

2012 NJCL  
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION  
Advanced Prose – Boys

Rōmānus exsultāns "Duōs" inquit, "frātrum mānibus dedī; tertium causae bellī huiusce, ut Rōmānus Albānō imperet, dabō." Male sustinentī arma gladium supernē iugulō dēfīgit, iacentem spoliāt. ...

Prīnceps Horātius ībat, trigemina spolia prae sē gerēns; cui soror virgō, quae dēspōnsa ūnī ex Cūriātīis fuerat, obvia ante portam Capēnam fuit, cognitōque super umerōs frātris palūdāmentō spōnsī quod ipsa cōnfēcerat, solvit crīnēs et flēbiliter nōmine spōnsum mortuum appellat.

Movet ferōcī iuvenī animum complōrātiō sorōris in victōriā suā tantōque gaudiō pūblicō. Strictō itaque gladiō simul verbīs increpāns trānsfīgit puellam. "Abī hinc cum immātūrō amōre ad spōnsum," inquit, "oblīta frātrum mortuōrum vīvīque, oblīta patriae. Sīc pereat quaecumque Rōmāna lūgēbit hostem."

"Horatius Triumphant," Livy, *Ab Urbe Condita* I.25-26 (abridged)

The Roman, exulting, said, "I have sent two of the brothers to the shades of the dead; I will send the third brother (there) for the cause of this war, so that the Roman may rule over the Alban." He rammed his sword from above into his (opponent's) throat, who was barely holding up his weapons, and despoils him lying there....

Horatius went forward as the conqueror, carrying the triple spoils of victory before himself; his maiden sister, who had been betrothed to one of the Curiatians, came to meet him before the Capenan Gate, and having recognized over her brother's shoulders her fiancé's cloak, which she herself had made, she undoes her hair and with weeping calls her dead fiancé by name,

His sister's weeping moves the soul of the fierce youth amidst his victory and so much public joy. So, having drawn his sword, he stabs the girl, simultaneously attacking her with these words: "Go away from here with your immature love for your fiancé, you who have forgotten your deceased brothers and your living brother, you who have forgotten your fatherland. Thus may she perish, whatever Roman woman shall mourn an enemy."