

2012 NJCL
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION
Level II – Boys

Ulixēs ad vīllam Cīrcēs pervēnit. Eōdem tempore autem vīdit nōn longē ā sē
adulēscēntem fōrmae pulcherrimae aureum baculum gerentem.

Hic adulēscēns Ulixem dextrā manū retinuit et "Nōnne scīs," inquit, "hanc esse
domum illīus Cīrcēs potentissimae atque tuōs amīcōs ē speciē hūmānā in porcōs
conversōs esse? Nōlī intrāre nisi ipse in eundem cāsū venīre cupis."

Ulixēs simul atque vōcem audīvit, hunc adulēscēntem deum Mercurium esse
sēnsit. Nōluit tamen sociōs miserōs relinquere. Quod ubi sēnsit Mercurius, herbam
quandam Ulixī dedit cuius auxiliō artem magicam Cīrcēs vincere potuit.

"Hanc herbam," inquit, "cape, et cum Cīrcē baculō suō tē tetigerit, gladiō tuō eam
aggredere."

"Ulixēs et Mercurius," *Latin and the Romans*, Book Two (1942), pp 217-18 (abridged)

Ulysses arrived at Circe's villa. At the same time, however, he saw not far from himself a young man of very handsome physique, carrying a golden staff.

This young man stopped Ulysses with his right hand and said, "Don't you know that this is the home of that very powerful Circe and that your friends have been changed from human appearance into pigs? Do not enter unless you yourself want to come into the same misfortune."

Ulysses, as soon as he heard this voice, sensed that this young man was the god Mercury. Nevertheless he did not want to abandon his miserable companions. When Mercury realized that, he gave Ulysses a certain herb, by whose aid he was able to overcome Circe's magic.

"Take this herb," he said, "and when Circe will have touched you with her wand, attack her with your sword."