

## 2009 NJCL Reading Comprehension Test -- Advanced Poetry

**Passage #1: Vergil Aeneid 11.182-202**

Aurora interea miseris mortalibus almam  
 extulerat lucem referens opera atque labores.  
 Iam pater Aeneas, iam curvo in litore Tarchon  
 constituere pyras. Huc corpora quisque suorum 185  
 more tulere patrum, subiectisque ignibus atris  
 conditur in tenebras altum caligine caelum.  
 Ter circum accensos cincti fulgentibus armis  
 decurrere rogos, ter maestum funeris ignem  
 lustravere in equis ululatusque ore dedere. 190  
 Spargitur et tellus lacrimis, sparguntur et arma,  
 it caelo clamorque virum clangorque tubarum.  
 Hic alii spolia occisis derepta Latinis  
 coniciunt igni, galeas ensesque decoros  
 frenaque ferventesque rotas; pars munera nota, 195  
 ipsorum clipeos et non felicia tela.  
 Multa boum circa mactantur corpora Morti,  
 saetigerosque sues raptasque ex omnibus agris  
 in flammam iugulant pecudes. Tum litore toto  
 ardentem spectant socios semustaque servant 200  
 busta, neque avelli possunt, nox umida donec  
 invertit caelum stellis ardentibus aptum.

**Passage #2: Tibullus 2.2**

Dicamus bona verba: venit Natalis ad aras.  
 Quisquis ades, lingua, vir mulierque, fave.  
 Urantur pia tura focis, urantur odores  
 quos tener e terra divite mittit Arabs.  
 Ipse suos Genius adsit visurus honores, 5  
 cui decorent sanctas mollia sarta comas.  
 Illius puro destillent tempora nardo,  
 atque satur libo sit madeatque mero,  
 adnuat et, Cornute, tibi, quodcumque rogabis.  
 En age (quid cessas? adnuit ille) roga. 10  
 Auguror, uxoris fidos optabis amores:  
 iam reor hoc ipsos edidicisse deos.  
 Nec tibi malueris, totum quaecumque per orbem  
 fortis arat valido rusticus arva bove,  
 nec tibi, gemmarum quidquid felicibus Indis 15  
 nascitur, Eoi qua maris unda rubet.  
 Vota cadunt: utinam strepitantibus advolet alis  
 flavaque coniugio vincula portet Amor,  
 vincula quae maneant semper dum tarda senectus  
 inducat rugas inficiatque comas. 20

Haec veniat, Natalis, avis prolemque ministret,  
ludat et ante tuos turba novella pedes.

**Passage #3: Horace Epodes 7**

Quo, quo scelesti ruitis? Aut cur dexteris  
aptantur enses conditi?  
Parumne campis atque Neptuno super  
fusum est Latini sanguinis,  
non ut superbas invidae Karthaginis 5  
Romanus arces ureret,  
intactus aut Britannus ut descenderet  
Sacra catenatus Via,  
sed ut secundum vota Parthorum sua  
Urbs haec periret dextera? 10  
neque hic lupis mos nec fuit leonibus  
umquam nisi in dispar feris.  
furorne caecos an rapit vis acrior  
an culpa? responsum date.  
tacent et albus ora pallor inficit 15  
mentesque percussae stupent.  
sic est: acerba fata Romanos agunt  
scelusque fraternae necis,  
ut immerentis fluxit in terram Remi  
sacer nepotibus cruor. 20

**Passage #4: Ovid Ars Amatoria 2.493-520**

Haec ego cum canerem, subito manifestus Apollo  
movit inauratae pollice fila lyrae.  
In manibus laurus, sacris inducta capillis 495  
laurus erat; vates ille videndus adit.  
Is mihi 'Lascivi' dixit 'praeceptor Amoris,  
duc, age, discipulos ad mea templa tuos,  
est ubi diversum fama celebrata per orbem  
littera, cognosci quae sibi quemque iubet. 500  
Qui sibi notus erit, solus sapienter amabit,  
atque opus ad vires exiget omne suas.  
Cui faciem natura dedit, spectetur ab illa;  
cui color est, umero saepe patente cubet;  
qui sermone placet, taciturna silentia vitet; 505  
qui canit arte, canat; qui bibit arte, bibat.  
Sed neque declament medio sermone disertis,  
nec sua non sanus scripta poeta legat!  
Sic monuit Phoebus: Phoebos parete monenti.  
Certa dei sacro est huius in ore fides. 510  
Ad propiora vocor. Quisquis sapienter amabit  
vincet, et e nostra, quod petet, arte feret.  
Credita non semper sulci cum faenore reddunt,  
nec semper dubias adiuvat aura rates;  
Quod iuvat, exiguum, plus est, quod laedat amantes; 515  
Proponant animo multa ferenda suo.

