

2005 National Junior Classical League Reading Comprehension – Advanced Prose

Aquila in sublimi quercu nidum fecerat; feles, cavernam nancta in media, pepererat; sus nemoris cultrix fetum ad imam posuerat. tum fortuitum feles contubernium fraude et scelesta sic evertit malitia. Ad nidum scandit volucris: 'Pernicies' ait tibi paratur, forsitan et miserae mihi. nam, fodere terram quod vides cotidie aprum insidiosum, quercum vult evertere, ut nostram in plano facile progeniem opprimat. Terrore offuso et perturbatis sensibus derepit ad cubile saetosae suis; 'Magno' inquit 'in periculo sunt nati tui. Nam, simul exieris pastum cum tenero grege, aquila est parata rapere porcellos tibi'. Hunc quoque timore postquam complevit locum, dolosa tuto condidit sese cavo: inde evagata noctu suspenso pede, ubi esca sese explevit et prolem suam, pavorem simulans prospicit toto die. Ruinam metuens aquila ramis desidet: aper rapinam vitans non prodit foras. Quid multa? Inedia sunt consumpti cum suis, felisque catulis largam praebuerat dapem.

Quantum homo bilinguis saepe concinnet mali, documentum habere hinc stulta credulitas potest.

A prose adaptation of Phaedrus, Phaedri Augustui Liberti Fabularum Aesopiarum Libri Quinque, 2.4

1. What do the three animals have in common as told by lines 1-2?
 - a. They all have young offspring
 - b. They are all hungry
 - c. They all distrust one another
 - d. They are all plotting against one another

2. What is the best translation for the word “nancta” in line 1?
 - a. obtaining
 - b. having obtained
 - c. having been obtained
 - d. about to obtain

3. What is the subject of “evertit” (line 3)?
 - a. contubernium (line 2)
 - b. fraude (line 2)
 - c. feles (line 2)
 - d. malitia (line 3)

4. What case is the word “volucris” (line 3)?
 - a. nominative
 - b. genitive
 - c. dative
 - d. ablative

5. To whom does “tibi” in line 3 refer?
 - a. The cat
 - b. The boar
 - c. The eagle’s eggs
 - d. The eagle

6. Which of the following best explains the case of “aprum insidiosum” in line 4?
 - a. Nominative, subject
 - b. Accusative, Direct Object
 - c. Accusative, subject of indirect discourse
 - d. Predicate Accusative

7. According to the passage, how does the cat approach the boar’s den?
 - a. boldly
 - b. fearfully
 - c. hesitantly
 - d. stealthily

8. Which of these is NOT an action attributed to the boar by the cat?
 - a. Digging daily
 - b. Filling the other animals with terror
 - c. Wanting to uproot the tree
 - d. Wishing to attack the eagle’s offspring

9. What case and use is illustrated by “tibi” in line 7?
 a. Dative of Reference
 b. Dative of Agent
 c. Dative of Possession
 d. Dative of Separation
10. What tense and mood is the verb “exieris” (line 6)?
 a. Future indicative
 b. Present Indicative
 c. Perfect subjunctive
 d. Future Perfect Indicative
11. Which of these best describes the way the cat fed her young?
 a. Food hung by its feet in their home
 b. She hunted secretly at night
 c. She had a supply of food ready
 d. She had hidden food in a cave
12. What does the cat do all day long?
 a. eats food
 b. pretends to be afraid
 c. watches a peacock
 d. brings destruction to the branches
13. What is the subject of “consumpti sunt” in line 10?
 a. aper et aquila (lines 9)
 b. inedia (line 10)
 c. felisque catulis (line 10)
 d. multa (line 10)
14. What became of the boar and the eagle?
 a. They moved away
 b. They killed each other
 c. They died of hunger
 d. They killed the cat
15. Which of the following best expresses the story’s moral?
 a. Beware of one who speaks with a forked tongue
 b. Never put all your eggs in one basket
 c. Better safe than sorry
 d. Good fences make good neighbors

Forte illis diebus Campaniam petiverat Caesar, et Cumas usque progressus Petronius illic attinebatur; nec tulit ultra timoris aut spei moras. neque tamen praeceps vitam expulit, sed incisas venas, ut libitum, obligatas aperire rursum et adloqui amicos, non per seria aut quibus gloriam constantiae peteret. audiebatque referentis nihil de immortalitate animae et sapientium placitis, sed levia carmina et facilis versus. servorum alios largitione, quosdam verberibus adfecit. iniit epulas, somno indulsit, ut quamquam coacta mors fortuitae similis esset. ne codicillis quidem, quod plerique pereuntium, Neronem aut Tigellinum aut quem alium potentium adulatus est, sed flagitia principis sub nominibus exoletorum feminarumque et novitatem cuiusque stupri perscripsit atque obsignata misit Neroni. fregitque anulum ne mox usui esset ad facienda pericula.

