēiēcit
 d) illa eam in rōstrō īnfixit
49. How do you translate admonuistī? (line 1)
 a) I reminded
 b) you reminded
 c) he reminded
 d) you remembered
50. How do you translate lacernae? (line 2)
 a) of the coat
 b) to the coat
 c) the coats
 d) within the coat

IV. Tie-Breakers

dē Symmachō medicō discipulīsque eius centum

- 1 languēbam: sed tū comitātus prōtinus ad mē
 2 vēnistī centum, Symmache, discipulīs.
 3 centum mē tetigēre manūs Aquilōne gelātae;
 4 nōn habuī febrem, Symmache: nunc habeō.

languēō, -ēre – to be weak, weary

comitātus, -a, um – accompanied (takes abl)

prōtinus – right away, forthwith

tetigēre = tetigērunt from

tangō, -ere, tetigī – touch

Aquilō – the north wind

gelātus, -a, -um – frozen

febris, -is – fever

96. quis scrīptōrem vīsītābat?
 a) comitātus
 b) Symmachus
 c) discipulī
 d) both b & c

97. cur Symmachus vēnit?
a) quod scrīptōrem febrem habuit
b) quod scrīptor languēbat
c) quod Symmachus discipulōs habuit
d) quod ille scrīptōrem tangere voluit
98. What touched the writer?
a) 100 freezing cold hands
b) a fever
c) the cold North Wind
d) Symmachus
99. What case is Symmache?
a) ablative
b) nominative
c) accusative
d) vocative
100. How do you think the writer feels about doctors and their students?
a) he thinks they can cure people with frozen hands
b) he thinks they make people weary
c) he thinks they cause fevers
d) all of the above