Quot lepores in Atho, quot apes pascuntur in Hybla,  
 caerula quot bacas Palladis arbor habet,  
 litore quot conchae, tot sunt in amore dolores;  
 Quae patimur, multo spicula felle madent.

520

**Passage #5: Martial Epigrammata 12.92**

Saepe rogare soles, qualis sim, Prisce, futurus,  
 Si fiam locuples simque repente potens.  
 Quemquam posse putas mores narrare futuros?  
 Dic mihi, si fias tu leo, qualis eris?

Passage #1: Vergil Aeneid 11.182-202

- During what time of day does this passage begin?  
 A. night                                      B. morning                                      C. midday                                      D. evening
- According to this passage, what does Aurora bring to humans (182-183)?  
 A. rest    B. warmth                                      C. work    D. hope
- The best translation of 'constituere pyras' (185) is:  
 A. built the pyres                                      C. extinguished the flames  
 B. to light the flames                                      D. to construct the pyres
- Whose bodies did Aeneas carry forth (184-187)?  
 A. his men's                                      B. Tarchon's                                      C. the Latins'                                      D. his enemies'
- In what manner did Tarchon honor his own men (184-187)?  
 A. silently                                      B. sadly                                      C. according to his father's custom                                      D. angrily
- How many times did they circle the burial mounds (188-190)?  
 A. once    B. twice    C. three times                                      D. four times
- All of the following describe the grieving men (188-190) except:  
 A. they dirtied their hair                                      C. they howled in grief  
 B. they rode their horses                                      D. they wore their armor
- What literary device emphasizes the sorrow of the men (191-192)?  
 A. hyperbole                                      B. anastrophe                                      C. chiasmus                                      D. simile
- All of the following were thrown into the fire (193-196) except:  
 A. wheels    B. swords    C. shields    D. oars
- What literary device emphasizes the unfortunate fate of the dead warriors (193-196)?  
 A. asyndeton                                      B. anaphora                                      C. apostrophe                                      D. litotes
- To whom were various animals sacrificed (197-199)?  
 A. the dead men                                      B. Death                                      C. the God of War                                      D. none of the above
- Where do the funeral rituals take place?  
 A. on a hill    B. on the shore                                      C. in a meadow                                      D. in the camp
- When do the grieving men finally leave the funeral pyres?  
 A. night    B. morning    C. midday    D. dinner time

Passage #2: Tibullus 2.2

- What is requested in the first couplet (1-2)?  
 A. a song    B. a prayer    C. solemnity    D. a sacrifice
- What literary device emphasizes the ritual performed in the second couplet (3-4)?  
 A. metaphor    B. anaphora    C. prolepsis    D. synecdoche

16. What is Genius wearing (5-8)?  
 A. a wine-soaked garment      B. a garland      C. sacred shoes      D. a crown of rare metal
17. What does the narrator think that Cornutus will ask from Genius (9-12)?  
 A. the love of a wife      C. the knowledge of the gods  
 B. pure wine and good food      D. to become a priest
18. What is Cornutus' initial reaction to the request that he ask Genius for something (9-12)?  
 A. hope      B. hesitation      C. joy      D. sadness
19. What two things will Cornutus not request from Genius (11-16)?  
 A. love & land      B. land & gems      C. gems & love      D. none of the above
20. One thing that the narrator hopes that Amor will do is (17-20):  
 A. be present for the wedding ceremony      C. bring forth the bond of marriage  
 B. fly away      D. grant Cornutus a long life
21. What color is the hair mentioned in line 20?  
 A. red      B. white      C. black      D. he is bald (there is no hair)
22. What is the final wish for Cornutus (21-22)?  
 A. children playing at his feet      C. a crowd of doves in front of him  
 B. many lovers      D. eternal youth
23. What is the occasion which prompted this poem?  
 A. a wedding      B. a funeral      C. an illness      D. a birthday

