

FJCL Regional Latin Forum 2012
Reading Comprehension

Read this passage from Pliny's letters and answer the questions below:

Erat Athēnīs spatiōsa et capax domus sed īnfāmis et pestilens. Per silentium noctis sonus ferrī, et sī attenderēs ācrius, strepitus vinculōrum longius p̄mō, deinde ē proximō reddēbātur: mox apparēbat īdōlon, senex maciē et squalore confectus, p̄missā barbā, horrentī capillō; cruribus compedēs, manibus catēnās gerēbat quātiēbatque. Inde inhabitantibus tristēs dīraeque noctes per metum vīgilābantur; vīgiliam morbus et crēscēte formīdine mors sequēbātur. Nam interdiū quoque, quamquam abscesserat imāgō, memoria imāginis oculīs inerrābat, longiorque causīs timoris timor erat. 5

Dēserta inde et damnāta solitūdine domus totaque illī mōnstrō relicta; proscrībēbātur tamen, seu quis emere seu quis condūcere ignārus tantī malī vellet. Vēnit Athēnās philosophus Athēnodōrus, lēgit titulum auditōque pretiō, quia suspecta vilitās, percunctātus omnia docētur ac nihilō minus, immo tantō magis condūcit. Ubi coepit advesperāscere, iubet sternī sibi in p̄ma domūs parte, poscit pugillārēs stilum lūmen, suōs omnēs in interiōra dīmittit; ipse ad scrībendum animum, oculōs, manum intendit, nē vacua mēns audīta simulācra et inanēs sibi metūs fingeret. Initiō, quale ubīque, silentium noctis; dein concutī ferrum, vincula movērī. Ille nōn tollere oculōs, nōn rēmittere stilum, sed offirmāre animum auribusque praetendere. Tum crebrēscere fragor, adventāre et iam ut in līmine, iam ut intra līmen audīrī. 10 15

Rēspicit, videt agnoscitque nārrātam sibi effīgiem. Stābat innuēbatque digitō similis vocantī. Hic contrā ut paulum exspectāret manū significat rursusque cērīs et stilō incumbit. Illa scrībentis capitī catēnīs insonābat. Rēspicit rursus idem quod prius innuentem, nec morātus tollit lūmen et sequitur. Ībat illa lentō gradū quasi gravis vinculis. Postquam dēflexit in āream domūs, repentē dīlapsa dēserit comitem. Dēsertus herbās et folia concerpta signum locō pōnit. Posterō diē adit magistrātūs, monet ut illum locum effodī iubeant. Inveniuntur ossa inserta catēnīs et implicita, quae corpus aevō terrāque putrefactum nūda et exesa relīquerat vinculis; collecta publicē sepeliuntur. Domus postea rītē condītis manibus caruit. 20 25

conduco – to rent *percunctor, percunctari, to question*

1. Based on the first five lines, what kind of story is this going to be?
 - a. about rich Athenians
 - b. about chained slaves
 - c. about idol-worship
 - d. about a haunted house
2. Which adjective or phrase does NOT correctly describe the *īdōlon* (line 3)?
 - a. suggestion of a beard
 - b. thin
 - c. shaggy-haired
 - d. shackled
3. What figure of speech is present in line 4 (*cruribus compedēs, manibus catēnās*)?
 - a. synchysis
 - b. synecdoche
 - c. chiasmus
 - d. pleonasm

4. What is the correct translation of lines 1-3 (*Per silentium ... reddēbātur*)
- Noise is brought through the silence of the night, and if you should listen more keenly, the sound of chains was returned first from rather far off, then from very near.
 - Through the silence of the night, the noise of iron, and if you should attend fiercely, the sound of long chains at first, then from very near was returned.
 - Through the silence of the night, the sound of iron, and if you should give attention more keenly, at first the sound of chains was returned from rather far off, then from very near.
 - The noise of the night is brought through silence, and if you should listen more keenly, the sound of chains, first from far away, then from very near, was heard.
5. Give the case and usage of *inhabitantibus* (line 5)?
- ablative of agent
 - dative of advantage
 - dative of agent
 - ablative of cause
6. What is the correct order of events leading to death (lines 5-6)?
- dreadful nights, wakefulness due to fear, sickness, growing fear, death
 - wakeful nights, fear, increased illness, death
 - fear, wakefulness due to illness, increased fear, death
 - fearful nights, growing sickness because of fear, death
7. What made the inhabitants' experience even more difficult to handle (lines 6-8)?
- They could not remember what images they had seen.
 - They wandered with no memory of the ghost.
 - They could see the ghost even after it had gone away.
 - The cause of their fear was too far away.
8. What is the best meaning for the word *quis* (line 10)?
- whoever
 - who
 - whatever
 - someone
9. What is one thing Athenodorus does NOT do after reading the sign?
- question the cheapness
 - ask a lot of questions
 - learn everything about the house
 - delay because of the price
10. Choose the correct paraphrase of line 12 (*ac nihilō ... condūcit*).
- He rented the house more eagerly because of what he heard.
 - He rented the house unwillingly despite his great reservations.
 - He was less interested in renting the house, so the owners gave it to him for less money.
 - His reservations were so deep that he chose not to rent the house.
11. Based on his demands in line 13, what is the house's inhabitant planning to do?
- make a search for the old man
 - write a new rental notice
 - write in his notebooks
 - lie down in the atrium
12. How does the inhabitant respond when he begins to hear noises?
- He searches for the source.
 - He ignores it and continues working.
 - He concentrates on not imagining things.
 - He rushes out over the threshold.

