

**2003 NJCL Convention  
Reading Comprehension, Level II**

Directions: Chose the **best** answer.

**Diogenes goes to a dinner party**

**Glossed words:**

tondeō, -dēre, totondī, tōnsum = to cut, to crop, to clip  
cōmō, -ere, cōmpsī, cōmptum = to comb, to smarten up  
scelestus, -a, -um = wicked, criminal  
obstipēscō, -ere, obstipuī = be amazed, astonished

vir dīves cēnam dabat. Diogenēs invītātus est. Diogenēs togam sordidam induit, neque barbam totondit, neque capillōs cōmpsit. cum domum virī dīvitis advēnisset, servī eum abēgerunt.

"abī, sceleste!" inquit servī. "tū es pauper. nēmō nisi vir cōmptus hūc admittitur."

Diogenēs, cum domum suam rediisset, togam celeriter mūtāvit. barbam totondit, capillōs cōmpsit. domum virī dīvitis regressus, sine morā admissus est; nam togam splendidam nunc gerēbat.

nunc cibus eī offerēbātur, vīnum fundēbātur. Diogenēs tamen cibum et vīnum in togae sinum effūdīt. omnēs obstipuērunt et causam quaerēbant.

at Diogenēs "bibe!" inquit, "et cibum cōsūme, ō optima toga! nam tū, nōn ego, ad cēnam invītāta es!"

1. Who invited Diogenēs to a party?
  - a. A rich man
  - b. A priest
  - c. An old friend
  - d. A neighbor
2. How did Diogenēs prepare for the party?
  - a. He cleaned his dirty toga.
  - b. He combed his hair.
  - c. He trimmed his beard.
  - d. He made no preparations.
3. When was Diogenēs driven away?
  - a. When he had arrived at the home of the host.
  - b. After he had been seen by the host.
  - c. When he had gone into the home of the rich man.
  - d. When he had unwillingly gone to the man's home.
4. Why was Diogenēs driven away?
  - a. He was a criminal.
  - b. He was late.
  - c. He was unkempt.
  - d. He was poor.
5. What did Diogenēs do when he returned home?
  - a. He shaved.
  - b. He changed.
  - c. He smartened up his hair.
  - d. He changed, shaved, and smartened up his hair.
6. quō modō mūtāt vit?
  - a. lentē
  - b. festinē
  - c. miserē
  - d. facile

7. What happened when Diogenēs returned to the party?  
a. He was immediately welcomed.  
b. all admired his new clothes.  
c. He showed his invitation.  
d. He sat next to the host.
8. What was offered to Diogenēs?  
a. food and wine  
b. food but no wine  
c. neither food nor wine  
d. no food but wine
9. ubi cibum et vinum posuit?  
a. sub mēnsā  
b. in lectō  
c. in sinūm  
d. sellā
10. The guests were astonished . . .  
a. but understood his reasoning.  
b. and questioned his reasoning.  
c. but offered him more food.  
d. and ate and drank what he offered them.
11. Who does Diogenēs tell to "Eat!" and "Drink!"?  
a. everyone at the party.  
b. the slave  
c. his toga.  
d. the host.
12. Diogenēs says he is invited to the dinner because . . .  
a. there was extra food and drink.  
b. he has a nice toga.  
c. he is a friend.  
d. everyone listens to him.
13. From this story you learn that  
a. Looks can be deceiving  
b. Look before you leap.  
c. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.  
d. When in doubt, ask questions.

### Death and the old man

#### Glossed words:

aliquantum. = somewhat, a little, considerably  
prex, precis, f. = prayer

onus, oneris, n. = burden  
quiētus, -a, -um = at rest, resting

senex, portans ramōs quōs in silvā ceciderant, domum redire incepit. cum aliquantum ambulavisset, onere et viā defessus, fascem deposuit. mala aetatis et inopiae contemplans, magna voce Mortem invocavit, ut ipse ab omnibus hīs malīs liberaretur. tum Mors, precibus senis auditis, subito advenit ut eī daret id quod vellet. sed senex, qui precem suam iam revocāre voluit, "auxilium tuum," inquit, "non requiro; quietem brevem tantum volebam."