Passage #3: Horace Epodes 7

24. Who is being addressed in this poem?  
 A. the reader      B. enemies of Rome      C. the poet's circle of friends      D. the Romans
25. Where has Latin blood been spilled (3-10)?  
 A. on land      B. on sea      C. both A & B      D. none of the above
26. What event is suggested by lines 7-8?  
 A. a sacrifice      B. an election      C. a journey      D. a triumph
27. What event is suggested by lines 9-10?  
 A. a civil war      B. a sacrifice      C. a war with Parthia      D. an election
28. The main point of lines 11-12 is that:  
 A. Romans are not animals      C. Romans should not fight Romans  
 B. the enemies of Rome are not animals      D. the enemies of Rome are like animals
29. All of the following are proposed as negative influences (13-14) except:  
 A. a defect      B. madness      C. force      D. jealousy
30. The reaction in lines 15-16 is best described as:  
 A. relief      B. arrogance      C. confusion      D. grief
31. 'fraternae necis' (18) refers to:  
 A. a civil war      C. an election  
 B. Romulus killing Remus      D. the close bond between brothers
32. 'nepotibus' (20) refers to:  
 A. Romans in general      C. Rome's enemies  
 B. early Roman heroes      D. the descendants of Augustus

Passage #4: Ovid Ars Amatoria 2.493-520

33. What was the narrator doing when Apollo appeared (493-494)?  
 A. praying      B. running      C. sleeping      D. singing

34. What Latin word answers to ‘capillis’ (495) in synchysis and thus emphasizes the laurel as an attribute of Apollo?  
 A. manibus                      B. lyrae                      C. vates                      D. adit
35. What command does Apollo give to the narrator (497-500)?  
 A. to be a teacher of the art of love                      C. to lead his followers to his temple  
 B. to avoid the lustful side of love                      D. to spread his message throughout the world
36. The message in line 500 is best summarized by:  
 A. avoid excess                      B. love conquers all                      C. know thyself                      D. fame is fleeting
37. All of the following are skills mentioned by the narrator (503-506) except:  
 A. drinking                      B. eloquence                      C. beauty                      D. bravery
38. To what/whom does ‘illa’ (503) refer?  
 A. faciem                      B. natura                      C. Amor                      D. an unnamed woman
39. What should a man with a nice complexion do (503-506)?  
 A. expose his bare shoulder                      C. go swimming  
 B. be seen but not heard                      D. stay out of the sun
40. What literary device emphasizes the importance of Apollo’s advice (509)?  
 A. polyptoton                      B. aposiopesis                      C. interlocked word order                      D. hysteron proteron
41. What does the narrator advise the reader to do with Apollo’s advice (509-510)?  
 A. ignore it                      C. obey it  
 B. spread it to others                      D. obey some of it, ignore some of it
42. According to the narrator, how will a man win a woman (511-512)?  
 A. by deceit                      B. with love                      C. by force                      D. with skill
43. What literary device does the narrator employ to emphasize the many difficulties encountered in love (513-516)?  
 A. simile                      B. litotes                      C. metaphor                      D. apostrophe
44. What Latin word is in contrast to ‘plus’ (515)?  
 A. semper                      B. exiguum                      C. multa                      D. quot
45. For what is Athos obviously known (517)?  
 A. wit                      B. ash trees                      C. deer                      D. rabbits
46. In the context of this passage, what are the ‘bacas’ (518)?  
 A. grapes                      B. olives                      C. wine                      D. leaves
47. The word choice of ‘spicula’ (520) is appropriate because it refers to:  
 A. the advice of Apollo                      C. the poetry of Ovid  
 B. the art of love                      D. the weaponry of Amor

Passage #5: Martial Epigrammata 12.92

48. What does Priscus often ask Martial?  
 A. how wealthy he is                      C. how powerful he is  
 B. what he will be like in the future                      D. how long he will live
49. Why does Martial think that Priscus’ question is foolish?  
 A. no one knows the future                      C. he is already very wealthy  
 B. lions don’t value wealth                      D. the dead have no power
50. Why does Martial mention a lion?  
 A. lions are known for their bravery                      C. Priscus is a lion  
 B. lions are powerful, not wealthy                      D. to show the absurdity of Priscus’ question