UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
LANGUAGE FAIR 2027

LATIN POETRY RECITATION - LEVEL 1

Level Up with World Language!

Instructions for Students

Prepare and recite the Latin lines printed below. Focus on accurate pronunciation, clear pacing, expressive delivery, and understanding the meaning.

LEVEL 1

Mica, mica, parva stēlla

Traditional Latin version in Chickering, Beginner's Latin — first two stanzas

Mica, mica, parva stella,
mīror quaenam sīs tam bella,
splendēns ēminus in illō,
alba velut gemma, caelō.

Quandō fervēns sōl discessit,
nec calōre prāta pāscit,
mox ostendis lūmen pūrum,
micāns, micāns per obscūrum.

English Translation

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
I wonder what you are, so beautiful,
Shining from afar in that sky,
White like a jewel.
When the blazing sun has departed
And no longer nourishes the meadows with its warmth,
Soon you reveal your pure light,
Twinkling, twinkling through the darkness.