UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

LANGUAGE FAIR 2027

LATIN TRANSLATION - LEVEL 2

Student Instructions

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Translate the Latin story below, freely adapted from a fable attributed to Aesop, into English as accurately as possible.

The vocabulary students are expected to know is based on the official **National Latin Vocabulary Exam (NLVE) Latin 2 Vocabulary List**. Less familiar vocabulary is supplied in the glosses or indicated by the illustration.

You may use only the Latin text, the illustration, and the glosses provided. **No dictionaries, textbooks, notes, electronic devices, online resources, translation programs, or artificial-intelligence tools are permitted.**

Complete the translation independently and write in clear, complete English sentences.

All translations must be handwritten. Typed submissions will not be accepted. Please write legibly in blue or black ink.

Good luck!

Teacher Certification and Academic Integrity

By submitting these entries, the supervising teacher certifies that each student completed the translation **independently, under direct supervision, within the stated 60-minute time limit, and without dictionaries or other unauthorized assistance**.

The supervising teacher also certifies that each submitted translation is the student's original handwritten work.

Submissions that are substantially identical in wording throughout, or that otherwise show evidence of collaboration or unauthorized assistance, may be declared ineligible for awards.



Mercurius et Lignātor

Latin adaptation from Aesop,
Hermes and the Woodcutter (Perry 173)

Ōlim lignātor pauper, quī prope flūmen habitābat, in silvā labōrābat. Ūnam tantum secūrim ferream habēbat, et illā secūrī arborēs secābat. Quōdam diē, cum prope flūmen labōrābat, secūris ē manū eius in aquam cecidit. Vir eam diū quaesīvit, sed invenīre nōn potuit. Itaque in rīpā sēdit et lacrimāvit. «Quōmodo sine secūrī labōrāre possum?» clāmāvit.

Mercurius clāmōrem audīvit et ad virum accessit. «Cūr lacrimās?» interrogāvit. Lignātor respondit sē secūrim suam invenīre nōn posse. Deus in flūmen dēscendit et secūrim auream invēnit. «Estne haec tua?» rogāvit. «Minimē!» respondit lignātor. Mercurius iterum in flūmen dēscendit et secūrim argenteam lignātōrī porrēxit. «Nē haec quidem secūris mea est!» dīxit vir.

Denique deus secūrim ferream invēnit. Vir statim clāmāvit: «Haec est mea! Grātiās tibi agō!» Mercurius virum laudāvit, quod vērum dīxit, et eum tribus secūribus dōnāvit. Lignātor laetissimus domum ambulāvit et līberīs suīs fābulam nārrāvit.

Glosses

Line 1 **lignātor, -ōris, m.** = woodcutter
Line 1 **secūris, -is, f.** = axe
Line 2 **ferreus, -a, -um** = made of iron
Line 2 **secō, -āre** = cut
Line 2 **quōdam diē** = one day, on a certain day.
Line 8 **argenteus, -a, -um** = made of silver
Line 8 **porrigō, -ere, porrēxī** = hold out, offer, extend
Line 8 **nē … quidem** = not even
Line 11 **dōnō, -āre (+ acc. of person, abl. of thing)** = give (something to someone) as a gift