14. The man was carrying . . .  
a. a walking stick.  
b. firewood.  
c. a wooden sword.  
d. a raft.
15. The man put down his load because . . .  
a. he was tired.  
b. he was praying.  
c. he was hungry.  
d. he was hot.

16. What was the man contemplating?  
a. good and evil  
b. death and taxes  
c. old age and poverty  
d. peace and quiet
17. The man \_\_\_\_\_ Death.  
a. cursed  
b. accepted  
c. called on  
d. ignored
18. Why did the man want Death?  
a. So that he could free his apples.  
b. So that he would be free from evil.  
c. So that he would be free from these worries.  
d. So that he could free himself.
19. How did Death approach?  
a. stealthily  
b. as a priest  
c. suddenly  
d. with an old man
20. Death approached the man in order to . . .  
a. give him what he deserved.  
b. give him what he wanted.  
c. retrieve all his prayers.  
d. retrieve all his evil.
21. What does the man tell Death?  
a. He wanted to help an old man.  
b. He wanted to be free.  
c. He wanted to rest.  
d. He wanted to ask him a question.
22. The moral of this story is . . .  
a. Help is always just around the corner.  
b. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.  
c. Be careful what you wish for.  
d. Death waits for no man.

### Antony and the death of Cicero

#### Glossed words:

obeō, obīre, obī, obitum = to go to meet; to met; to die

nēmō Antōnium vehementius oppugnāverat quam Cicerō. Antōnius ipse manum mīlitum mīsīt quī iussī sunt eum occīdere. ille in vīllā manēbat prope mare. ubi dē adventū mīlitum cognōvit, temptāvit in nāve effugere. ventīs tamen adversīs repellēbātur. tandem ad vīllam redīre cōstituit et "mortem obībō," inquit, "in patriā quam saepe servāvī."

in lectīcā ad vīllam portābātur, cum mīlitēs advēnērunt. nōn resistit sed cervīcem ē lectīcā extendit. illī caput gladiō praecīdunt. tum manūs quoque praecīdērunt, quae pessimōs ōratiōnēs in Antōnium scrīpserant. caput eīus ad Antōnium relātum iussū eīus inter duās manūs in rōstrīs positum est, ubi ille ā populō saepe audītus erat, et Antōnium tantā ēloquentiā oppugnāvērāt.

23. What had attacked Antony?  
a. no one  
b. death  
c. Cicero  
d. the winds
24. Why was a band of soldiers sent to Cicero?  
a. to follow Cicero  
b. to kill Cicero  
c. to obey Cicero  
d. to bring Cicero back

25. What did Cicero do when he learned about the soldiers?  
a. He remained at his house.  
b. He went into exile.  
c. He attempted to flee by the sea.  
d. He attempted to flee away from the sea.
26. Why did Cicero decide to return to his house?  
a. He was driven back by the sea.  
b. He was driven back by head winds.  
c. He wanted to serve his country.  
d. He wanted to save his country.
27. What did Cicero do when the soldiers arrived?  
a. He stuck his head out of his litter.  
b. He greeted them with a handshake.  
c. He drew his sword.  
d. He swore at them.
28. What did the soldiers do to Cicero ?  
a. They bound his hands.  
b. They seized his sword.  
c. They cut off his head.  
d. They forbade him to speak.
29. What had Cicero written?  
a. bad speeches for Antony.  
b. speeches worse than those of Antony.  
c. better speeches than Antony.  
d. negative speeches against Antony
30. What image is given of Cicero in "repose"?  
a. his head on his hands.  
b. his head in his hands.  
c. his hands on his head.  
d. his head between his hands.
31. Antony did this because Cicero had . . .  
a. fought so often from the Rostra.  
b. listened so eloquently from the Rostra.  
c. attacked Antony from the Rostra.  
d. rested his hands on the Rostra.

### Augustus and the Owl

*Glossed words:*

aegrōtō, -āre = to be sick

aucupium, -ī, n. = bird catching

molestia, -ae, f. = annoyance, trouble

nummus, -ī, m. = coin

Augustus in quadam villa aegrotans noctes—inquietas agebat; somnus eius autem crebrō būbōnis cantu rumpebatur. cum se liberari hac molestia vehementer cupere nuntiavisset, miles quidam, aucupii peritus, ad Augustum venit. hic miles negotium suscepit, bubonemprehendit, et ad Augustum attulit, spe ingentis praemii adductus. cui Augustus mille nummōs dari iussit; at miles non dignum praemium existimans, dicere ausus est, "malo eum vivere," et avem dimisit.

