

## 2009 NJCL Reading Comprehension Test -- Advanced Prose

**Passage #1: Apuleius Metamorphoses 7.17-18****A donkey discusses his situation.**

Delegor enim ligno monte devehundo, perque mihi praefectūs imponitur omnium unus ille quidem puer deterrimus. Nec me montis excelsi tantum arduum fatigabat iugum, nec saxeas tantum sudes incursando contribam unguas, verum fustium quoque crebrīs ictibus prolixē dedolabar, ut usque plagarum mihi medullarēs insideret dolor; coxaeque dexterae semper ictūs incutiens et unum feriendo locum dissipato corio et ulceris latissimi facto foramine - immo foveā vel etiam fenestrā - nullus tamen desinebat identidem vulnus sanguine delibutum obtundere. Lignorum vero tanto me premebat pondere, ut fascium molem elephantō, non asino paratam putares. Ille vero etiam quotiens in alterum latus praeponderans declinat sarcina, cum deberet potius gravantis ruinae fustes demere et levatā paulisper pressurā sanare me vel certe in alterum translatis peraequare, contra lapidibus additis insuper sic iniquitati ponderis medebatur. Nec tamen post tantas meas clades immodico sarcinae pondere contentus, cum fluvium transenderemus, qui forte praeter viam defluebat, peronibus suis ab aquae madore consulens ipse quoque insuper lumbos meos insiliens residebat, exiguum scilicet et illud tantae molis superpondium.

**Passage #2: Cicero De Senectute 37-38****Cato discusses Appius' old age and his own experience with it.**

Quattuor robustos filios, quinque filias, tantam domum, tantas clientelas Appius regebat et caecus et senex. Intentum enim animum tamquam arcum habebat nec languescens succumbebat senectuti. Tenebat non modo auctoritatem, sed etiam imperium in suos: metuebant servi, verebantur liberi, carum omnes habebant; vigebat in illa domo mos patrius et disciplina. Ita enim senectus honesta est, si se ipsa defendit, si ius suum retinet, si nemini emancipata est, si usque ad ultimum spiritum dominatur in suos. Ut enim adolescentem in quo est senile aliquid, sic senem in quo est aliquid adolescentis probo; quod qui sequitur, corpore senex esse poterit, animo numquam erit. Septimus mihi liber *Originum* est in manibus; omnia antiquitatis monumenta colligo; causarum illustrium quascumque defendi nunc cum maxime conficio orationes; ius augurium, pontificium, civile tracto; multum etiam Graecis litteris utor, Pythagoreorumque more exercendae memoriae gratiā, quid quoque die dixerim, audierim, egerim, commemoro vesperi. Hae sunt exercitationes ingeni, haec curricula mentis, in his desudans atque elaborans corporis vires non magno opere desidero.

Adsum amicīs, venio in senatum frequens ultroque adfero res multum et diu cogitatas, easque tueor animi, non corporis viribus. 20  
 Quas si exsequi nequirem, tamen me lectulus meus oblectaret ea ipsa cogitantem, quae iam agere non possem; sed ut possim, facit acta vita. Semper enim in hīs studiīs laboribusque viventi non intellegitur quando obrepat senectus. Ita sensim sine sensu aetas senescit nec subito frangitur, sed diurnitate exstinguitur. 25

**Passage #3: Suetonius Augustus 1-2**

**The life of Augustus begins with a discussion of his family history.**

Gentem Octaviam Velitrīs praecipuam olim fuisse multa declarant. Nam et vicus celeberrimā parte oppidi iam pridem Octavius vocabatur et ostendebatur ara Octavio consecrata, qui bello dux finitimo, cum forte Marti rem divinam faceret, nuntiātā repente hostis incursione, semicruda exta rapta foco prosecuit 5  
 atque - ita proelium ingressus - victor redit. Decretum etiam publicum exstabat, quo cavebatur, ut in posterum quoque simili modo exta Marti redderentur reliquiaeque ad Octavios referrentur.