18. What is tense and mood of *posuere* (line 103)?
 a. perfect subjunctive b. perfect indicative
 c. present infinitive d. future perfect indicative
19. What is the tone of the beginning of the speech?
 a. authoritative b. exasperated c. sarcastic d. enthusiastic
20. What is the scansion of the first four feet of line 107?
 a. SSDS b. DSDS c. SSDD d. SDDS
21. What is the speaker's attitude toward the war?
 a. He wants the Trojans to win.
 b. He wants the Ausonians to win.
 c. He is indifferent and will not influence the outcome.
 d. He will make an end to the discord.
22. What is meant by the phrase "Rex Iuppiter omnibus idem."
 a. Jupiter is the same everywhere. b. Jupiter is fair to everyone.
 c. Jupiter is the king of everyone. d. The king asks Jupiter for omens.
23. What is the point of the entire speech?
 a. The outcome should be left up to fate, and the gods should stay out of it.
 b. Because the speaker has no opinion about who wins, the other gods should continue influencing the outcome.
 c. The speaker wishes to bring the others over to his side by threatening them with punishment from Styx.
 d. Because the sides are evenly matched, the outcome cannot be left up to fate.
24. In line 114, which word is modified by *torrentis*?
 a. Stygii (line 113) b. fratris (line 114) c. ripas (line 114) d. fatis (understood)
25. *fandi* in line 116 is
 a. gerundive b. present active participle c. future active participle d. gerund

Read this passage from the 4th book of Ovid's *Fasti* and answer the questions:

'nil opus est' dixit 'certamine' Romulus 'ullo;
 magna fides avium est: experiamur aves.'
 res placet: alter init nemorosi saxa Palati; 815
 alter Aventinum mane cacumen init.
 sex Remus, hic volucres bis sex videt ordine; pacto
 statur, et arbitrium Romulus urbis habet.
 apta dies legitur qua moenia signet aratro:
 sacra Palis suberant; inde movetur opus. 820
 fossa fit ad solidum, fruges iaciuntur in ima
 et de vicino terra petita solo;

fossa repletur humo, plenaque imponitur ara,
 et novus accenso fungitur igne focus.
 inde premens stivam designat moenia sulco; 825
 alba iugum niveo cum bove vacca tulit.
 vox fuit haec regis: 'condenti, Iuppiter, urbem,
 et genitor Mavors Vestaque mater, ades,
 quosque pium est adhibere deos, advertite cuncti:
 auspiciis vobis hoc mihi surgat opus. 830
 longa sit huic aetas dominaeque potentia terrae,
 sitque sub hac oriens occiduusque dies.'
 ille precabatur, tonitru dedit omina laevo
 Iuppiter, et laevo fulmina missa polo.
 augurio laeti iaciunt fundamina cives, 835
 et novus exiguo tempore murus erat.

26. What does Romulus suggest in lines 813-814?
- That there is no more work to be done.
 - That they resolve a conflict according to the omens of birds.
 - That they try out birds as a symbol of their faith.
 - That they struggle to capture as many birds as possible.
27. What does each see and from where?
- Romulus sees six birds from the Palatine.
 - Remus sees twelve birds from the Aventine.
 - Remus sees six birds from the Palatine.
 - Romulus sees twelve birds from the Palatine.
28. Give the case and usage of *qua* in line 819.
- nominative modifying *moenia*
 - accusative modifying *moenia*
 - ablative of time when
 - nominative modifying *dies*.
29. What use of the subjunctive is *signet* in line 819?
- indirect question
 - relative clause of characteristic
 - relative clause of purpose
 - potential
30. What figure of speech or rhetorical device is found in line 822?
- personification
 - chiasmus
 - pleonasm
 - asyndeton
31. What word is understood with *plena* in line 823?
- fruges
 - fossa
 - dies
 - ara
32. To whom does *condenti* (line 827) refer?
- Romulus
 - Remus
 - The gods the king is about to name
 - The citizens

39. Which statement is true about the warships?
a. They had been sent to bring the army. b. They were all sent out at once.
c. They were filled with gold. d. They had been drawn up on the beach.
40. Which statement is true?
a. Some warships survived, but all the transports were wrecked.
b. Warships were wrecked before transports.
c. Warships and transport ships were wrecked at the same time.
d. Transport ships were wrecked before warships.
41. The transport ships
a. rode out the storm b. were chosen to sail c. were weighed down d. were anchored
42. In line 5, *ūlla*
a. modifies *ancorās* b. modifies *facultās*
c. modifies *tempestās* d. functions as a substantive
43. What happened to the remaining ships?
a. They couldn't sail. b. They were still useful.
c. They set sail at once. d. They remained anchored.
44. Which parts of the ships were not mentioned as being affected?
a. anchors b. decks c. ropes d. the remaining equipment
45. In line 8, *exercitūs* is
a. nominative singular b. nominative plural c. accusative plural d. genitive singular
46. What did the army do?
a. bailed out the warships b. repaired the ships c. fled d. panicked
47. The army's reaction, according to Caesar, was
a. unnecessarily negative b. commendable c. to be expected d. unacceptable
48. In line 9, *usui* is:
a. nom. pl. subject b. gen. s. possession c. abl. s. means d. dat. s. purpose
49. The army reacted this way because
a. they trusted Caesar to fix the situation b. their families were still in Gaul
c. they realized they were stuck in Britain d. they were struggling to repair the ships
50. Why was there no food supply?
a. Grain didn't grow in that location. b. There were no ships to bring it.
c. They had planned to spend the winter in Gaul. d. Winter had arrived early.