32. Why was Augustus restless?  
a. He was away from his own villa.  
b. The night air made him ill.  
c. It was a noisy night.  
d. He was sick.
33. What disturbed his sleep?  
a. his illness  
b. the night air  
c. his children's restlessness  
d. the hooting of the owl

34. What did Augustus say?  
a. That he and his children strongly desired to sleep.  
b. That his children were seeking help.  
c. That he did not want his children troubled.  
d. That he strongly desired to be free of this trouble.
35. Why does a soldier come to Augustus?  
a. His business is catching birds.  
b. He thinks he can catch the owl.  
c. He suspects that he can apprehend the birds.  
d. He suspects that he can negotiate a prize from Augustus.
36. What does the soldier hope to do?  
a. to help the children  
b. to receive much praise  
c. to catch the owl  
d. to receive a large reward
37. What happens to the owl?  
a. It dies.  
b. It is transformed into a constellation.  
c. It is freed.  
d. It is sent to an aviary.
38. What did the soldier receive?  
a. a reward worthy of a soldier  
b. a soldier's pay  
c. a million coins  
d. a thousand coins
39. From this we learn . . .  
a. Money cannot buy happiness.  
b. A penny saved is a penny earned.  
c. You get what you pay for.  
d. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

### **Borrowed feathers**

#### **Glossed words:**

dēligō, -ligere, -ligī, delectum = to choose, to select

figō, figere, fixī, fixus = to stick, to fix

nūdō, nūdāre = to strip, to denude

Iuppiter p̄ncipem avium creāre volēbat. itaque omnēs avēs congregāvit ut pulcherrimam avem dēligeret et p̄ncipem creāret.

omnēs avēs ad rīpam flūminis festīnāvērunt ut sē ōrnārent. monēdula tamen nūllam propriam pulchritūdinem habēbat; pennās igitur colligēbat, quās aliae avēs dēposuerant, et in corpore suō figēbat. tam dīligenter sē ōrnāvīt ut mox splendidissima omnium esset.

postrīdiē omnēs avēs p̄ love p̄cessērunt. ille, pulchritūdine monēdulae attonitus, eam p̄ncipem creāre volēbat. sed aliae avēs, arrogantīā monēdulae incēnsae, pennās suās recēpērunt. monēdula nūdāta omnem pulchritūdinem āmīsīt.

40. Jupiter gathered all the birds together because he wanted to . . .  
a. appoint a "chief" bird.  
b. assign the each its own beauty.  
c. to color their neck feathers.  
d. to assign them to flocks.

41. What did the birds do at the river?  
a. They strutted near the bank.  
b. They collected feathers.  
c. They preened themselves.  
d. They molted.
42. Why did the jackdaw collect feathers?  
a. It had recently molted.  
b. It was not naturally beautiful.  
c. It was jealous of the other birds.  
d. It was helping to decorate the river bank.
43. Who was "*splendidissima*"?  
a. all of the birds  
b. Jupiter  
c. the jackdaw  
d. the feathers
44. When did Jupiter see the birds the second time?  
a. latter in the day  
b. the next day  
c. three days later  
d. two days later
45. What astonished Jupiter?  
a. The beauty of all the birds.  
b. The beauty of the jackdraw.  
c. The number of birds.  
d. The creativity of the jackdaw.
46. What did the other birds do?  
a. They strutted in front of the jackdaw.  
b. They loaned their feathers to the jackdaw.  
c. They took the feathers from the jackdaw.  
d. They exiled the jackdaw.