Tacitus, Annales, 16.19

16. What is the best translation of “forte” in line 1?
 a. brave
 b. bravely
 c. by chance
 d. perhaps
17. Which of these best explains Petronius’s presence in Cumae?
 a. he had spent days traveling there
 b. he was detained there on a journey
 c. he was a member of Caesar’s camp
 d. he had arrived there by mistake

[9] Discessu Liburnarum ex Illyrico M. Octavius cum eis, quas habebat, navibus Salonas pervenit. Ibi concitatis Dalmatis reliquisque barbaris Issam a Caesaris amicitia avertit; conventum Salonis cum neque pollicitationibus neque denuntiatione periculi permovere posset, oppidum oppugnare instituit. Est autem oppidum et loci natura et colle munitum. Sed celeriter cives Romani ligneis effectis turribus his sese munierunt et, cum essent infirmi ad resistendum propter paucitatem hominum crebris confecti vulneribus, ad extremum auxilium descenderunt servosque omnes puberes liberaverunt et praesectis omnium mulierum crinibus tormenta effecerunt. Quorum cognita sententia Octavius quinque castris oppidum circumdedit atque uno tempore obsidione et oppugnationibus eos premere coepit. Illi omnia perpeti parati maxime a re frumentaria laborabant. Cui rei missis ad Caesarem legatis auxilium ab eo petebant; reliqua, ut poterant, incommoda per se sustinebant. Et longo interposito spatio cum diuturnitas oppugnationis neglegentiores Octavianos effecisset, nacti occasionem meridiani temporis discessu eorum pueris mulieribusque in muro dispositis, ne quid cotidianae consuetudinis desideraretur, ipsi manu facta cum eis, quos nuper liberaverant, in proxima Octavii castra irruperunt. His expugnatis eodem impetu altera sunt adorti, inde tertia et quarta et deinceps reliqua omnibusque eos castris expulerunt et magno numero interfecto reliquos atque ipsum Octavium in naves confugere coegerunt. Hic fuit oppugnationis exitus. Iamque hiems appropinquabat, et tantis detrimentis acceptis Octavius desperata oppugnatione oppidi Dyrrachium sese ad Pompeium recepit.

Caesar, Commentarii de Bello Civili, 3.7

31. To what does “eis” in line 1 refer?
 - a. the Liburnians
 - b. his ships
 - c. M. Octavius
 - d. Salona

32. What did M. Octavius do at Issa?
 - a. He signed a treaty
 - b. He stirred up the inhabitants
 - c. He persuaded them to revolt against Caesar
 - d. He won their friendship for Caesar

33. What is the best translation of “cum” in line 3?
 - a. since
 - b. with
 - c. although
 - d. if

34. In line 4, how is the town of Salona described?
 - a. in a forest
 - b. on a hill
 - c. built by nature
 - d. a place of nature

35. What is mentioned in lines 6-7 as the Salonians’ last ditch effort?
 - a. they wounded many men
 - b. they built towers
 - c. they came down from their hill
 - d. they offered their slaves freedom to help in the fighting

36. Why did the Salonian women cut off their hair?
 - a. to make bandages
 - b. to make siege engines
 - c. to pass as men in order to fight
 - d. to hide themselves as men

37. How many camps does Octavius form around the camp?
 - a. 1
 - b. 3
 - c. 4
 - d. 5

38. What was the biggest problem that the Salonians encountered during the siege?
- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. they did not have enough food | b. the Romans' constant attacks |
| c. they were surrounded | d. there was a sickness |
39. In line 10, what use of the subjunctive is introduced by "ut"?
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. purpose clause | b. proviso clause |
| c. result clause | d. indirect command |
40. Who manned the walls while the Salonians counter-attacked?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. their slaves | b. no one |
| c. their women and children | d. the bodies of their dead |
41. In the sentence beginning "His expugnatis..." (line 15), which of these ablative uses can NOT be found?
- | | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| a. means | b. specification |
| c. absolute | d. place from which |
42. Which of these best describes the counter-offensive for the Salonians?
- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| a. total victory | b. total defeat |
| c. a draw | d. a Pyrrhic victory |
43. What is the best translation for the sentence "Hic fuit oppugnationis exitus"?
- Here there was destruction for the siege.
 - This was the siege's end.
 - The siege caused this destruction.
 - Here lies the siege's outcome.
44. What time of year is indicated by the end of the passage?
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| a. early spring | b. midsummer |
| c. late autumn | d. the dead of winter |
45. Where did Octavius go after the siege of Salona?
- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| a. to Dyrrachium | b. to join Pompey |
| c. both a & b | d. none of these |

Sunt etiam nonnullis locis fontium proprietates, quae procreant qui ibi nascuntur egregiis vocibus ad cantandum, uti Tarso, Magnesia, aliis eiusmodi regionibus. Etiamque Zama est civitas Afrorum, cuius moenia rex Iuba duplici muro saepsit ibique regiam domum sibi constituit. Ab ea milia passus XX est oppidum Ismuc, cuius agrorum regiones incredibili finitae sunt terminatione. Cum esset enim Africa parens et nutrix ferarum bestiarum, maxime serpentium, in eius agris oppidi nulla nascitur, et si quando adlata ibi ponatur, statim moritur; neque id solum, sed etiam terra ex his locis si alio translata fuerit, et ibi. Id genus terrae etiam Balearibus dicitur esse. Sed aliam mirabiliorem virtutem ea habet terra, quam ego sic accepi.

Gaius Julius Masinissae filius, cuius erant totius oppidi agrorum possessiones, cum patre Caesare militavit. In hospitio meo est usus. Ita cotidiano convictu necesse fuerat de philologia disputare. Interim cum esset inter nos de aquae potestate et eius virtutibus sermo, exposuit esse in ea terra eiusmodi fontes, ut, qui ibi procrearentur, voces ad cantandum egregias haberent, ideoque semper transmarinos catlastros emere formonsos et puellas maturas eosque coniungere, ut, qui nascerentur ex his, non solum voce egregia sed etiam forma essent non invenusta.

