

2012 NJCL  
DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION  
Advanced Poetry – Boys

'Hospes' ait Perseus illī, 'seu glōria tangit  
tē generis magnī, generis mihi Iuppiter auctor; 640  
sīve es mīrātor rērum, mīrābere nostrās;  
hospitium requiemque petō.' memor ille vetustae  
sortis erat; Themis hanc dederat Parnāsia sortem:  
'Tempus, Atlās, veniet, tua quō spoliābitur aurō  
arbor, et hunc praedae titulum Iove nātus habēbit.' 645  
Id metuēns solidīs pōmāria clauserat Atlās  
moenibus et vastō dederat servanda dracōnī  
arcēbatque suīs externōs fīnibus omnēs.  
Huic quoque 'Vāde procul, nē longē glōria rērum,  
quam mentīris' ait, 'longē tibi Iuppiter absit!' 650  
Vimque minīs addit manibusque expellere temptat  
cunctantem et placidīs miscentem fortia dictīs.  
Vīribus inferior (quis enim pār esset Atlantis  
vīribus?) 'At, quōniam parvī tibi grātia nostra est,  
accipe mūnus!' ait laevāque ā parte Medūsae 655  
ipse retrō versus squalentia prōtulit ōra.  
Quantus erat, mōns factus Atlās:

“Perseus and Atlas,” Ovid, *Metamorphoses* IV.639-657

"O host," said Perseus to him, "if the glory of a great race moves you, Jupiter is the founder of my race; or if you are an admirer of achievements, admire my achievements; I seek hospitality and rest." That Titan was mindful of an ancient prophecy; Themis of Mt. Parnasus had given this prophecy: "O Atlas, a time will come when your tree will be robbed of its gold and someone born from Jupiter will hold this claim to the loot." Fearing this, Atlas had enclosed the fruit tree with solid walls and had turned it over to be guarded by a huge dragon and kept all foreigners from his borders. To this man (Perseus) he also said, "Hie thee hence, lest the glory of your deeds, about which you lie, be far from you, lest Jupiter be far from you!" And he adds force to his threats and with his hands tries to expel Perseus, who was hesitating and mixing brave deeds with soothing words. Perseus, inferior in strength (for who could be equal in strength to Atlas?) said, "But, since my graciousness is of little value to you, accept this gift!" and, having turned backward, from his left hand he himself held out the ghastly face of Medusa. Atlas became a mountain as huge as he was.