**Trimalchiō's party:** Encolpius, a student of Agamemnon, gives his impression of Trimalchio's party.

**Glossed words:**

cessō, -āre = to do nothing, to slack off

crūs, crūris, n. = leg

rationēs facere = to keep accounts

discumbō, -discumbere, discubui, discubitum = to take their places at the table

bisacciō = double panniers

digitis concrepāre = to snap the fingers

vēnālicius, -a, -um = slave sale

tribūnal, -ālis, n. = a platform

itaque domī sedēbāmus cum intrāvit servus Agamemnonis et "quid?" inquit. "nōne scītis? hodiē vōs ad cēnam invitāvit Trimalchiō, lautissimus homō, venīte igitur; nōlīte cessāre." celeriter itigur vestīmenta induimus et ad balnea prōcessimus. in balneīs senem calvum vīdimus quī inter puerōs capillātōs pilā lūdēbat. accurrīt aliquis ad nōs et "ille est" inquit "Trimalchiō, quī vōs ad cēnam invitāvit." vix haec dīxerat cum Trimalchiō digitōs concrepuit; aquam poposcit et digitōs lāvīt. deinde servī eum in lectīcam imposuērunt domumque auferēbant.

ad iānuam Trimalchiōnis aedium cum Agamemnone pervēnimus. ātrium magnificum erat, sed ego, dum omnia spectō, paene cecidī et crūra mea frēgī. in mūrō enim pictus est canis ingēns, superque scīptum cave canem. comitēs mē rīsērunt; ego autem spīritum collēgī et tōtum mūrū inspīcere incēpī. erat enim vēnālicium cum titulīs pictum; deinde ipse Trimalchiō Rōmam intrābat. deinde omnia quae fēcerat Trimalchiō pictor cum īnscrīptiōne dīligenter reddiderat. prīmum Trimalchiō rationēs facere discēbat, deinde dispēnsātor factus est, dēnique Mercurius eum tollēbat et in tribūnal altum rapiēbat. ibi erat Fortūna, quae comū abundantī dīvitiās effundēbat.

nōs in trīclīnium iam pervēnerāmus et mox omnēs discubuerant praeter ipsum Trimalchiōnem. servī gustātiōnem valdē lautam intulērunt. nam asellum argenteum cum bisacciō nōbīs prōposuērunt, quī habēbat olīvās in alterā parte albās, in alterā nigrās.

47. ubi sedebat Encolpius?  
a. in hortō  
b. domī  
c. rurī  
d. in lectō
48. What is the best translation of *cum* in "cum intrāvit servus Agamemnonis"?  
a. with  
b. although  
c. when  
d. because
49. quis est *lautissimus homō*?  
a. Agamemnon  
b. servus  
c. Trimalchiō  
d. Encolpius
50. Why did Encolpius and company hurry to the baths?  
a. Because they wanted to make themselves presentable.  
b. Because they wanted to meet the elegant man.  
c. Because the slave of the elegant man told them to do so.  
d. Because they wanted to meet the man for exercise.
51. How is the appearance of the old man contrasted with that of the boys?  
a. He was fat; they were thin.  
b. He moved slowly; they were energetic.  
c. His fingers were gnarled from age.  
d. He was bald; they had lots of hair.
52. In the first paragraph, how is Trimalchiō portrayed?  
a. friendly but arrogant  
b. mean and stingy  
c. patient and kind  
d. rich but stingy
53. quō Trimalchiō domum auferēbātur?  
a. pilā  
b. servō  
c. lectīcā  
d. digitō
54. Who accompanies Encolpius?  
a. Trimalchiō  
b. servus  
c. Mercurius  
d. Agamemnone
55. What happened to the narrator while he was looking around?  
a. He fell and broke his leg.  
b. He was welcomed by Trimalchiō.  
c. He stumbled and almost broke his leg.  
d. He was greeted by Agamemnon.

56. What does the narrator notice when he arrives?
- a. a huge dog
  - b. a slave trader
  - c. a ghost
  - d. a wall fresco
57. Who laughs?
- a. Agamemnon's slave
  - b. Encolpius' friends
  - c. Trimalchio's slave
  - d. Trimalchio
58. Which of the following was not included in the painting?
- a. Trimalchio's career.
  - b. Trimalchio's education.
  - c. Trimalchio's favor with the gods.
  - d. Trimalchio's visit from Lady Luck.
59. Which of the following best describes Trimalchio's origins?
- a. He was a slave.
  - b. He was a painter.
  - c. He was an equestrian.
  - d. He was a noble.
60. What do the double panniers contain?
- a. silver
  - b. gold
  - c. a little donkey
  - d. olives