Ea gens - a Tarquinio Prisco rege inter minores gentes adlecta in senatum, mox a Servio Tullio in patricias traducta - procedente 10  
 tempore, ad plebem se contulit ac rursus magno intervallo per Divum Iulium in patriciatum redit. Primus ex hac magistratum populi suffragio cepit C. Rufus. Is quaestorius Cnaeum et Caium procreavit, a quibus duplex Octaviorum familia defluxit condicione diversā: siquidem Gnaeus et deinceps ab eo reliqui omnes functi sunt 15  
 honoribus summīs; at Caius eiusque posterī, seu fortunā seu voluntate, in equestri ordine constiterunt usque ad Augusti patrem. Proavus Augusti, secundo Punico bello, stipendia in Siciliā tribunus militum fecit, Aemilio Papo imperatore. Avus, municipalibus magisteriis contentus, abundante patrimonio, tranquillissime senuit. Sed haec alii; 20  
 ipse Augustus nihil amplius quam equestri familiā ortum se scribit vetere ac locuplete, et in quā primus senator pater suus fuerit. M. Antonius libertinum ei proavum exprobrat, restionem e pago Thurino, avum argentarium.

**Passage #4: Sallust Bellum Catilinae 23-24**

**Curius, one of Catiline's conspirators, reveals the plan to Fulvia.**

Sed in eā coniuratione fuit Q. Curius, natus haud obscuro loco, flagitiis atque facinoribus coopertus, quem censores senatu probri gratiā moverant. Huic homini non minor vanitas inerat quam audacia; neque reticere quae audierat, neque suamet ipse scelera occultare, prorsus neque dicere neque facere quicquam pensi habebat. Erat ei 5  
 cum Fulviā, muliere nobili, stupri vetus consuetudo; cui cum minus gratus esset, quia inopiā minus largiri poterat, repente glorians maria montesque polliceri coepit et minari interdum ferro, ni sibi obnoxia foret, postremo ferocius agitare quam solitus erat. At Fulvia, insolentiae Curi causā cognitā, tale periculum rei publicae haud 10

occultum habuit, sed - sublato auctore - de Catilinae coniuratione quae quoquo modo audierat compluribus narravit. Ea res in primis studia hominum accendit ad consulatum mandandum M. Tullio Ciceroni. Namque antea pleraque nobilitas invidia aestuabat et quasi pollui consulatum credebant, si eum quamvis egregius homo novus adeptus foret. Sed ubi periculum advenit, invidia atque superbia post fuere. 15

**Passage #1: Apuleius Metamorphoses 7.17-18**

1. What task was given to the donkey (1-2)?
 

A. to haul water from a spring	C. to bring wood from the mountain
B. to carry timber from a forest	D. to transport a boy to school
2. What word best describes the boy (1-2)?
 

A. lucky	B. kind	C. mean	D. sad
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3. The donkey was subjected to all of the following (2-6) except:
 

A. exhaustion from his work	C. repeated beatings
B. worn-out hooves	D. lack of food
4. The wound of the donkey is compared to a (6-9):
 

A. river	B. window	C. ball	D. volcano
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5. An elephant is mentioned to show (10-11):
 

A. how great the load was	C. how huge the wound was
B. how large the donkey was	D. how enormous the boy was
6. What problem often occurred during the donkey's tasks (11-15)?
 

A. the sharpness of the spurs	C. the sharpness of the sticks
B. an uneven load	D. the tightness of the ropes
7. How did the boy solve the problem (11-15)?
 

A. he did nothing to solve the problem
B. he took off his spurs but beat him with a stick
C. he loosened the ropes
D. he added more weight to the lighter side of the load
8. The river was (15-20):
 

A. icy cold	C. overflowing its banks
B. too deep to cross	D. none of the above
9. How did the boy cross the river (15-20)?
 

A. he swam	C. he walked across the bridge
B. he walked next to the donkey	D. he rode on the donkey
10. Why did the boy cross the river in this manner (15-20)?
 

A. to cool down	C. to give the donkey a rest
B. to keep the load dry	D. none of the above

**Passage #2: Cicero De Senectute 37-38**

11. How many children did Appius have (1-4)?
 

A. four	B. five	C. nine	D. none of the above
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12. To what is the soundness of his mind compared (1-4)?
 

A. marble	B. a sword	C. a razor	D. a bow
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13. What qualities did Appius possess among his household (4-6)?  
 A. power                                      B. humor                                      C. both A & B                                      D. none of the above
14. What rhetorical device does Cicero employ to demonstrate how the household of Appius felt about him (4-6)?  
 A. polysyndeton                                      B. tricolon                                      C. both A & B                                      D. simile
15. Which of the following best describes Appius' treatment of his household (1-6)?  
 A. abusive                                      B. kind & loving                                      C. strict but fair                                      D. stern & oppressive
16. The understood subject of 'retinet' (7) is:  
 A. old age                                      B. Appius                                      C. the household                                      D. training
17. What literary device does Cicero employ to refer to death (6-8)?  
 A. personification                                      B. metaphor                                      C. anaphora                                      D. euphemism
18. What literary device does Cicero employ to show his approval of a mixture of young & old in the same person (9-11)?  
 A. chiasmus                                      B. hyperbole                                      C. hendiadys                                      D. litotes
19. What Latin word is in direct contrast with 'animo' (11)?  
 A. probo                                      B. sequitur                                      C. corpore                                      D. manibus
20. What literary device does Cicero employ to demonstrate the many activities of Cato during his old age (11-17)?  
 A. synchysis                                      B. asyndeton                                      C. polysyndeton                                      D. chiasmus
21. In which of the following activities is Cato not engaged (11-17)?  
 A. writing history                                      C. researching the law  
 B. reading literature                                      D. exercising his body
22. Because of his many activities, what does Cato not miss very much (17-18)?  
 A. the friends of his youth                                      C. the interaction with men in power  
 B. the loss of his mental powers                                      D. none of the above
23. To what does Cato attribute his many activities in old age (17-20)?  
 A. the strength of his body                                      C. both A & B  
 B. the strength of his mind                                      D. the fear of death
24. Where can the 'lectulus' mentioned by Cato probably be found (21-23)?  
 A. office                                      B. kitchen                                      C. bedroom                                      D. litter
25. What is the best translation for 'acta vita' (23)?  
 A. my life now completed                                      C. my life as it has been lived  
 B. my distinguished life                                      D. my long life
26. What is Cato's concluding point about old age (23-25)?  
 A. it comes slowly to one with an active mind  
 B. it is quick and sudden and cannot be avoided  
 C. through physical exercise and the proper diet, it can be delayed  
 D. through hard work, it is able to avoided

**Passage #3: Suetonius Augustus 1-2**

27. What is one piece of evidence that the Octavian family was famous in Velitrae (1-6)?  
 A. a neighboring town was named after it  
 B. Velitrae has a street named after it  
 C. it owned a large section of Velitrae  
 D. there was community hearth with its name



43. Curius and Fulvia had been involved romantically (5-9):  
A. for a short time  
B. just one time  
C. for a long time  
D. Curius and Fulvia were never involved
44. What was the result of Curius' 'inopia' (7)?  
A. he began to steal  
B. Fulvia became attracted to him  
C. he joined the conspiracy  
D. he fell out of Fulvia's favor
45. Curius did all of the following (5-9) except:  
A. ask Fulvia to join the conspiracy  
B. act more wildly than usual  
C. threaten Fulvia with violence  
D. promise Fulvia the seas & mountains
46. The phrase 'insolentiae Curi causā cognitā' (10) refers to:  
A. the loyalty of Fulvia  
B. the conspiracy of Catiline  
C. the wealth of Curius  
D. the love between Curius & Fulvia
47. The phrase 'sublato auctore' (11) refers to the fact that:  
A. Curius denied that he told Fulvia about the conspiracy  
B. Fulvia did not know that Catiline was the leader of the conspiracy  
C. Curius committed suicide  
D. Fulvia did not reveal her source for the conspiracy
48. What was the result of Fulvia's information (9-13)?  
A. Curius committed suicide  
B. everyone scorned Fulvia  
C. people wanted Cicero as consul  
D. people did not believe what they had heard
49. What was the problem which 'pleraque nobilitas' had with Cicero (12-15)?  
A. they were filled with jealousy against him  
B. they feared his great power  
C. they thought he was part of the conspiracy of Catiline  
D. both A & B
50. The word 'periculum' (16) refers to:  
A. the jealousy of Fulvia  
B. the conspiracy of Catiline  
C. the power of Cicero  
D. the power of the nobility